



Ephesians 6:13-17

Message Video:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=goe992127MY>

How do you gear up when you go out? Mask, wash hands, hand sanitizer? Ephesians 6:13-17 describes our spiritual hazmat suit.

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Paul uses a verbal visual aid of something familiar to the people: a Roman soldier.

The Romans spread their influence through violence so everyone recognized their armor.

- Shield of Faith
 - God is all about faith.
 - Faith is choosing to do what God calls you to do.
 - Choose Christ by faith.
 - Faith is our protection

- Helmet of Salvation

- Salvation is a decision.
- It's intellectual
- Feet Fitted with the Gospel of Peace
 - Roman boots had cleats for stability in the muddy battlefield
 - Keep your feet solidly in the foundation of God's Word
- Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God)
 - The only offensive piece of armor
 - The Bible is our spiritual weapon
 - Powerful, Comfort, Guide, History manual, Prophecy, Personal love letter, Hope, Counselor, Source of Truth
- How do you unleash the power of the Bible?
 - Many find it awkward, confusing, irrelevant to life today
 - Start in the Gospels with the Jesus story
 - Sociologically, politically -- Jesus changed the world.
- The Bible is a sword
 - Original written in marketplace Greek
 - The Greek vocabulary has more words than most languages.
 - Very specific and nuanced.
 - Two different Greek words for sword in the Bible:
 - One refers to a longsword or broadsword.
 - Not the word used here.
 - Verse 17 refers to a short sword.
 - Typical sword of a Roman legionnaire.
 - The longsword requires no skill.
 - The shortsword required technique, skill, training, and TIME
- The Bible is the shortsword.
 - Any skill you are proficient in takes time and practice.
 - If you start something later in life, it always feels awkward when you start.
 - The same is true for reading your Bible

- Keep practicing.
- PD's technique is to use a paper Bible
 - Take notes in the margins
 - Use a study Bible with commentary
 - Always read with a pen in hand
 - Personal idea or thought
 - A prayer
 - Study Bible, take notes, and keep it
 - Date prayers and look back and see it was answered.
- Start to serve.
 - PD's dad became a believer later in life.
 - He volunteered in the kids' ministry and learned the lessons one week before the kids did
- STUDY the Bible. It will set you up for success later in life
 - Basil Rathbone was an actor with a 40 year career because he was classically trained and proficient in fencing.
 - Fencing and sword fighting were in most early movies.
 - Get good with your sword and you will find success for your life.
- TRUTH
 - What is true? Seems like there are different versions.
 - How do I know what is truth?
 - Turn off your TVs and social media.
 - Pick up your Bible
 - The Bible is truth without a mixture of error. It's the only thing in life like that.
- The Belt of Truth
 - Think of the belt in terms of old school parenting.
 - The belt was a corporal discipline method.
 - It only took a few times to be effective.
 - The devil is your enemy and the main weapon he uses against us is lies.

- When he does, reply with appropriate corporal punishment: the Truth of the Word of God.
- When he says you lack what you need.
 - Philippians 4:19 says my God will supply all my needs.
 - *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.*
- When he says you make too many mistakes and you should live in shame.
 - Romans 8:1 says there is no condemnation for He who is in Christ Jesus.
 - *So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.*
- When he says you are outnumbered.
 - Romans 8:31, 37 says if God is for me, who can be against me? Overwhelming victory is mine.
 - *What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?*
 - *No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.*
- When he says there will never be unity, even in the church.
 - Galatians 3:28 says there is no slave, free, male, female...
 - *There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Why is our message so powerful? It's true.

No matter what the world says... Jesus is the answer.

Discussion Starters

*Remember to pick and choose
which questions work best for your LifeGroup.*

1. Share about a time when you chose to do what God called you to do and, in doing so, you saw God's protection?
2. How is salvation an intellectual decision?
3. What are some practical steps you can take to stay grounded in the Gospel of Peace?
4. Pastor David described the Bible in many ways: powerful, a guide, a personal love letter. What has the Bible been for you, personally?
5. What are some of your favorite books or passages in the Bible that you would recommend to someone just starting to read their Bible?
6. What is your response to Paul referring to the Word of God as a shortsword which requires skill and training instead of a longsword?
7. How do you study the Bible?
8. Pastor David shared how he studies his Bible. Which of those methods will you start putting into practice?
9. Where do you serve? Where would you like to start serving?
10. Pastor David gave us some powerful examples of truth that we can use against the devil's lies. What scriptures have you clung to in the midst of trouble?