

Sermon 16: Living the Victorious Christian Life Part 2

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Purpose: Paul wrote this section, recognizing both the reality of the constant conflict with spiritual wickedness in high places, and the means by which God strengthens Christians in the battle so they can be victorious.

Proposition: God wants you to live a victorious Christian life.

Interrogative: How can we live a victorious Christian life?

Section 1: Developing a correct world view: 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole amour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- **Truth 1: Victory does not come by our own power: 6:10**
- **Truth 2: Victory does not come to the spiritually lazy: 6:11**
- **Truth 3: Victory does not come to the spiritually selective: 6:13**
- **Truth 4: Victory in the heat of battle comes to those who develop spiritual disciplines before they need them.**

Section 2: Getting acquainted with the weapons God has provided: 6:14-18

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

- **Article one: The belt of truth:** The first piece of equipment mentioned is not a weapon, yet it is critical to success in the battle: **6:14** Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...
- **What is it?** Kept the soldier's robe from causing him to trip in battle, and falling down in battle is a sure way to get killed by the enemy.

- **Why is this article so important?** This article will keep the soldier from self inflicted vulnerability to the enemy. It also frees Him up to defend himself and go on the offensive in battle.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, **apt to teach**, patient, In **meekness instructing those that oppose themselves**; if God peradventure will give them **repentance to the acknowledging of the truth**; And that they may recover themselves out of **the snare of the devil**, who are **taken captive** by him at his will...

- **How does Satan attack us in this area?**
 - He feeds us with lies.
 - He influences circumstances to disrupt our thinking.
 - He distracts us with worldly pursuits.
 - He surrounds us with influences that will disrupt our thinking.
 - He plants seeds of doubt in our minds.
- **How does this piece of armor meet the need?**
 - Truth keeps us focused on what is real
 - Truth exposes lies for what they actually are.
 - Truth goes on the offensive to confront lies
 - Truth reminds us of the character of God, the nature of the Christian life, and the blessings we have in Christ.
- **How do we practically put on the belt of truth?**
 - Be in the word constantly.
 - Be wary of your own tendency to be self deceived.
 - Be careful who influences you.
 - Surround yourself with godly mentors.
 - Be careful of entertainments sow lies.

Article 2: The Breastplate of righteousness:

- **What is it?** The breastplate protects our vital organs. Without the breastplate, we are susceptible to death blows from the enemy.
 - **Two Possible ways to understand this peace of the armor:**
 - **Possibility 1: Imputed righteousness:** We understand our position is Christ is established by the imputed righteousness of Christ. **Romans 3:20-22** By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe...**Philippians 3:7-9** What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith...
 - **Possibility 2: Practical righteousness produced by the Spirit in the process of sanctification: Philippians 1:9-11** And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God...**Ephesians 4:25-27** Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil...**2 Corinthians 2:7-11** Forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him...Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices...**2 Peter 1:5-8** Beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...

- **How does Satan attack us in this area?**
 - He tempts us in the areas where our natural inclinations are most vulnerable.
 - He tempts us to make excuses for areas where we tend to let down our guard.
 - He tempts us to secretly make provision for our flesh.
 - He tempts us to secretly indulge in fleshly passions that will capture us.
 - He exploits us when we fail by hurting our testimony before others.
 - He exploits us when we fail by planting doubts, thoughts of failure, and hopelessness.
 - He reminds us of our failures when we purpose to serve the Lord faithfully.
 - He uses our conscience against us, by making it dull to what is wrong and keenly aware of our greatest failures.
 - He seeks to distract us from eternally significant pursuits.
- **How does this piece of armor meet the need?**
 - **When we walk uprightly, we do not give place to the devil: Ephesians 4:25-27**
Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil...
 - **When we walk uprightly, we do not make provision for our flesh: Romans 13:12-13**
The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. ¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof...
 - **When we walk uprightly, we do not try to manage our sin, we kill it: Romans 8:13**
For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live...

How do we practically put on this piece of armor?

- Purpose to live a godly life.
- Purpose to reject excuses for fleshly indulgence.

- Purpose to be transparent with those who keep you accountable.
- Purpose to establish godly patterns and disciplines.
- Purpose to kill sin, rather than attempt to manage it.
- Purpose to develop godly appetites, through communion with God.
- Rely on the Holy Spirit to produce these godly virtues in you as you seek to take up your responsibilities.

Conclusion: God wants you to live a victorious Christian life, by God His grace. May we faithfully put into practice the things we are commanded to put on in this passage!