

## The Armor

[Eph 6:13-20 ESV] 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

### I. Intro

#### A. The church is many things:

1. We are the **BODY** of Christ: People with the the Spirit of Christ
2. We are a **FELLOWSHIP** of believers: People who are in community with one another
3. We are a **CONGREGATION**: People who gather together
4. We are the **BRIDE** of Christ: awaiting the return of the Bride-groom
5. We are **SOLDIERS** on mission: Called to serve wherever our King sends us

#### B. What do these mean:

1. The Body: We are to serve as Ambassadors of Christ in this world, speak what He spoke, serve as He commands
2. A Fellowship: joining with others who also believe in community and service.
3. A Congregation: Gathering in assembly is of vital importance to the church:
  - a) singing together;
  - b) teaching, encouraging, challenging one another;
  - c) praying together
  - d) ALL are different elements in corporate worship
4. The Bride: We submit to our Lord, and serve with His power.
5. Soldiers: The battle is real, it is upon us, and we are sent for this task.

#### C. Illustration:

1. Band of Brothers: over veterans day weekend the series came on TV and I began watching again. The series follows 101st Airborne's "Easy" Company through World War 2.
2. In the Battle of Bastogne, a part of the Battle of the Bulge, the story picks up and was pivotal in victory in WW2.
3. The 101st airborne division was surrounded, outgunned, and stretched thin. They were running out of medical supplies, ammunition, food, and had no winter clothing.
4. The weather was snow, freezing temps, and fog that prevented resupply.
5. But they fought on, and they believed leadership would resupply them as soon as possible.
6. In the end: on December 26, Patton's 3rd Army broke through German lines, allowing supplies and evacuations to flow. The story of the Battle of the Bulge is of Patton's army coming to the rescue of the encircled 101st Airborne.
7. No member of the 101st has ever agreed that the division needed rescue.

#### D. We are soldiers of Christ!

1. We need no rescue from the world
2. We have all the supplies we need, though we may not think so.
3. We will be challenged, and the challenge will be impossible in our own strength.
4. **BUT WE ARE THE CHURCH!**
5. **WE HAVE THE TRUTH!**

### II. Text

#### A. The Armor:

1. Belt of Truth
2. Breastplate of Righteousness
3. Boots of the Gospel of Peace

4. Shield of Faith
  5. Helmet of Salvation
  6. Sword of the Spirit
  7. Prayer
- B. Each serve a practical role, each fulfill the purpose of the ministry Christ left for us.
- III. Point
- A. The Armor
1. We see a practical example of the use of each of the tools:
    - a) Truth is a belt for our battle kit
    - b) Righteousness is a protective plate covering vital organs
    - c) The Gospel of Peace sets us to marching into the fray
    - d) Faith is the protector to moves to the point of contact with the enemy
    - e) Salvation protects the head...where the battle is largely fought
    - f) The Word of God is the sword that separates joint from marrow, instruction for the believer and the unbeliever.
    - g) PRAYER!!!! Its listed here with armor, why?
    - h) Prayer is the supernatural power we have most readily available
  2. Prayer is for us, and for us to assist others.
- B. The Belt
1. A Belt is important for many things:
    - a) Hold your pants up
    - b) Attach needed things for handy access
    - c) Fashion? Completes the outfit
    - d) Belts are used variously to secure or hold up clothing, such as trousers, shorts, and skirts; to carry objects, such as tools and weapons; and to define or accentuate the waist.
  2. The Belt is one of the most basic elements of a warriors armor, but is vital to the task.
    - a) You want your weapons at the ready
    - b) You want to avoid your pants falling down when you are running into battle.
    - c) Simple, but vital.
  3. The Belt of TRUTH is a reminder that TRUTH holds everything together
    - a) TRUTH is simple
    - b) And the more readily we receive TRUTH the more basic it becomes.
    - c) We don't have to complicate the truth, we simply need to obey that which is true.
  4. This is a basic element in the soldier of Christ being fit for battle: Truth!
- C. The Truth
1. Truth is not relative, it is absolute.
    - a) I believe we are living in a time that is the fruit of the battle against truth that has been going on for decades:
    - b) Truths we need to declare:
      - (1) Boys are boys, girls are girls
      - (2) God created marriage, and defined what it looks like.
      - (3) Homosexuality, Promiscuity, Adultery, and all manner of sexual sin are dishonoring to the Lord.
      - (4) Sin is still sin, no matter how many people try to justify it.
      - (5) Attending and serving a local church is vital for a believer.
      - (6) Giving a tithe is just a starting point in financial obedience
    - c) Truth will direct you. It will also hold your spiritual life together.
  2. Opinions are subjective, Truth is objective
    - a) Objective means verifiable information based on facts and evidence.
    - b) Subjective means information or perspectives based on feelings, opinions, or emotions.

- c) DON'T CONFUSE THE TWO!
  - (1) I have STRONG and deeply held opinions...and I may even think you are wrong if you disagree with my opinion...but that does not mean its TRUTH
  - (2) TRUTH is foundational
  - (3) TRUTH is confrontational
  - (4) TRUTH is LIBERATING!
    - (a) John 8:31-32: So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
    - (b) There is only one way to be set free...JESUS

IV. Close