

Ephesians 6:14,15**5-16-07****“Belt, Body Armor, & Boots!”****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Prayer** – Fighting the Invisible War.
- 1.2. **Conflict will come!** – Forces beyond mere human sphere **oppose God**. And they **oppose the light** that would expose them for what they really **are & do**.
 - 1.2.1. **Never** picture **God** doing battle w/one of His creatures(*Satan*). That creature could never stand against him for a moment. [It's **NO** fight!]
 - 1.2.2. When God does fight against him it looks like this→**Read Rev 20:7-10**.
 - 1.2.3. So God uses his other creatures(*angels & us*) to war against him.
 - 1.2.4. And so we find out we enlisted ourselves into God's Holy War!
 - 1.2.4.1. We are in a **jihad**, a **hostile campaign**, against him.
 - 1.2.5. 2 Tim2:3,4 **“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”**
- 1.3. Explain 1st 3 pieces of armor being **Past**(14,15); & next 3 being **future**(16,17).
 - 1.3.1. **Note:** **having**(3 x's) vs. **taking**(2 x's).
- 1.4. Start with vs.13 recap – **Stand? When do we Stand & when do we Flee?**
 - 1.4.1. (John Gerstner) **“When tempted to do wrong...Flee; When attacked for doing right...Stand!”**
 - 1.4.1.1. **Flee** – Like **Joseph** fleeing from Potipher's wife.
 - 1.4.1.2. **Stand** – Like **Daniel** before the decree of Nebuchadnezzar.

2. BELT- OF TRUTHFULNESS! (14a)

- 2.1. **GIRD YOUR WASTE!**
- 2.2. **Gird up** – pulling their robe up & tucking it into their belt.
 - 2.2.1. This symbolized **readiness to fight**.
- 2.3. **Q:** Why would this help in a battle situation?
 - 2.3.1. Able to move **unimpeded, unrestricted, unrestrained**.
 - 2.3.2. **Q:** How would that relate to your **personal walk**?
 - 2.3.3. **Q:** How would that relate to your **ministry**?
- 2.4. **THE BELT!**
- 2.5. **Show Picture** of Roman soldier:
- 2.6. **Q:** What kind of belt did the Roman soldiers wear? (had 3)
 - 2.6.1. [1] **A Leather Apron** to protect the lower abdomen.
 - 2.6.2. [2] **A Sword Belt** Ps.45:3 **“Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, With Your glory and Your majesty.”**

- 2.6.3. [3] **A Special Belt** that designated an officer, or high official.
- 2.7. We need to wear these belts!
- 2.7.1. (1) **To protect** our mid section (*sexual purity!*).
- 2.7.2. (2) **To hang** the Sword of the Spirit (Word).
- 2.7.3. (3) **Q: Do you have a special belt for your occupation?**
- 2.7.3.1. A **doctor** dons his white coat, a **police officer** his utility belt, a **construction worker** his tool belt - **Wear it for God's glory!**
- 2.8. Peter said, "**Therefore gird up the loins of your minds.**" (1 Pet.1:13)
- 2.8.1. **Meaning?** – Prepare your minds for action (NASB). **Protect your mind. Let your minds be unencumbered.**
- 2.9. **TRUTH!**
- 2.10. **Q: What kind of truth is he talking about here?**
- 2.10.1. Most likely not speaking of the truth of God's Word...as that comes later (sword).
- 2.10.2. But it's actually speaking of **truthfulness**, pointing to the individual's personal character. (i.e. **Living out the truth!**)
- 2.10.3. If a person is not **living the truth**, & is weighed down w/his own **sinfulness**, he is like a soldier running thru the battlefield w/a robe down around his ankles (**you can do it for a time...but...!**)
- 2.10.4. **Truthfulness** needs to be at the core of your **character**, your **lifestyle**, your **ministry**.
- 2.11. Truth is the **1st piece** of armor we must put on...**have you?**
- 2.11.1. See there is an **exact order** that these are placed in.
- 2.11.2. Maybe you've taken up the **Sword of the Spirit** yet never **1st** put on your **belt of truth?** And wonder why the Word isn't powerful in your life!
- 2.12. **Q: Which area of truthfulness do you personally struggle with most?**
- 2.12.1. {Falsehood, fib, story teller, fabrication, dishonesty, deceit, lie, deception, cheating, scam, fraud, exaggeration, embellishment,...}

3. BODY ARMOR – OF RIGHT LIVING! (14B)

- 3.1. **BREASTPLATE!** [1st century bullet proof vest!]
- 3.2. It was a coat of mail – **See photo.**
- 3.2.1. [1] **Iron Rings** interloped [2] **Bronze scale** armor, wired together. [3] **Molded metal** chest plate [4] **Overlapping metal.**
- 3.2.2. 1 Kings 32:44 "**Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel(Ahab) between the joints of his armor.**" (Syria vs. Israel)
- 3.3. **Ballistic vest today** (*Bullet proof* is a misnomer).
- 3.3.1. Added Plate protects heart. - Also, not good after a few years Kevlar breaks down.

- 3.4. This was an **important area** to protect, as fighting was mostly *hand-to-hand* combat w/a short sword.
- 3.4.1. So it protected 2 vital areas **heart & viscera** (bowels/ intestines/ internal organs)
- 3.4.2. **Heart** - The Hebrews believed the heart symbolically represented the **mind**, the **thinking** process.
- 3.4.2.1. **Prov.23:7** “For as he **thinks** in his **heart**, so is he.”
- 3.4.3. **Viscera** – The bowels became a reference to the **emotions** because of the way our **emotions** can affect how our *intestinal organs* **feel**.
- 3.4.3.1. So, these encompass everything that causes a person to act. His knowledge, understanding, conscience, will, desire,& drives
- 3.5. **RIGHTEOUSNESS!**
- 3.6. **Q:** What kind of **righteousness** was he speaking of?
- 3.7. The bible talks about **3 types**: **Self rt.** – **Imputed rt.** – **Imparted rt.**
- 3.8. **Self Righteousness!**
- 3.8.1. **Q:** **Satan’s ultimate goal?** - To destroy men & women. Preventing them from becoming a citizen of heaven.
- 3.8.1.1. His #1 weapon is to have people believe they are going to heaven because of their **good deeds!**
- 3.8.2. **Lk.18:10-13** (Pharisee & the Tax Collector)
- 3.8.2.1. **Q:** Who ended up justified? (14) **Q:** How was he?
- 3.8.3. “You could say the **good** man went to hell & the **bad** man went to heaven!” [There is a **clean** path to hell, as well as a **dirty** one!]
- 3.8.4. So, obviously **not** this one. “**not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,**”
- 3.9. **Imputed Righteousness!** [or **Positional Rt.**] {**Justification**}
- 3.9.1. This is God clothing a person in the righteousness of Christ at the moment of salvation.
- 3.9.2. This is described/contrasted in Phil.3:9, “and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”
- 3.9.3. When you become a Christian, you are immediately covered with “**Christ’s Canopy of Holiness.**”
- 3.9.3.1. From that moment on into eternity – when God looks at you He sees the rt. of Christ.
- 3.9.4. **Q:** How does this reminder to strap on the breastplate of righteousness help you, when attacked from the enemy, regarding **your Unworthiness?** (just say, “yes I am”, “*but worthy is the Lamb*”)

- 3.10. **Imparted Righteousness!** [or **Practical Rt.**] {**Sanctification**}
- 3.10.1. While **Imputed rt.** assures you of ultimate victory over Satan, **Imparted rt.** enables you to win the daily skirmishes.
- 3.10.2. We **stand** in the **imputed** righteousness of Christ, **and** We **walk** in the **imparted** righteousness of the Holy Spirit.
- 3.10.3. **Practical righteousness is living a holy life!**
- 3.10.4. Dr. Ryle spoke of **spiritual warfare** as “an inner struggle for **personal holiness**.”
- 3.10.4.1. This seems to be our battle today more than personal confrontations w/demons.
- 3.10.4.2. We need to protect our **thinking & emotions!**
- 3.10.4.3. **How?** By holy living!
- 3.10.4.4. Rom.13:12-14 “**The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us **walk properly**, as in the day,”**
- 3.10.5. This part of God’s armor is **holy living**, for which God supplies the **standard & the power**, but for which we must supply the **willingness!**

4. **BOOTS – OF PEACE! (15)**

- 4.1. **BOOTS ARE ESSENTIAL!**
- 4.2. Imagine a soldier clad in armor from head to foot...but **w/no shoes on?**
- 4.2.1. **A barefooted soldier!!!**
- 4.2.2. Imagine fighting in the desert or mountains **w/no boots?**
- 4.2.3. **Q: Ever run into a situation where you had the **wrong shoes** on?**
- 4.2.3.1. **Track meet** – Tartan track (had long spikes only?) ☹
- 4.2.3.2. Ever try to play **soccer** or **football** on grass w/o cleats?
- 4.3. **Do you know the legend of Achilles?** - He seemed to be invincible!
The Legend goes; when he was a baby **his mother dipped him** into some **magical potion** that coated his entire body **w/an invincible shield**. But when she was dipping him, she was **holding him by the tip of his heel**(*thus not covering that spot*). It was there that in the course of a great battle in the Trojan War, Achilles was struck in the heel by an arrow & was slain.
- 4.4. **SOLDIER SHOES!** [2 types]
- 4.5. **Caliga** – A strong & heavy shoe worn by the Roman soldiers.
- 4.5.1. This shoe was thickly studded w/hobnails(*A short nail with a thick head used to protect the soles of shoes or boots*)
- 4.6. **Calceus** – A more elegant shoe worn by men of higher rank.
- 4.7. Today warfare is so **computerized & mechanized**.
- 4.7.1. Back then a single most imp dimension of warfare was “**The March**.”
- 4.7.2. **Stonewall Jackson** was known for his incredible ability in moving troops quickly & strategically.

- 4.7.3. In the **ancient world** they moved by foot, thus called “*foot soldiers*”.
- 4.7.3.1. So if the protection was inadequate, they couldn’t carry out their mission.
- 4.7.4. **Story** - In the 1950,51 Korean Conflict **frostbitten feet** became a problem for some of the foot soldiers. - Areas were damp, so when the temperature lowered, **shoes froze**, next the **feet froze**. The worse enemy became their **shoes**, not their enemy guns!
- 4.8. **GOSPEL OF PEACE!**
- 4.9. Near Athens, in Greece, is a plain called **Marathon**. It’s 5 miles long, 2 miles wide
In 490ad a great battle ensued between the **Greeks & the Persians**. When the Persians were defeated a Greek soldier named **Pheidippides** ran from the plain of Marathon to Athens, a distance of slightly more than 26 miles, to deliver a message to the magistrates. As he delivered the message he fell over dead. **What was the message?** That the **war was over & victory** had been **achieved**. Today’s Marathon race commemorates the faithful soldier who announced the **good news of peace!**
- 4.10. This peace is not **subjective** but **objective**.
- 4.10.1. It does not refer to **feelings** but to a **relationship!**
- 4.11. Peace w/God means we **aren’t** on opposite sides anymore. [Our war is over with God!]
- 4.12. So, this peace we **already possess** as believers is a peace to help us to stand in facing our warlike conditions!
- 4.12.1. Like Gideon, when his 32,000 was whittled down to 300 vs. 120,000!
- 4.12.2. **Why was Gideon willing to wage this war with these incredible odds?**
Because he knew God was on his side!
- 4.13. **We then ought to gain a confidence in knowing we are at peace with God, & thus able to stand against any wiles of the enemy!**
- 4.14. The *Gospel Peace-Boot* covers our feet, protects our feet, stabilizes our feet, & mobilizes our feet in the battle against evil!
- 4.15. **End:** We are poor feeble creatures:
- 4.15.1. We can be so easily tricked away from **truth**.
- 4.15.2. Our hearts can quickly be wounded w/sin.
- 4.15.3. If bootless, one little thorn can stop our pilgrimage forward.