

SS Lesson 7 Arming for Victory

Sabbath's / Sunday's Lessons

“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.” Eph 6:13.

What is the purpose of “armor”?

1. Protection.
2. Recognition of a soldier.
3. To instill fear in the opposition [armored vehicles / tanks / etc.]. See James 2:19.

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 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.

³ **For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.** 2 Cor. 10:3-5 ESV.

- Belt [Girdle] of Truth. Belt serves as an anchor for other parts of the armor. Girdle ?? covering our nakedness.
- Breastplate of Righteousness – guarding our hearts. Changing our hearts from the inside out.
- Shoes for the Gospel of Peace [NOT the gospel of anger and punishment].
- Shield of Faith [to extinguish flaming darts]
- Helmet of Salvation [note Salvation is occurring in our minds [hearts]]
- Sword of the Spirit [Word of God] Note Heb. 2:12 and Rev. 19:15.

Does this struggle involve Christians only or is every human part of this warfare??

Jer. 31:33 ESV For this is the covenant that I will make with the **house of Israel** after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Rom. 2:13-16. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴ For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires,

they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them ¹⁶ on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Monday's lesson

The 4th paragraph states: "At the same time, though this righteousness includes living a righteous life, we must always remember the other aspect of righteousness, and that is the righteousness of Christ, **which covers the believer** and remains the believers only hope of salvation.

What would be better on the battlefield, a vest made of Kevlar, or to be made completely bullet-proof yourself?? What would be better to the HIV patient, to live life in quarantined in a plastic tent, or to be disease free??

Tuesday's Lesson

"[Ephesians 6:15](#) may be translated in different ways: feet shod with the *preparation* of the gospel of peace, having feet fitted with the *readiness* of the gospel of peace, or having shod your feet with the *equipment* of the gospel of peace. The key is a Greek word that can mean preparedness, as in a prepared foundation or base. Hence, the gospel of peace as a prepared foundation is the peace a Christian experiences as a result of having been reconciled with God through the blood of Christ. This reconciliation gives the Christian a firm foothold from which to engage in the spiritual battle that we all face."

I think this is well said if understood correctly. We have been reconciled with God through the blood [life, death, resurrection] of Christ. The really good news is God is exactly as Jesus revealed him to be. How many people did Jesus condemn to hellfire when He was here on earth?? How much "wrath" was displayed during his ministry??

The lesson next mentions the "shield" which was typically made of wood, covered in leather, which would extinguish the fiery arrows that hit it. [Last paragraph / pink section] – "This kind of faith is primarily faith in action, a faith that, while including doctrinal truth, goes beyond mere belief. It is a faith that manifests itself in an active defense against the assaults of the enemy. Of course, we can't save ourselves, and we can't fight the devil ourselves; our battle is to daily choose the Lord and His ways over anything the devil will throw before us." See James 2:17.

Wednesday's Lesson

Isa. 59:14-17. **"Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. ¹⁵ Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak."**

The lesson suggests that God is wearing the helmet of salvation. I see this more of a messianic prophecy where God provided a Man to bring salvation, and righteousness to the rest of humanity. Note the garments of "vengeance", and remember all of the references to removing our "dirty rags" and covering us with a robe of pure white.

As mentioned above, the helmet of salvation is covering the head. Isn't this where our healing [salvation] occurs??

It's very compelling that these metaphors were written, by inspired men, some 2000 years ago, long before "science" knew about the location and purpose of the pre-frontal cortex in the brain. Of course, our Creator knew this, and inspired these specific ideas. This is one of many reasons I believe that Scripture is the Word of God, and not some nice history book or fanciful literature.

Sword of the Spirit.

Heb. 4:12. ***¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.***

Rev. 19:11-16. ***¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.***

John 1:1-5. ***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***

Thursday's Lesson

What does it mean to be "praying always"?? Are we to get on our knees, and turn toward Jerusalem 3X/day, like Daniel?? Are we to always close our eyes?? [I think some people actually drive like this –I see them every day]. Does a soldier, caught behind enemy lines, risk capture if he lets his guard down, even for a moment?? Are we not in enemy territory?? Are we not at war [see Friday's lesson]??

The lesson asks a great question: "Why is praying for ourselves more important for us spiritually than having others pray for us (however important that is)? What does personal prayer do for you that the prayers of others just can't?"