

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Text: Ephesians 6:10-15

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1. We Are Constantly Bombarded with Lies in this World...

- a. There are a Billion Lies — but Only One Truth
- b. A Billion Forms of Self-Righteousness—but Only One Righteousness of God
- c. A Billion Different Man-Made Gospels—but Only One Gospel with the Power to Save

Put on the whole armor of God to stand against the schemes of the devil

I. THE ARMOR OF TRUTH

A. WHAT

1. **This is The Armor of Truth... which secures us like a belt**
 - a) Fastening this tight around the waist was (lit. "girding the loins")
2. **Oxford American Dictionary: To Gird means to Secure and Strengthen...**
 - a) prepare and strengthen oneself for what is to come.
 - b) To prepare oneself for (dangerous or difficult future actions).
3. **Peter tells us "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind... (1 Peter 1:13)**
We Secure and Strengthen Our Mind with the Truth

B. WHY

1. **Because Our Enemy is a Liar (John 8:44)**
2. **The Bible Tells Us that the Whole World is under his control (1 John 5:19)**
the sway (NKJ) control (ESV) power (NIV) of Evil one
3. **But How is this Possible? By the Power of Deception (Revelation 12:9)**
4. **Satan Deceives the World with Lies (2 Corinthians 4:3–4)**

BUT HOW?

- a) He tells you what you want to hear...
- b) He told Eve what she wanted to hear,
- c) He Told Judas what Judas wanted to hear
- d) and tells you what you want to hear... Just Like A Scammer or Hacker Does...
- e) Were So Desperate to Hear What We Want to Hear We'll Even Pay & For It!
 - (1) HEADLINE: CA Man Sues Psychic for Fraud... He was having trouble in his marriage and went to see a Psychic. She read his Tarot cards and found out he had a curse put on him by a previous girlfriend. The Good News: She could remove the curse for only \$5,100!
 - (2) But the Psychic didn't help his marriage at all—Now He is Suing her, for Fraud!

5. **This is How Satan Works... (2 Thes. 2:7-10) He Tells You What You Want to hear so that you will love the lie more than the truth**

C. HOW

1. **You Have a Choice: To Love the Truth or Love the Lie (John 3:19–21)**
 - a) Many Times When One is Convicted by the Truth—they Trivialize it

- b) Pilate Knew Jesus Was Innocent, he knew Jesus was handed over because of envy
- c) They had changed the charges against Jesus, so Pilate could charge Jesus with insurrection, rather than a religious charge that had now power over Pilate

2. But When He asked if Jesus was a King (John 18:36–38)

- a) When convicted of the Truth, Pilate Trivialized it—and asked, What is truth?

3. Jesus said this is why he came into the world—to witness to the truth;

- a) he came to tell people the truth about God,
- b) the truth about themselves, the truth about life, the truth about eternity.

4. It is Up to Us to Receive and Accept the Truth...

To Live in the Truth and the Truth to Live in Us...

- a) When David was in Sin he was living a lie...
- b) It was only when he Repented of Sin that he was free (**Psalm 51:6–10 ESV**)

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. (51:6)

II. THE ARMOR OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. WHAT _____

- 1. Next Piece of Armor a Roman Soldier put on was his Metal Breastplate**
 - a) It was Both strong & light—an arrow shot from 20 paces left only a light scratch on it.
 - b) This piece of frontal armor was vital for protection of the chest, lungs, and heart.
- 2. Armor of Righteousness Guards Us like a Breastplate, or Bullet Proof Vest**

B. WHY: _____

- 1. Satan is the Accuser (Rev. 12:10) who accuses us day and night**
- 2. Just as we saw behind the veil into the spiritual realm (Zech. 3:1ff)**
 - a) Joshua's Robes were Filthy Because Compared to the Perfection of God...
 - b) All of Our Righteousness is like Filthy Rags (**Isaiah 64:6**)
- 3. Although Satan is a Liar, his Accusations Against Us Are True!**

- a) (Prov 20:9) Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?

Answer: NO ONE!

- b) Even if we try to say this it only means we are lying!
which is Just Another Accusation Against us that's true!
- c) All Have Sinned... (**1 John 1:8**) ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C. HOW _____

- 1. How Can We Have the Armor of Righteousness?**
 - a) Because We Have Been Given a Robe of Righteousness, The Garments of Salvation
- 2. Notice It is Given to us By God! (**Isaiah 61:10**)**
 - a) Not Having Our Own Self-Righteousness Like the Pharisees... (**Rom. 10:1-4**)
- 3. People Make This Mistake Today: 'I'm a Good Person' form of Self-Righteousness**
 - a) Paul was a Pharisee Who Learned from His Mistake—(**Philippians 3:9**)

**4. the Armor of God's Righteousness is like a bullet proof vest
against Accusations of the Enemy! (Romans 8:33–34)**

- a) They Enemy Can Accuse Us, but Cannot Condemn Us!
- b) Because There is No Condemnation for Those Who Are In Christ (Romans 8:1)
- c) As Long as We Stay Faithful in Christ, We Are Free from Condemnation

5. We Aren't Perfect — but we are forgiven!

- a) We Are Now Clothed with Christ in Baptism (Gal 3:27 NASB)
- b) Our Robes Washed and Made White by the Blood of the Lamb (**Rev. 7:14**)
- c) and as we walk in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us all sin (1 Jn 1:7)

III. THE ARMOR OF GOSPEL PEACE

A. WHAT

1. Footwear for Roman Soldiers was designed for 3 things...

- a) STABILITY: They're boot was made for the stability to hold the battle line
- b) MOBILITY: They were famous for marching great distances in a short time.
- c) READINESS: You fight with your boots on, and are always ready w/ your boots on

2. The Gospel of Peace is Critical to Our Ability...

- a) To STAND against the enemy....
- b) To WALK in the Strength of the Lord!
- c) To be READY give an answer for the Hope & Peace that lies within us

B. WHY

1. Satan is a Destroyer—

who wants to kill, steal & destroy your peace w/ Guilt & Condemnation

2. But the Gospel is God's Power to Save! *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation"* (Rom 1:16)

3. So Satan Wants to Separate You from the Power of the Gospel by offering counterfeit gospels.... —So You Can Think You're Saved Even When You're Not

> THREE TYPES OF SALVATION....

1—SALVATION AS SELF-FULFILLMENT

(Jack Cottrell, God the Redeemer)

(1) Hinduism (2) Buddhism (3) Gnosticism (4) New Age belief systems

—Each of these belief systems seek salvation through Self-Actualization "Enlightenment"

—Salvation here is not to be saved from separation from God because of sin...

—But to be saved from ignorance of your true self — your true identity:

that you are Divine and All is a part of the Divine...

—That there is no being called God—but that everything is God including you

—Therefore God doest not save—you must save yourself...

THE PROBLEM is Divinity comes with a price, one you might not have expected:

Since You've Convinced Yourself Your a god... “any ill that befalls you, any anguish, any disaster, any tragedy—is no ones fault but your own. Your responsible for your entire reality (b/c you are god after all) You have to cure your own cancer, heal your own problems and prevent your own death, you have to maintain the universe. (*Greg Koukl, The Story of Reality*)

2—SALVATION AS THE HEALING OF SOCIETY

(1) Marxism (3) Secular Humanism (2) Christian Liberalism / ‘Liberation Theology’

- Each of these belief systems define salvation as the healing of society, not saving a soul
- This Salvation has little or no need for God—we must save ourselves for heaven on earth
- This Secular salvation sees man’s problems not in himself—but in social structures.
- A Liberation Theology that wants to Liberate man from injust social structures, economic and racial oppression. These social structures must be destroyed and replaced
- If salvation is achieved it will be by man himself...**

Man will save himself and be Politically Enlightened and Liberated from Oppression.

3—SALVATION AS FORGIVENESS AND ACCEPTANCE FROM GOD

(1) Judaism and (2) Biblical Christianity

- Only Those Who Know God and His Word will understand the true nature of salvation.
- That our sins have separated us from God who is holy—
- Our God who is light, and no darkness is in Him
- But who gave us free-will, even with it’s terrible price, so we have the capacity to receive His love and love Him in return
- But who does not want any to perish but all to come to repentance
- Who send His Son to die for our sins and has a New Heaven and New Earth for His people
- But who will one day separate the good from the evil, so the forgiven can be free from the oppression of darkness and works of evil

B. HOW

- 1. This is the Work that ONLY Jesus Could Accomplish at the Cross...**
 - a) Jesus Paid Our Debt in Full by His Blood!
 - b) This is the Good News! This is the Gospel of Grace!
- 2. This is what brought us peace with God (Romans 5:1–2)**
 - a) This the Grace in Which We Stand in the strength of the Lord

CONCLUSION:

- 1. We Are Protected by the Armor of TRUTH**
- 2. We Are Protected by the Armor of RIGHTEOUSNESS**
- 3. We Are Protected by the Armor of the GOSPEL OF GRACE**

Even if everything we else we trust in this Life Fails—We Have the Hope of Heaven!

*You are of God, little children, and have overcome them,
because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:1,4)*

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world