

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

“We Are His Workmanship”

Date: 2-23-25 Lesson: 39

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THE TEXT (Ephesians 6:14-18a)

(14) Stand therefore, having fastened on
the belt of truth,

(Ex 12:11; Is 11:5; Lk 12:35; Eph 4:14,15; Heb 12:1; 1 Pet 1:13)

and having put on **the breastplate of righteousness,**

(Ps 132:9; Is 59:17; 61:10; 2 Cor 6:7; 1 Th 5:8)

(15) and, as **shoes for your feet,** having put on the readiness given by **the gospel of peace.**

(Ex 12:11; Is 52:7; Rom 10:15)

(16) In all circumstances take up **the shield of faith,**
with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

(Ps 120:4; Mt 5:37; 13:19; 1 Pet 5:9; 1 Jn 5:4)

(17) and take **the helmet of salvation,**

(Is 59:17; 1 Thess 5:8)

and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,**

(Is 49:2; Hos 6:5; 2 Cor 6:7; Heb 4:12)

(18a) praying at all times **in the Spirit,** with **all prayer and supplication.**
(Mt 26:41; Lk 18:1; Rom 8:15,16, 26,27; Php 1:4; 4:6; Col 4:2-4; Jude 20)

STUDY HELPS – Various quotes from the Book of Concord

Preface to the Large Catechism: [12] And what need is there for more words? If I were to list all the profit and fruit **God’s Word** produces, where would I get enough paper and time? The devil is called the master of a thousand arts. But what shall we call **God’s Word**, which drives away and brings to nothing this master of a thousand arts with all his arts and power? **The Word** must indeed be the master of more than a hundred thousand arts.

Armour of God

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Ephesians 6:13 KJV).

Belt of Truth
(Ephesians 6:14)

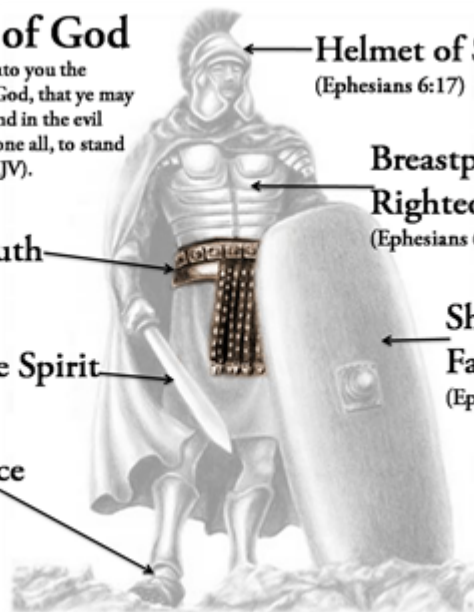
Sword of the Spirit
(Ephesians 6:17)

Feet of Peace
(Ephesians 6:15)

Helmet of Salvation
(Ephesians 6:17)

Breastplate of Righteousness
(Ephesians 6:14)

Shield of Faith
(Ephesians 6:16)



[14] If these reasons were not enough to move us to read the catechism daily, we should feel bound well enough **by God's command alone**. He solemnly commands in Deuteronomy 6: 6– 8 that we should always meditate on His precepts, sitting, walking, standing, lying down, and rising. We should have them before our eyes and in our hands as a constant mark and sign.

Clearly He did not solemnly require and command this without a purpose. For He knows our danger and need, as well as the constant and furious assaults and temptations of devils. **He wants to warn, equip, and preserve us against them, as with a good armor against their fiery darts [Ephesians 6: 10– 17] and with good medicine against their evil infection and temptation.**

The Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer: [109] **Therefore, we Christians must be armed [Ephesians 6: 10– 18]** and daily expect to be constantly attacked. No one may go on in security and carelessly, as though the devil were far from us. At all times we must expect and block his blows. Though I am now chaste, patient, kind, and in firm faith, the devil will this very hour send such an arrow into my heart that I can scarcely stand. For he is an enemy that never stops or becomes tired. So when one temptation stops, there always arise others and fresh ones.

The Sacrament of the Altar: [80] Besides this, you will also have the devil about you. You will not entirely tread him under foot [Luke 10: 19], because **our Lord Christ Himself** could not entirely avoid him. [81] Now, what is the devil? Nothing other than what the Scriptures call him, a liar and a murderer [John 8: 44]. He is a liar, to lead the heart astray from God's Word and to blind it, so that you cannot feel your distress or come to Christ. He is a murderer, who cannot bear to see you live one single hour. [82] **If you could see how many knives, darts, and arrows are every moment aimed at you [Ephesians 6: 16],** you would be glad to come to the Sacrament as often as possible.

In other words, we know <assuredly> that out of pure grace, without any merit of our own, we have been elected in Christ to eternal life. No one can pluck us out of His hand [John 10: 29]. He has not only promised this gracious election with mere words, but has also certified it with an oath and sealed it with the holy Sacraments. **We can <ought to> call these to mind in our most severe temptations and take comfort in them, and with them we can quench the fiery darts of the devil [Ephesians 6: 16].**

LIFE APPLICATION

Note that all the parts of the armor of God are defensive protection, except for one that is an offensive weapon:
The Word of God.

Explain the importance of every piece of armor in our daily battle against the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh.