

Call to Worship: Psalm 5:7-8

I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; in fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple. Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; make Your way straight before my face.

Scripture Reading: Zechariah 3:1-10

Sermon: "Against the Wiles of the Devil" Ephesians 6:11

Benediction: Psalm 5:11-12

INTRODUCTION

We have considered, from the Word of God, the truth that in order to keep the blessed position the Lord Jesus has granted us; that is, in order to live out what we have been taught about giving all glory to the grace of God for the salvation we have in Jesus Christ, and in order to walk as is fitting for the people of God, we must be strengthened in the Lord Jesus Christ. That strengthening is likened to putting on the whole armor of God---the Lord Jesus Christ in all His graces. Not neglecting any piece of the armor, not any one of the many Christian graces, we are to put on the whole armor of God.

Today we being to look into what we are up against, that we are so much in need of such armor.

We need to put on the whole armor of God so that we can stand against the wiles of the devil, so that we can resist the devil's schemes.

TEXT

Eph 6:11-12 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the **devil [G1228 diabolos]**. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

BODY

We need to put on the whole armor of God so that we can stand against the wiles of the devil, so that we can resist the devil's schemes.

- I. A Description of the Wiles of the Devil
 - A. Based on the word itself: wiles ESV, NIV schemes
 1. Greek *methodeia*
 2. the well-laid battle plans of a competent military commander; the methods an army commander uses for defeating the enemy, especially the ones involving deception
 - B. Based on his names

1. serpent = not originally, but now, one who slinks around, staying hidden, until he can either strike with poison or suffocate by constriction
 2. satan = attacker, adversary
 3. devil (diabolos) = blamer, accuser
 4. dragon = pictured as trying to devour
- C. Based on his character
1. the devil has been a murderer from the beginning
 - a) he would like to just murder everyone
 - b) in many cases the Lord God gives him leave to do so
 - c) but in many cases the Lord God does not give him leave just to murder
 2. he is a liar and the father of lying
 3. so his *methodeia*, wiles, schemes are ones that involve deception and are designed to do us harm, to destroy us if possible
 4. often this deception is accomplished by accusing the brethren
 - a) truth: there is forgiveness of sins with God through the blood of Jesus Christ; seeking and receiving forgiveness encourages us to fear the Lord and obey Him
 - b) deception: Satan accuses us of not being forgiven, or there not being forgiveness
 - (1) too dirty
 - (2) need to earn by good works
 - c) someone not forgiven has little incentive not to keep sinning; someone not understanding God's forgiveness does not in a wholesome way fear God and want to obey Him
- D. Based on his history
1. he twisted God's own words back to Eve prompted Eve to doubt God's motives and the truthfulness of His words
 2. he quoted God's own words to Jesus Christ, taking them out of context, indicating they meant something they did not, to get the Lord Jesus to do something disobedient to God
 3. he took advantage of Simon Peter's zeal for Jesus Christ, but ignorance of His word, to get him to disobey the Lord and even deny Him
- E. Based on various warnings
1. he is like a lion, which hunts by hiding, sneaking, pouncing 1 Peter 5:8
 2. he uses snares or traps 1 Timothy 3:7
- F. Summary: What is meant by "the wiles of the devil" or "the schemes of the devil"?
1. The methods by which the father of all lies, with murderous hatred for us, camouflaged by the Word of God itself, tries to deceive you into some trap of his, where he can attack you from ambush, to send your running away in sinful fear, or to bring you down in sin, to the shame and misery of your loved ones and yourself.

- II. A Look at Those Who Did Not Stand Against the Wiles of the Devil
 - A. Adam and Eve
 - B. David - 70,000
 - C. Judas Iscariot
 - D. Ananias and Saphira
 - E. Simon Peter
- III. The Exhortation of Our Lord's Apostles to Stand Against the Wiles of the Devil
 - A. Everything in the bible is the Word of God, written down by men inspired of God to write it just as it is. So it is all true. Therefore it all agrees. Every part of the bible, rightly understood, agrees with every other part. And the apostles are all the apostles of the one and only Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior. So the doctrines of the several letters by the apostles all agree. But there are certain doctrines about which multiple apostles wrote in the very same words. I'm not sure why, but when we come across those things, I find it helpful. This is one of those doctrines.
 - B. Hear Paul: Ephesians 6:11-13 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand against** the wiles of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **withstand [G436 anthistemi]** in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
 - 1. *anti + histemi* / against + stand
 - C. Hear Peter: 1Pe 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (9) **Resist [G436]** him . . .
 - D. Hear James: Jas 4:6b-7 "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." (7) Therefore submit to God. **Resist [G436]** the devil . . .
 - E. Think of the Christians, the churches about 30 years after Jesus Christ had risen from the dead. They are having troubles, because the devil is always scheming against them, and they are threatened by his wiles. They are praying, "Lord, please help us know what to do about the devil."
 - 1. letter arrives from James: Submit to God and resist the devil
 - 2. letter arrives from Peter: Be sober and watchful and resist the devil
 - 3. letter arrives from Paul: Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to resist the devil
 - 4. about that time the Christians would look at each other and say, "I think we are supposed to resist the devil!"
 - F. APPLICATION
 - 1. You may have been, like I was, conditioned to wonder, "What is the will of God for my life?" Wonder no longer---the will of God for your life is to resist the devil!
 - 2. You may have been conditioned by the present trend to think, "Whatever I feel passionate about, that must be a vision from God for my life." Uh,

let's ignore so-called visions, which are only your imagination; let's put down our passions, instead of being led by them, and let's do what the Lord's apostles have told us: Stand against the devil!

3. You might have been wrongly taught to expect God to speak to you, beyond what He has said through the bible. Let's leave off trying to have conversational prayer, leave off trying to hear a word from the Lord, and hear the word already spoken: Stand against the devil!
4. You might be doing something, but you seem to be getting away with it. No one seems to know, and you think you can continue without anyone knowing. Hear the word of the Lord: Resist the devil!

IV. The Result of Standing Against the Wiles of the Devil

- A. Him: he flees - James 4:7 submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- B. You: you stand - Ephesians 6:13 that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- C. This is sure because of the nature of the strengthening you have received by the putting on of the armor you have been provided.
 1. What one man has not fallen into the snares of the devil? Jesus Christ! The devil tempted Him, but He did not sin, not once, not ever!
 2. Jesus Christ has come; He has died for sin for sinners. He was buried, but on the third day He rose again! He has conquered sin and death and hell. He has conquered the devil!
 3. Now, you trust yourself to Jesus Christ. You put Him on as armor against the devil. You put on the graces of Jesus Christ to resist the wiles of the devil. You are strengthened in the Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of His might.
- D. The devil does His worst to you:
 1. by God's leave he makes you sick, and tells you lies to tempt you.
 2. by God's leave he makes sin look attractive to you, and tells you lies to tempt you
 3. by God's leave he stirs up angry conflict in your home or your church, and tells you lies to tempt you
 4. by God's leave he corrupts the government that is over you, and tells you lies to tempt you
 5. by God's leave he corrupts the church you attend, the whole system of the Christian religion across thousands of churches, and tells you lies to tempt you
- E. Millions around you flee or fall
- F. But you resist the schemes of the devil, the armor of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and when a round of temptation is over, you are still standing right where God put you. In the end, when you die, or when the Lord comes back, there you are standing where the Lord Jesus has placed you.

CONCLUSION

We need to put on the whole armor of God so that we can stand against the wiles of the devil, so that we can resist the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

(11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

(12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

(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.

Consider the fate of some who did not stand against the wiles of the devil.

-Adam and Eve, and all of us in Adam, who did not stand against the wiles of the devil, but ate the fruit God had forbidden.

- They were driven out of the garden of Eden.
- One of their own sons murdered another of their sons.
- David (1 Chronicles 21:1), who did not stand against the wiles of the devil, but pridefully made a census of the fighting men of Israel
 - 70,000 men of Israel died by a plague from the Lord.
- Judas Iscariot, who did not stand against the wiles of the devil, but betrayed the Lord Jesus,
 - He committed suicide.
- Ananias and Saphira, who did not stand against the wiles of the devil, but lied to the Holy Spirit
 - They were both struck dead.
- Peter, who did not stand against the wiles of the devil, and struck someone with his sword, then denied Jesus three times
 - He did not stay with the Lord Jesus
 - He went off and wept bitterly.

that the devil and satan and the serpent are the same person

Rev 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

what is said about the devil verbatim

He tempted Jesus in the wilderness. Luke 4:2 When the devil had ended all the temptations, he departed from him for a season. Luke 4:13

Everlasting fire is prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25:41

Luk 8:11-12 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. (12) Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then **the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts**, lest they should believe and be saved.

Joh 13:2 And supper being ended, **the devil having already put it into the heart** of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,

Joh 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

1Pe 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (9) **Resist [G436]** him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Jas 4:6-10 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." (7) Therefore submit to God. **Resist [G436]** the devil and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (9) Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

1Jn 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Rev 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Luk 13:16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound--think of it--for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

2Co 2:10-11 Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, (11) lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

2Co 11:12-15 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. (13) For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

1Th 2:18 Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--but **Satan** hindered us.

2Co 11:2-4 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (3) But I fear, lest somehow, as the **serpent** deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (4) For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!

against the wiles of the devil

JRY:

From the beginning, the devil has sinned, and even has been a murderer (1 John 3:8; John 8:44). Even now he goes about seeking whom he may murder (1 Peter 5:8). He is a liar; he operates primarily by deception, attaching what is untrue to what is true, to make you think about what is untrue as true.

Calvin:

we have a crafty and insidious foe to encounter, who frequently lies in ambush

Bayne:

the devil doth not come against us with swords, but with spiritual suggestions, to withdraw us: labouring to withdraw us from righteousness and fellowship with God, to unrighteousness and the creature, leaving the Creator.

It doth convince many of notable folly, who will march against the devil with armour fleshly and devilish. As the papists, who in procession have banners upon poles, who on Palm-Sunday carry palm-boughs, who put trust on crosses, crucifixes, holy water, etc; for, not knowing the power of godliness, they think with fleshly ceremonies to chase away the spiritual powers of darkness.

What this means, to stand? Ans. A soldier standing orderly to his fight, doth neither run forth to his peril, nor retire through cowardice, neither is beaten down by violence. So that standing, is holding their course without hurt received.

Assaults of the devil are of two sorts: forcible or politic. Now the text speaks of those forcible strategems, the word signifying one principal kind (to wit), ambushment, that put for the other; the sense, then of the words is, that you may be preserved harmless, notwithstanding the devil do practise all his stragemes against you. Thus you see what is the benefit of our Christian furniture: it doth put us out of danger. This is tried proof; we need not fear any shot if it be well buckled unto us. Thus Christ, being thus harnessed, the devil could not fasten anything on him; for even some pieces are of no less force, much more the whole, 2 Peter 1. He that joineth faith, virtue, knowledge (which all is but the breastplate of righteousness), shall not fall. John saith, faith (which is but our shield) is our victory. Now if one piece be of such use, how beneficial is the whole!

Which must each us, first, to prise and get us this furniture.

It doth let us see what we must blame when we are wounded; our want to ourselves in not putting on this armour: for hence it was caused.

the devil doth use policy in assailing us. Thus, from the beginning, he shewed more of the serpent than of the lion: 2 Cor 11:3, he did 'through deceit beguile Eve;' 2 Thess 2:8, "his working" is not "in all power" only, but "in all deceivableness of unrighteousness."

Generally, his policy in fight is, that he observeth all circumstances for his advantage, as person, place, time; and as he set upon Christ in the desert, when he was now hungry.

1. He cometh and closeth as a friend, insinuating, as if he bare us more good will than God: Genesis 3, so to Christ, "Master, spare thyself," but mark what Christ replieth, "Go behind me, Satan."
2. in words which he can speak good, as Mark 1:24 and 7, "Thou art the Son of God." But he . . . useth them unto evil ends, to win himself credit in his lying
3. he will . . . busy us about good works; and thus he did Martha, Luke 10:40, making her so busy in the entertainment, that she had no leisure for the better work, that which Mary chose. This is his wickedness, and he always doth it either
 - a. -to jostle out a better work, or
 - b. -to draw in with that good some greater evil.
 - c. So in the church, many read often, and are thinking of good things, but the devil doth draw them to this, that they might not attend the work in hand.
4. he will persuade to evil under the show of good.
 - a. he will make us, under the pretence of discretion and moderation, be like those who were neither hot nor cold
 - b. he will, with a show of zeal, fetch us off to murder, Luke 9:54. and thus he beguileth such who will reform without authority
 - c. by persuading providence, he doth fill the heart with covetousness
 - d. by persuading perfection, he foileth in will-worship
 - e. under pretence of chastity, abstinence
 - f. under pretence of humility, invocation of angels and doubting (Col 2)
 - g. under pretence of profound learning, unwritten truths with curious questions

Ferguson:

The great adversary of the saints is the devil, fighteth against them most by lies and calumnies

-speaking evil of God and his ways to them, Genesis 3:5

-misrepresenting their own state to themselves, Isaiah 49:14

-and calumniating one of them to another

for the devil is here spoken of as their chief adversary; and the name here given unto him, doth in the original signify a calumniator and slanderer

As Satan is most witty and subtle; so he employeth all his skill and subtlety for carrying on this battle against the saints, while he most cunningly contriveth, and with no less

subtlety conveyeth, such ensnaring temptations as he knoweth, all things being considered, will be most taking with the person tempted: for he speaketh of Satan's wiles; the word signifieth methodic witty stratagem.

However Satan doth sometimes transform himself into an angel of light, and covereth his foul designs with most plausible pretences

-to zeal for God, Luke 9:54-55

-to pity and natural affections, Matthew 16:22, or generally

-to something which is in itself commendable

yet his great design in all his temptation, even when he speaketh fairest, is to drive the party tempted from his station, either by

-making him turn the back as a coward, Nehemiah 6:10-11, or

-driving him beyond the bounds of his calling, Matthew 26:51, or

-presently to render up his arms and become captive to some one prevalent lust or other, Genesis 39:12;

for, while he saith, "that ye may be able to stand against his wiles," he implieth that Satan's aim is to drive us from our station.

The great work of a Christian, in relation to those wiles of Satan, is . . . to guard against them, and to keep our station notwithstanding of them, even when we are assaulted by them: for, saith Paul, "that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

It is by the alone virtue of this armour of God, that is, the saving graces of God's spirit, and the careful exercise of those graces, that Christians are enabled to stand out against Satan's wits and wiles. . . there is no fence in flesh and blood against his wiles: for he biddeth, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Gurnall:

The Christian is endangered most by his policy and craft. . . in his two main designs

1. to draw into sin
 - a. in choosing the most advantageous season for temptation
 - i. when the Christian is new
 - ii. when the Christian is beset with some great affliction, as Job
 - iii. when the Christian is about some notable enterprise for God's glory, as the Jews in rebuilding the temple
 - iv. when he hath the presence of some object to enforce his temptation, as Eve
 - v. After great manifestations of God's love
 - vi. at the hour of death, when the saint is down and prostrate in his bodily strength
 - b. in managing the temptations, laying them in such a method and form as shows his craft

- i. he hangs out false colours, and comes up to the Christian in the disguise of a friend
 - ii. he tempts the Christian to neglect of duties of God's worship (from his worldly occasions, the multitude of them, or necessity of following them); and this takes not, then he is on the other side, and is drawing the Christian to the neglect of his worldly calling, out of a seeming zeal to promote his other in the worship of God.
- c. in pitching on fit instruments for his turn, to carry on his design
 - i. persons of place and power
 - ii. persons of part and policy
 - iii. persons of holiness, or at least reputed so
 - iv. persons of relation and interest
2. to accuse, vex, and trouble the saint for sin

Trapp:

So doth Satan more harm in his sheepskin than by roaring like a lion

Poole:

the devil useth arts and stratagems, as well as force and violence, and therefore, if any part of your spiritual armour be wanting, he will assault you where he finds you weakest.

Henry:

all the devil's assaults, both of force and fraud, all the deceits he puts upon us, all the snares he lays for us, and all his machinations against us.

Wesley:

the strength and subtilty of our adversaries

Clarke:

The methods of the devil; the different means, plans, schemes, and machinations which he uses to deceive, entrap, enslave, and ruin the souls of men. A man's method of sinning is Satan's method of ruining his soul

Gill:

who is the grand enemy of Christ and his people, and a very powerful and cunning one he is; so that the whole armour of God should be put on, which is proof against all his might and craft, in order to stand against him, oppose him, and fight, and get the victory over him, which in the issue is always obtained by believers; for they not only stand their ground in the strength of Christ, and by the use of their armour confound his schemes, and baffle all his arts and stratagems, but are more than conquerors through him that has loved them.

Hodge:

this conflict, on the issue of which our salvation depends, is not to be carried on with straws picked up by the wayside. As we have superhuman enemies to contend with, we need not only superhuman strength, but divine armor and arms. The weapons of our warfare are not natural, but divine.

If our adversary was a man, who had only human strength, ingenuity, and cunning, we might defend ourselves by human means. But as we have to contend with Satan, we need the armor of God. One part of the Bible of course supposes every other part to be true. If it is not true that there is such a being as Satan, or that he possesses great power and intelligence, or that he has access to idle minds of men and exerts his power for their destruction; if all this is obsolete, then there is no real necessity for supernatural power or for supernatural means of defense. If Satan and satanic influence are fables of figures, then all the rest of the representations concerning this spiritual conflict is empty metaphor. But if one part of this representation is literally true, the other has a corresponding depth and reality of meaning. If Satan is really the prince of the powers of darkness, ruler and god of this world; if he is the author of physical and moral evil; the great enemy of God, of Christ and of his people, full of cunning and malice; if he is constantly seeking whom he may destroy, seducing men into sin, blinding their minds and suggesting evil and skeptical thoughts; if all this is true, then to be ignorant of it, or to deny it, or to enter on this conflict as though it were merely a struggle between the good and bad principles in our own hearts, is to rush blindfold to destruction.

JFB:

Believers have once for all overcome him; but on the ground of this fundamental victory gained over him, they are ever again to fight against and overcome him, even as they who once die with Christ have continually to mortify their members upon earth (Rom_6:2-14; Col_3:3, Col_3:5)

literally, “schemes sought out” for deceiving (compare 2Co_11:14)

the ruling chief of the foes (Eph_6:12) organized into a kingdom of darkness (Mat_12:26), opposed to the kingdom of light.

Barnes:

The word rendered “wiles” (μεθοδεῖα methodeia), means properly that which is traced out with “method;” that which is “methodized;” and then that which is well laid - art, skill, cunning. It occurs in the New Testament only in Eph_4:14, and in this place. It is appropriately rendered here as “wiles,” meaning cunning devices, arts, attempts to delude and destroy us. The wiles “of the devil” are the various arts and stratagems which he employs to drag souls down to perdition. We can more easily encounter open force than we can cunning; and we need the weapons of Christian armor to meet the attempts to draw us into a snare, as much as to meet open force. The idea here is, that Satan does not carry on an open warfare. He does not meet the Christian soldier face to face. He advances covertly; makes his approaches in darkness; employs cunning rather than power, and seeks rather to delude and betray than to vanquish by mere force. Hence, the necessity of being constantly armed to meet him whenever the attack is made. A man who has to contend with a visible enemy, may feel safe if he only prepares to meet him in

the open field. But far different is the case if the enemy is invisible; if he steals upon us slyly and stealthily; if he practices war only by ambushes and by surprises. Such is the foe that we have to contend with - and almost all the Christian struggle is a warfare against stratagems and wiles. Satan does not openly appear. He approaches us not in repulsive forms, but comes to recommend some plausible doctrine, to lay before us some temptation that shall not immediately repel us. He presents the world in an alluring aspect; invites us to pleasures that seem to be harmless, and leads us in indulgence until we have gone so far that we cannot retreat.

Eadie:

His “wiles” are seen in unsettling the mind of Eve by representing God as jealous of the first man and woman; in stirring up the warlike aspirations of David to take a military census and force a conscription as the basis of a standing army; in inflaming the avaricious and sordid spirit of Judas; and in his assaults on our Lord by an appeal to appetite, piety, and ambition.

Ellicott:

The word “wiles” (used only here and in Eph_4:14) is an almost technical word for the stratagems of a skilful leader. It is notable that these “wiles” are ascribed to the devil, the “prince of the evil spirits” directing his hosts against the army of Christ; the actual “wrestling” of hand-to-hand struggle is with these evil spirits themselves. The word “wrestling” is, of course, not used technically, otherwise the counsel must have been (as in Heb_12:1) to divest oneself of all encumbrance. It is the personal grapple with the foe.

Carroll:

RWP:

He is a crafty foe and knows the weak spots in the Christian’s armour.

Psalms 64:1-10 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. Hear my voice, O God, in my meditation; Preserve my life from fear of the enemy. (2) Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, From the rebellion of the workers of iniquity, (3) Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, And bend their bows to shoot their arrows--bitter words, (4) That they may shoot in secret at the blameless; Suddenly they shoot at him and do not fear. (5) They encourage themselves in an evil matter; They talk of laying snares secretly; They say, "Who will see them?" (6) They devise iniquities: "We have perfected a shrewd scheme." Both the inward thought and the heart of man are deep. (7) But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; Suddenly they shall be wounded. (8) So He will make them stumble over their own tongue; All who see them shall flee away. (9) All men shall fear, And shall declare the work of God; For they shall wisely consider His doing. (10) The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him. And all the upright in heart shall glory.

the whole armor of God

whole armor = G3833 *panoplia(n)*

Only other use of this word in NT: Luke 11:22

2 Cor 10:3-4

1 Thess 5:8

Romans 13:12 the armor of light

truth G225 *aletheia*

righteousness G1343 *dikaiosune*

gospel of peace G1515 *eirene*

faith G4102 *pistis*

word of God G4487 *rhema*

perseverance G4343 *proskarteresis*

2Co 6:4-7 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, (5) in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in

sleeplessness, in fastings; (6) by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, (7) by the word of **truth**, by the power of God, by the armor of **righteousness** on the right hand and on the left,

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue **righteousness, faith**, love, **peace** with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Timothy 6:11-12 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue **righteousness**, godliness, **faith**, love, patience, gentleness. (12) **Fight** the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Gurnall:

The quality or kind of that armour: of God

it is not armour as armour, but as armour of God, that makes the soul impregnable. That which is born of God overcometh the world . . . But the spurious adulterous brood of duties and graces, being begot of mortal seed, cannot be immortal.

The quantity or entireness of our armour

The Christian is to press after the advance and increase of every grace, even to perfection itself. "Be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48

The use of our armour - "PUT ON the whole armour of God"

they should exercise what they have

it is one thing to have armour in the house, and another thing to have it buckled on

it is one thing to have grace in the principle, and grace in the act

The armor of God means that armor which God has provided and which he gives.

as the strength which we need is not from ourselves, so neither are the means of offense or defense

Trapp:

Or else never think to do the afore mentioned duties

Poole:

not carnal, but spiritual, and given by God

Gill:

[as also Eadie, Barnes] Not that which God himself is sometimes clothed with, and uses against his enemies; but what he has provided for his people, and furnishes them with

It is called 'the armour of God'

- because it is prepared by him for his people, and is bestowed on them by him
- because it is in its own nature divine and spiritual, and not carnal
- because it is provided for fighting the Lord's battles, and is used in them
- because the efficacy of it is from him, and the execution it does is owing to him

Eadie:

Do not resort to any arsenal of your own, for its armour is weak and useless; but put on the whole armour of God

It cannot mean, as Anselm dreams, such armour as God uses.

It is armour forged on no earthly anvil, and tempered by no human skill.

Ellicott:

of God—given us, that is, by God

Barnes:

The meaning here is:

(1) that we are not to provide in our warfare such weapons as people employ in their contests, but such as God provides; that we are to renounce the weapons which are carnal, and put on such as God has directed for the achievement of the victory.

(2) we are to put on the "whole armor." We are not to go armed partly with what God has appointed, and partly with such weapons as people use; nor are we to put on "a part" of the armor only, but the "whole" of it. A man needs "all" that armor if he is about to fight the battles of the Lord; and if he lacks "one" of the weapons which God has appointed, defeat may be the consequence.

Carroll:

We make a very great mistake if we think that in the happy hour of our conversion all trouble, battle, and strife are over. They have just commenced. That is the day we enlisted. The whole war is ahead of us – not a war for our salvation, but a war in Christian service.

in going out to this battle he needs an armor, or panoply. The idea is doubtless suggested to Paul by the fact that even as he wrote he was chained to the soldier of the Praetorian guard, the most formidable of Roman soldiers. The soldier has on a helmet, breastplate, a military girdle, war sandals, and has a sharp two-edged sword, certainly the most formidable weapon ever devised for warfare, and a long shield with which, when he goes out into battle, he protects himself. So Paul takes this imagery to show how the Christian must guard against the wiles of the devil – that the Christian must be panoplied.

JRY:

ILLUS: Gas chamber during basic training
the gas mask is not pleasing to the flesh

Genesis 15:1-6 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." (2) But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" (3) Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" (4) And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." (5) Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." (6) And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Deuteronomy 33:29 Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places."

2 Samuel 22:1-4 Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. (2) And he said: "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; (3) The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence. (4) I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

Isaiah 59:16-21 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. (17) For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak. (18) According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay. (19) So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. (20) "The Redeemer will come to Zion,

And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the LORD. (21) "As for Me," says the LORD, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from this time and forevermore."

Verse 16 His own arm . . . His own righteousness

Trapp:

i.e. Christ, the power of God, and the wisdom of God

Poole:

The literal meaning is, God's taking vengeance on the Chaldeans for the people's sake; the mystical is, Christ's making use of his own righteousness for the redemption of lest man, being destitute of all other.

Henry:

Christ, the power of God and arm of the Lord, that man of his right hand whom he made strong for himself

If men be not zealous against sin, God will, and will take vengeance on it for all the injury it has done to his honour and his people's welfare; and this was the business of Christ in the world, to take away sin and be revenged on it.

Gill:

this may be understood of Christ, as well as what follows.

JFB:

the arm of Messiah

Isaiah 11:1-5 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (2) The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (3) His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; (4) But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (5) Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness [LXX G225 aletheia] the belt of His waist.

Isaiah 59:16-17 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. (17) For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

-righteousness as a breastplate

-a helmet of salvation on His head

Psalm 18

Borgman:

Paul is not thinking of Roman soldier armor, but of Isaiah 59:17 armor

Griswold:

This armor is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

“I am the truth”

“Christ, our righteousness”

“He is our peace”

Rom 13: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.”

When a soldier goes into battle, his armament is already chosen for him.

If you are not interested in these weapons, you fear men rather than God.

that you may be able to stand against

Hoehner:

to stand defensively (not to conquer) against the onslaughts

to stand defensively against the spiritual wickedness in the heavenlies

gird your waist with truth G225 aletheia

Isaiah 11:5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness [G225 aletheia] the belt of His waist.

breastplate G2382 thorax of righteousness

Isaiah 59:17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

having shod your feet [G4228 pous] with the preparation [G2091 hetoimasia] of the gospel [G2098 euaggelion] of peace [G1515 eirene]

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news [LXX G2097 euaggelizo], Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

shield [G2375 thureos] of faith [G4102 pistis]

helmet of salvation

Isaiah 59:17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

sword G3162 machaira of the Spirit G4151 pneuma the word G4487 rhema of God

Gurnall

<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/gurnall/armour/files/gurnal02a.htm>

2LBCF, 5.5

The most wise, righteous and gracious God doth oftentimes leave for a season his own children to manifold temptations and the corruptions of their own hearts, to chastise them for their former sins, or to discover unto them the hidden strength of corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts, that they may be humbled; and to raise them to a more close and constant dependence for their support upon himself; and to make them more watchful against all future occasions of sin, and for other just and holy ends. So that whatsoever befalls any of his elect is by his appointment for his glory and their good.

Psalm 35