

Connected
Gear Up!
Ephesians 6:14-18

I. Message – Gear up!

a. The belt of truth

- i. (be fully committed to truth)**
- ii. “14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...”
- iii. How do you stand strong against the wiles of the devil – v.11?
- iv. How do you stand strong in the evil day – v.13?
- v. You start by committing yourself to the truth
- vi. “Surrounding yourself with truth like a belt”
 1. Satan is a liar (John 8:44)
 2. Jesus is the way, the Truth, and the life (John 14:6)
 3. In the cosmic battle between good and evil, one side is full of deceit and one side is all about truth
 4. Being serious about the truth is really about commitment
 - a. Not just knowing THE truth
 - b. But living a life of truth
 - c. Letting truth change you
 5. John 8:31
 6. Is your life sincerely and deeply committed to truth?

b. The breastplate of righteousness

- i. (prioritize keeping your relationship with God right)**
- ii. “14...and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”
- iii. If you plan to stay standing in the fight against evil, you MUST have a right relationship with God
- iv. Your spiritual vitals must be protected by righteousness
 - a. Satan wants to mess up your thoughts
 - b. He wants to mess up your emotions
 - c. He wants to mess up your life
 - d. But mostly, he really wants to mess up your relationship with God
 - e. Protect yourself!
 - i. 1 John 1:6-9
 1. Start a right relationship with God – that is by grace

2. Keep a right relationship with God – that is by choice (confession)
3. **Romans 13:11-14**

c. Properly equipped with the shoes of the gospel

i. (Having your feet shod with the gospel of peace is about confidence in your peace with God)

ii. “15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”

1. The context is not evangelism – sharing the gospel
2. The context is standing against the devil in the evil day – confidence in the gospel

3. Ephesians 2:12-17

- a. Here is the gospel in a nutshell:
- b. Mankind is born at war with God
- c. But Christ made a way for **peace** w/God on the cross
 - i. You remember that you are peace with God
 - ii. God is literally “on your side”**
 - iii. Satan is no match!

1. 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

2. 2 Corinthians 2:14

d. The shield of faith

i. (Believe what God says)

ii. “16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench (extinguish) all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

iii. The shield of faith can extinguish ALL the fiery darts

iv. What are the fiery darts? Temptations

1. The lust of the flesh
2. The lust of the eyes
3. The pride of life

v. What is faith?

1. Believing God

2. Hebrews 11:6

- a. He exists
- b. He is worth seeking
- c. He is to be obeyed

3. This is to sum up our lifestyle

a. Galatians 3:11

b. Simple: We believe God and we do what He says

c. This is where Eve failed in the garden

d. And this is how Jesus prevailed in His temptation

e. What will you do when you are faced with temptation?

i. Will you believe God? Jesus

ii. Or will you believe the lie of Satan? Eve

1. Revelation 1:3

2. 1 John 1:4

3. Psalm 18:30

4. 1 John 5:4

5. 1 Peter 5:8-9

e. The helmet of salvation

i. (Jesus is coming back and the battle will be over)

ii. "17 And take the helmet of salvation"

iii. A soldier, especially in ancient times of hand-to-hand combat, would never enter a battle without his helmet

iv. It is literally the difference between life and death

v. So, what is the helmet of salvation?

a. You WERE saved from the penalty of sin

i. Romans 8:1

ii. Justification

b. And you ARE BEING saved from the power of sin

i. Romans 5:10-11

ii. Sanctification

c. But you ARE NOT YET saved from the presence of sin

i. Glorification

ii. 1 John 3:2

iii. 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

2. When your head is not in the game, remember this:

a. Jesus is coming back

b. And soon!

3. Jude 24

4. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

f. The Sword of the Spirit

i. (Learn to use the Word of God better)

ii. “17...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

1. It is the only infallible, inerrant, complete, authoritative, sufficient, alive, divinely inspired book ever penned
2. And it is illumined (empowered) by the Holy Spirit!
 - a. **2 Timothy 2:15**
 - b. **Romans 10:17**
3. Here is a packing list for your Christian journey. ARE YOU...
 - a. Living honestly with a deep commitment to truth?
 - b. Sin all confessed and developing a regular habit?
 - c. Thinking about the gospel and confident in who you are in Christ?
 - d. Believing & obeying everything God says, no matter what
 - e. Thinking about and taking courage from Jesus' imminent return and victory
 - f. Developing your skill in using the Word of God?

g. Cover it all with prayer

- i. **“18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”**
- ii. All of this is done by prayer