

The Armour of God

Ephesians 6:10-24

A rhetorical question...

What do we need the armour for anyway?

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

⁸ *We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—*

Ephesians 6:10-13

¹⁰ *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

How can we possibly be expected to stand against all that the world throws against us and still be able to emerge victorious?

The answer is not in ourselves, but in a divine and unbeatable defence; The Armour of God.

What is the armour of God?

Ephesians 6:10-24

New King James Version (NKJV)

The Whole Armour of God

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¹⁴ *Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

The Armour of God

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Are there any other references to this armour elsewhere in the bible?

Isaiah 59:17

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.

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² 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 armour of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil its lusts.

Paul tells the Romans to put on both the 'Armour of Light' and the 'Lord Jesus Christ'. It reveals that wearing the Armour of God goes hand in hand with having the character of God and cannot be worn whilst wearing the works of darkness (verse 12) which is sin and separates us from God.

2 Corinthians 6:7

⁷ by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Paul calls it the armour of righteousness in these passages and reveals its purpose. We clothe ourselves in the armour of God to wage war against our enemy, the devil. Without this armour we are helpless but with them we are soldiers of the living God as written in Romans 8-

Romans 8:37

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

The Armour of God

Ephesians 6:10-24

The Belt of truth

Why did Paul start with a belt!? Surely a good place to start would have been the huge shield of Faith or the sword of the Spirit, but a belt? So what was the reason?

What was the belt used for in the Roman army?

The belt, known as the *Cingulum* or *Balteus* was crucial for a soldier effectiveness in a battle. The belt held the scabbard without which there was no place for a sword. A soldier in the heat of battle without his sword would be quite ineffective I think you will agree!

Matthew Henry Commentary says the belt “girds on (secures) all the other pieces of our armour”. Truth should circle us as a belt circles our body.

What is truth?

Jesus prayed:

John 17:17

¹⁷ *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

Jesus, praying to the Father gives a clear definition of truth: God’s Word. The bible was given by inspiration of God (2 timothy 3:16)

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

The Greek translation literally means ‘God breathed’. He actively and fully inspired the bible to reveal His truth to us. His promises, His commands, His Word – they are all truth. After all Isaiah says:

Isaiah 14:27

²⁷ *For the LORD of hosts has purposed, And who will annul it?
His hand is stretched out, And who will turn it back?”*

If God says something, there is no force that can stop Him from doing it. We can rest assured that it will be done. There is no higher authority in the universe. God himself can swear only on Himself.

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What does truth have to do with a belt?

1 Thessalonians 5:21

²¹ *Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

As Christians we are to test all things and only hold on to what is good – the truth – discarding all else. Search the scriptures daily like the Bereans did-

Acts 17:10-11

Ministering at Berea

¹⁰ *Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, **and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so***

If we are not persuaded that all we read is 100% true how will we be expected to accomplish anything?

Proverbs 3:3-4

³ *Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, ⁴ And so find favour and high esteem In the sight of God and man.*

As a belt encompasses the waist, does our conviction to the truth encompass us? Proverbs 3 says truth must be bound around us and written on our hearts. From here our conviction to the truth moves outward into all we do.

What other lessons can we learn from the bible about having our waist girded like a belt?

Luke 12:35-37

³⁵ *“Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; ³⁶ and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.*

Christ told us to be ready and watching for His return.

1 Peter 1:13

¹³ *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

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Peter says in 1 Peter 1:13 “Gird up the loins of your mind” (alluded to by Dave Smith a few weeks ago) which implies tucking in your clothes in readiness, of preparing your minds for action.

What are the dangers of not wearing a belt?

Well for one your trousers will fall down!

The world teaches that truth is whatever you make it out to be, good and bad are relative and there are no absolutes, only equally valid opinions. The bible teaches that the truth is God’s Word, that good and bad are defined by Him and that there are eternal and unchangeable absolutes totally unaffected by opinion.

If your belt of truth has a break in it then the whole thing will fall off. Seek diligently the Word and do not be in doubt.

Romans 12:2

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Paul warns the romans not to be conformed to this world which in part means not giving into the latest fads and fashions of truth just because someone said so.

Application –

Find someone who knows the Word and ask those awkward questions. Even if they do not know the answers immediately they will seek them out and get back to you.