

Ephesians 6:13-14 – The Church’s Armor: Truth and Righteousness

TSK, GreekLexicon, Gill, Robertson, Trapp, Poole, JFB, Clarke, Calvin, Barnes, Rienecker, Eclectic, Henry, Armstrong, Geneva, Henriksen, Moule, Beloved in the Lord: God **gave the church great wealth.** God **directed the church in her godly walk.** God then challenged **his church to be engaged in warfare!** Yes, the church had to fight. The Christian life has great joys, but it is not a cruise! It is a war. Apostle Paul told the Ephesians the truth!

Last week you saw the **principles of the church’s warfare:**

Christians were **admonished** to fight.

Christians were **armed** to fight.

And Christians were introduced to the **adversary** they had to fight.

We pick up today with the details of the armor that God gives his church with which she must fight.

Our headings are:

You fight with the whole armor of God

You fight with truthfulness

You fight with righteousness

Our goals are: **That you will be thankful for, and use the armor the Lord has given you to fight and conquer the world and bring the nations under his dominion.**

You Fight with the Whole Armor of God

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.**

1. The Ephesians’ armor was from God.

Their armor was not good enough to fight their enemies.

2. The Ephesians were told to use the whole armor.

This statement is a repeat of Verse 11. When God **repeats something, it is intended for emphasis!** The **enemy was dangerous**, so the Ephesians had to be careful and have complete protection. So they had to **hear the warning twice!**

3. Only if the Ephesians used the whole armor of God (not their armor) would they be safe.

With the whole armor they would be able to meet the Devil and his people and fight them. With the armor they were protected! **They could not use guile to fight the Devil** - like the Devil used against him; they had to face the Devil head-on! They had to stand in open defiance against him.

4. Now when was this “evil day” when they would need God’s armor?

An evil day was any time the Devil launched a special assault on God’s people. Some days were worse than others. **The fact is, the Devil likes to make people relax and get complacent** – like when they are coasting in their spiritual lives, **so he doesn’t always**

attack every minute of the day...or even every day. He can suddenly attack with his guile in a thousand ways!

5. Not only would the Ephesians be able to stand and fight with the whole armor of God when the Devil launched a thousand assaults, but Christians would be left standing victoriously at the end of the world!

So ultimate victory is sure and ultimate reward is sure.

6. Lessons:

a. Spiritual armor to the Christian is like body armor to a soldier. Don't live without it. Don't get out of bed without it! Don't fight without it. Pray for it.

b. Don't leave any cracks in your armor. Watch out for small sins. Those tiny cracks in your spiritual armor could begin a deadly series of events.

If you ignore your devotions with the Lord for a few days, you will become discouraged...you'll say things you shouldn't...you'll hurt others and cause troubles in your home or office.

If you are trapped into pornography, you will fall into lust, and then to adultery, and then to other perversions...and then to murder.

If you hate someone a little, and that grows to deep resentments...and to undermining a relationship...and to divorce...and to destruction of your family.

c. Stand and fight when the Devil and his demons come after you. Don't run away from the ranks. Fight together with other believers. Fight with your whole armor. If the Devil senses weaknesses in you, he will harass you until he destroys you. It is the sickly gazelle that gets eaten.

You Fight with Truthfulness

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth...

1. The Ephesians needed to stand and fight with truth just as the Roman soldiers fought with their belts.

Yes, truth is a weapon, a part of your armor you received from God.

2. How was truth to be used?

The Roman soldier had 3 wide leather belts around his waist to hold his clothing so he could walk, and fight. In his belt he would secure his weapons. Look at an example of having to use a belt to allow fast movement.

Exodus 12:11 'And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD'S Passover.

So the soldier's "truth" helped him to fight. He could not fight properly if he did not have his belts!

To understand how the Christian used truth as the Roman soldier used his belt, you have to know exactly what "truth" is. Truth can be used in various ways. It can mean "an **established fact**," "a **doctrine**," "the **Gospel**," or, as it is use here, "**being sincere, genuine, or dedicated**." The Christian soldier could not pretend when he fought. He had to be **truthful**! He had to fight with conviction – a conviction of what was inside. He had to feel it in his belly! ("Truth" was not referring to the Gospel)

3. This made perfect sense as the waist (or loins) was considered the seat of strength.

When truth was close to the Christian, he could stand firm and not fall.

Isaiah 5:27 **No one will be weary or stumble** among them, No one will slumber or sleep; **Nor will the belt on their loins be loosed**, Nor the strap of their sandals be broken;

If the truth isn't close to the Christian – not in his heart, he would be manipulated by the Devil and fooled like the Devil fooled Eve, who had the Word of God...but did not keep it close in her heart.

4. Lessons:

a. Fight with conviction. Don't doubt. Be convinced of what you believe. Don't negotiate when the Devil tempts you. Look at Christ's example.

Mark 1:25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!"

And remember the reminder from James to all Christians.

James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

You need the conviction of the truth because people will see if you really believe the Gospel.

b. When people hear the Gospel and they see the reality of the Gospel in you – that genuineness, they will be moved to turn to Jesus. They will see how the Gospel works! They will see what makes you fight! May people **never doubt that you genuinely believe in Jesus!**

You fight with Your Righteousness

14 having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

1. The Ephesian Christians were challenged to stand and fight with righteousness just as the Romans fought with their breastplates.

Righteousness was another part of the armor with which Christians had to fight to win the world for Jesus.

2. How was that righteousness used?

The Roman soldier generally had a metal breastplate that protected from his shoulder to his loins – usually in 2 pieces. If the soldier were well-off, he would have a breastplate of chain mail that offered more convenience and protection. The soldier's breastplate protected his vital organs, like his heart and his lungs so he could keep fighting!

Apostle Paul wanted Christians to use their righteousness (which God helps them to do) to fight for the kingdom. This picture was already in the Old Testament. Look how Jesus put on righteousness to fight and protect.

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.

So while Christians' **good works were never perfect**, they were to do their best to win the world by their right actions – their godliness. Their good works had to be in front of their faces of the Devil and the wicked – as a soldier stood up against the enemy. Their righteousness showed the effect of the Gospel they were preaching!

3. Christians had to practice righteousness to know how to use it; it was not a theoretical or hidden thing.

1 John 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

The Christian that did not practice using righteousness would fall into sin and bring shame to Christ.

That is what happened to **David when he allowed his eyes to wander on Bathsheba.**

That is what happened to **Judas when he was offered money.**

This is what happened to **Achan when he saw the clothes and the gold.**

Wrong living hurts **the Christian, the Church, and the Kingdom!**

4. Lessons:

a. Know that your righteousness is from the Lord Jesus and praise him for it. You could do nothing good without Jesus loving you and saving you!

b. Now that you have been restored to the Father through the Son, practice righteousness – showing what is in your heart.

c. Show that righteousness to others that they may be saved. Let the world see real love...and patience ...and care...generosity...friendliness! **This adds power to the Gospel! It is your righteousness – your faithful obedience to the Lord – that will chase the Devil away and bring others in.**

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that **they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Proverbs 10:2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, **But righteousness delivers from death.**

Conclusion:

The Ephesians needed the whole armor God, defensive and offensive armor so they could hold their ground and fight the Devil. Specifically, they had to **fight with truthfulness and sincerity**. Truth and sincerity added power to the Gospel and drew the pagan to Jesus, and this chased the Devil away. And they had to **fight with righteous living**. This too added power to the Gospel and drew the pagan to Jesus, and this too made the Devil leave.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Keep the whole armor on God has given to you. Don't leave a crack or a crevice that can be used by the Devil to exploit and destroy you. Remember, **just one crack in the dam will let loose a torrent.**

2. Specifically, stand sincerely on the truth of God's Word and practice living truth – living righteously. Train your children and fellow believers to do this as well.

3. And show that conviction of truth and righteous actions to the world so they may be drawn to the Savior and surrender to him. Remember, Jesus bought you! He saved you from certain eternal death. He gave you great spiritual wealth. He directed how you could walk successfully. Fight for him!

Finally, if you are not a Christian, you have bought Satan's pack of lies – telling you that your soul is in good shape. Get rid of that pack of lies. Ask God to show you his truth – that you are sinner in need of a Savior. Jesus is that Savior. He will do as you ask. That is his promise. And he will do more: he will give you the armor and help you to fight against your former master and win those who are yet lost!