

# Armor of God – Helmet and Sword

*Ephesians 6:13-17*

*April 24-25, 2010*

- Sermon's theme = All members of the Church, the Body of Christ, are to wear the armor of God to be able to stand against those that would oppose them and Him.

## Introduction

---

- Open Bible to Ephesians 6
- Spiritual Warfare
  - ✓ The Command – Be Strong and Put On
  - ✓ The Conflict – Not against Physical but Spiritual
  - ✓ The Armor – 6 Elements
- Thurman Thomas, Super Bowl 26 in 1992

## Exegesis

---

- **The Armor of God**
  - Ephesians 6:13-16
    - 13 *Therefore put on the full armor 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.*
    - 14 *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,*
    - 15 *and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.*
    - 16 *In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*
  - **Belt of truth = Prepared in truth**
  - **Breastplate of Righteousness = Protection in Righteousness**
  - **Feet Fitted = Readiness from Peace**
  - **Shield of Faith = Defense of Faith**
- **Helmet of Salvation**
  - Ephesians 6:17

17 *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

- “Take...” = New command (Imperative) and first new command since verse 14
  - The difference is not in the purpose (these final 2 elements are also meant to stand firm – the command of verse 14) but in the procedure – this command is set in correspondence to the “put on” of verse 13
  - The first four elements a Roman soldier would put on himself, these last two would be handed to him (having already taken the shield up)
  - “...*helmet...*” = Literally, preposition “around” + noun “head”; used only here and in 1 Thessalonians 5:8, “*But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.*”
  - Picture = Roman armor
  - “...*of salvation...*” = Similar to other usage in 1 Thessalonians 5:8 (soteria) except a different word
  - Word used here (soterios) is only used in 3 other passages = Luke 2:30; 3:6; Acts 28:28
  - Word is not just salvation but the means by which people experience salvation – the manner of salvation or way of salvation
  - Believers are not protected just by their salvation but by the way their salvation is experienced – difference between saved but defeated and saved and growing
- Salvation – Regeneration
- John 3:3-7; 5:24
  - Dead to Alive
- Salvation – Adoption
- Ephesians 1:5
  - Children to Sons
- Salvation – Justification
- Romans 5:1, 9, 18
  - Criminal to Righteous

- Salvation – Redemption
  - Ephesians 1:7
  - Bondage to Freedom
- Salvation – Reconciliation
  - Romans 5:10-11
  - Enemy to Friend
- Salvation – Sanctification
  - Ephesians 2:10-13
  - Far to Near

❖ **We are called to take up or receive the daily experience of our salvation as a defense against the attacks of Satan**

- **Sword of the Spirit**

- Ephesians 6:17

17 *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

- “...*sword*...” = A relatively short sword (machairan), more like a dagger, used for stabbing and cutting – not the long broad sword
- Picture = Roman armor
- A sword was both an offensive and defensive weapon – providing protection from an enemy’s blows but also able to deliver blows to the enemy
- “...*of the Spirit*...” = Not of the quality of the Spirit (like breastplate of righteousness or shield of faith) but from the source of the Spirit
- Our weapon against Satan is not merely a “spiritual” sword but a sword from the (Holy) Spirit
- Beware of animism in Christianity (say a certain prayer, read a certain passage, do a certain thing, etc.)
- “...*which is the word of God.*” = Paul identifies what the sword given by the Spirit is – God’s word
- Cp. Hebrews 4:12, “*For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to*

*dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

- “...word...” = Not the normal word (logos) for the written Word (Bible) but the word (rhema) which emphasizes the spoken or proclaimed word
- Cp. Revelation 1:16, “*In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.”*”
- Cp. Revelation 2:16, “*Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*”
- Cp. Revelation 19:15, “*Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.*”
- Cp. Isaiah 11:4, “*but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.*”
- Both aspects of “Word of God” are true and helpful for a believer – the written and the proclaimed Word

➤ Word of God = The Bible – Defense

- Example of Jesus
- Cp. Matthew 4:3-4, “*The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'”*”
- Cp. Matthew 4:6-7, “*‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”*”
- Cp. Matthew 4:9-10, “*‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”*”

➤ Word of God = Proclamation – Offense

- Testimony and Ministry of Paul
- Cp. Romans 1:16, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”*
- Cp. Romans 10:8-15
- Cp. 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6, *“because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.”*
- Cp. 1 Thessalonians 2:13, *“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.”*

❖ **We are called to allow the Spirit to use the Word of God against our enemy the Devil**

## Response

---

- **As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are to walk in the daily experience of our salvation and to allow the Spirit to use the Word of God as our weapon.**
  - Observers = Accept salvation
  - Disciples = Walk in salvation and allow the Spirit to use the Word through you