

The Full Armor Of God

September 2, 2018 – Ephesians 6:10-17

“Finally be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor (- πανοπλιαν = Panoply = Whole Armor) - of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. (Panorama = Unlimited View of all visible objects.) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the power of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.”

There is a saying: Those Who Love War, Do Not Know War.

In other Words, if you are a person who loves, enjoys and likes war, you probably have never fought in a war.

How many war veterans have you spoken to who have seen active combat, and then have really enjoyed talking about their war experiences? I have not met one. Generally they brush the question off, or they start to gaze into the distance and say nothing, they simply shake their head.

The Apostle Paul is writing to the congregation in Ephesus, from Prison in Rome, about 60 A.D. He would have been familiar with the Roman soldier and the attire of the soldier. As the Apostle Paul writes to the congregation of believers in Ephesus, and to us, he speaks of a war, only it is not a war against flesh and blood.

Vs. 12 – For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the power of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Simply put, the war that is going on is against the DEVIL and his agents. The WORLD and Our OWN SINFIL FLESH.

The United States has a powerful TANK called The M1 – Abrams TANK. It is a powerful war machine. It is the TANK that the USA has been using since 1980 to the present. It costs 8.92 Million for One Tank. It weighs 54 tons, it has a 4 or 5 inch gun, a 50 caliber with 900 rounds of ammo, it has 2 – 7.62 guns and 10,400 rounds of ammo a 1500 horsepower engine, it has a 500 gallon fuel tank and it can go a maximum of 45 miles per hour. It also has thick steel plates to stop certain bullets. Regardless of how powerful this tank is, it cannot stop Satan and his agents.

As we fight against the devil and his agents, The World and our own sinful flesh, God has given us armor to defend against Satan and weapons of offense.

Vs. 14 – Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

Jesus says, I am The Way, The TRUTH and the Life. (John 14:6) Jesus has no falsehood in HIM.

Jesus is the Righteous One. It is Jesus Who has made us Righteous by His Holy Precious Blood as we are told in: **! Peter 3:18 – “For Christ died for Sins once for all, The Righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,”**

Next the Lord through the Apostle Paul tells us to have:

Vs. 15 – your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Have shoes that are ready for action. There are special shoes that I wear for tennis.

Soldiers had shoes that protected their feet and helped them move well.

Paul tells us to have The Gospel – The GOOD NEWS of PEACE, that is, the peace of knowing that our sins are forgiven and that heaven is our final home.

Next Paul tells us to:

Vs. 16 – take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

There were two shields that were used by the Roman soldiers. The small round shield and then the large shield that was large enough for the Roman soldier to go behind for protection for the entire body. The only part that stuck out was the helmet.

The Roman soldiers would form a Phalanx – where they would line up side by side in rows and columns and place the large shield in front and the back rows would put the shield over the top, so that no arrow could penetrate. Then this group of soldiers advanced against the enemy like a human tank.

This also is a wonderful picture of how we as Christians join side by side in the study of the Word and reception of the Lord's Supper as we fight the Good Fight against Satan, the World and our own sinful nature.

Paul then tells us to:

Vs. 17 – Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

The Helmet protected the soldier as he peered over the top of his shield. The only thing that was exposed to the enemy was the eyes.

And finally we have the Sword. The Sword is that part of the Armor with which we can go on the offensive. The Sword of the Word of God as we learn from **Heb. 4:12 – For the Word of God is Living and Active, Sharper than any double edged sword, penetrating even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."**

The Word of the Lord is the Law which –SOS - Shows us our Sin and the Gospel which – SOS - Shows us our Savior.

God tells us through the Apostle Paul that we are to put on the FULL Armor of God, not just parts of it.

There is no man made weapon that can combat against Satan, only The Word of God, and the only Way that we are and can be prepared for battle against the devil and his cohorts is THE WORD OF GOD.

So hear God's Word Regularly, Study it Daily, Partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion Often. The Victory was and is won by Christ Jesus on the Cross of Calvary, but the Battle against the devil, the world and our own sinful nature continues until the Lord Jesus comes again to take us and all believers to our Eternal Home. AMEN