

“THE BATTLE” – ARMOUR OF GOD

INTRO

“Satan, the Hinderer, may build a barrier about us, but he can never roof us in, so that we cannot look up. **Hudson Taylor**

“The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist” **Verbal Kent** – “The Usual Suspects”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl0H1EUQ_38 (23 sec – end)

Keep in mind these quotes.

1. CONTEXT

Paul is talking about “*living as children of the light*”, *wives & husbands, slaves and masters, fathers and children*. He is instructing us how to live Godly lives then he gives a general statement.

This is what I believe God is saying to us today...

“We are in a war, do not kid yourselves!” – go and test my word

Ephesians 6:10 – 18 says:

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.** ¹³Therefore put on the full armour 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. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (NIV)

Dr John Gill's commentary says “...The apostle passes...a general exhortation to the saints to behave with firmness and **constancy of mind**, though they had many enemies, and these mighty and powerful, and more than a match for them; **relying on the power and strength of Christ, and making use of the whole armour of God**, which he advises them to take, that they might stand and withstand in the worst of times”.

2. SIGN OF THE TIMES

Q) Why do we need armour? Because we are in a battle!
Our society wants to eradicate God and your faith in Him!

Our society is Satan's playground i.e. no belief or faith – see slide 1

The truth is that:

- We are victorious as Christians – **Philippians 4:13**
- Blessed with all spiritual blessings – **Ephesians 1:3**
- No need for fear – **1 John 4:18**
- Given a purpose – **Ephesians 1:11**

Therefore, if God is for us why is life so hard?

Christianity Today website said:

“The majority of American Christians do not believe that Satan is a real being or that the Holy Spirit is a living entity, the latest Barna Group survey found.

Nearly six out of ten Christians either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the statement that Satan “is not a living being but is a symbol of evil,” the survey found. Forty percent strongly agreed with the statement while 19 percent of American Christians somewhat agreed”

- If there is no devil why do we face any hard times as Christians?
- If there is no devil how can people be so evil and sick?

Q) Think how you would discourage a Christian if you were a demon?

Satan can't:

- Un-save us
- Instantly push us away from God
- Erase our memory instantly

I want you to realise that Satan is actively seeking to lead you away!

A) What makes us Christians? Faith, Hope & Love

- 1. Attack faith – Is God really there?**
- 2. Attack hope – Will He really save you?**
- 3. Attack love – How can He love *you*?!**

Results: fear, worry, doubt, scepticism, apathy, inertia

These are what Satan will attack over time!!!

He knows that only **we** can be our downfall if we turn from God.

This is why we need armour.

3. ARMOUR

Paul probably wrote Ephesians around AD60 while in prison in Rome.

See slide 2 - 4 – **“The Panoply of the Christian” - Explain**

- Paul based his armour on a heavily armed soldier called a Legionary.

- Paul wants us to put on the whole armour i.e. panoply. Any piece missing will result in us getting damaged.
- He wants us to use the heavy armour because we are meant to be on the battlefield.

Look at what armour represents:

- I. **Helmet** – of *SALVATION* – *That we know we are saved*
Jesus – *“life in all its fullness”*
Satan – *“come to steal, kill and destroy”* **John 10:10**

- II. **Breastplate** – of *RIGHTEOUSNESS* – He is our righteousness.
We are to live righteously by His mighty power.
Jesus – *“righteousness from God”* **1 Corinthians 1:30**
Satan – *“accuser of the brethren”* **Revelation 12:10**

- III. **Belt** - of *TRUTH* – Satan always attacks the truth of God.
Jesus – *“know the truth and set you free”* **John 8:32**
Satan - *“the father of lies”* **John 8:44**

- IV. **Sword** – of the *SPIRIT* – The Word of God.
Jesus – *“not be bread alone but by the Word”* **Matthew 4:4**
Satan – *“throw yourself down”* **Matthew 4:6**

- V. **Shield** – of *FAITH* – Faith is the root of everything
Jesus – *“trust in God, trust also in me”* **John 14:1**
Satan – *“be self controlled, the enemy prowls”* **1 Peter 5:8,9**

- VI. **Sandals** – of *PEACE* – Readiness to be peaceable in all testing times, and speak the gospel.
Jesus – *“father forgive them”* **Luke 23:34**
Satan – *“call down fire from heaven”* **Luke 9:54**

These sandals are sandals that were very light and yet very secure due to the studs. Bound round the ankle and under the foot.

CONCLUSION

We are at war!

- Battling for lost souls
- Battling for our faith

We fight Satan, sin & our flesh

Always be prepared to defend & then attack

See clip from “300”. 48.00 - 50mins

The demon says in C.S Lewis' book, *The Screwtape letters*:

"For as things are, your man has now discovered the dangerous truth that these attacks don't last forever; consequently you cannot use again what is, after all, our best weapon – the belief of ignorant humans, that there is no hope of getting rid of us except by yielding".

PRAISE GOD THAT HE WILL NOT GIVE US MORE THAN WE CAN BEAR – 1 Corinthians 10:13

PRAY:

- **We would remain faithful**
- **We would preach the gospel**
- **We would remain in God's strength**