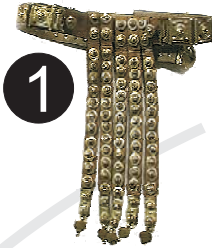


Breastplate of Righteousness (v.14)

1 Belt of Truth (v.14)



Truth is our most precious treasure to be coveted. Yet our most dangerous source of lies is ourselves. God desires truth in our inward parts (Ps.51:6). We are to renew our minds (Ro.12:1-2) and challenge the lies from the world (cosmos system), our flesh, and Satan.

Truth is the gateway to success and fulfillment. Determining truth is a cornerstone of our life, for we put into practice tomorrow what we believe today. Much of the body armor and weapons attach to the Roman girding.



The Roman breastplate was typically made of bronze, and backed by leather. It was designed to protect your vital area, namely, the heart. This may be our most dangerous vulnerability. It is our most important stewardship. Pr.4:23 "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are [all] the issues of life." To walk in righteousness means that we actively tell the truth, and do what is right (Ps.7:3-5). True righteousness is something we are, not something we do. Righteousness within us affects what we do, but what we do does not make us righteousness. Self-righteousness of religion will defile you. It leads to a false sense of security, and a deadly form of pride (Ek.33:13; Lk.18:10-14; Ph.3:9). Our righteousness is in Jesus Christ (2Co.5:21).

3

Feet Shod with readiness of the Gospel of Peace (v.15)



To have footing fit for combat you must maintain good balance and hold your position. The footwear of the Roman legionnaires were nail-studded sandals (caligae). The Greek term "shod" means to bind under one's self. It suggests power and authority.

Wearing these shoes implies going into battle (Ro.16:20). The idiom of feet bringing good news is often used in Scripture (Is.52:7; Na.1:15; Ro.10:15). Peace is powerful not passive, and our peace is being in Christ (Ep.2:14; Jn.14:27; 16:33, etc). The world cannot provide true peace (Je.6:14; 1Th.5:3), but is limited to material safety, prosperity, and physical health. To stay on the right track, with the right footing, we are to allow the Word of God to guide us (Ps.119:105). The Call here is to prepare. We are to be prepared to give an answer to every man that asks us a reason for the hope in us (1Pe.3:15). This certainly includes memorizing Scripture (Ps.119:11). Do not be a barefoot Christian by not being prepared with the Word of God.

7



Praying Always with all Prayer (v.18)

This is our heavy artillery, and thus our most powerful spiritual weapon. All believers can exercise this resource, and have a priority connection directly into the Throne Room of the Universe.

We need to be specific and go for the leverage. Pick your targets carefully. Coordinated fire is always more effective (Mt.18:19-20 "Where two or three agree"). To have a clear connection, without excessive static, we cannot have unconfessed sin, an unforgiving spirit, or selfishness.

The ancient armies favored a long sword with a single edge. But the Romans developed a short (about 24 inch) two-edged sword called the Machira. This unique design made it a liability unless it was used with the proper techniques which required extensive practice. The sword is a well-known idiom for the Word of God (He.4:12).

The sword is two-edged and is used both offensively and defensively (1Pe.3:15). Satan's stratagem is to cast doubt on the Word of God. If we doubt the truthfulness and authenticity of the Word of God, we become vulnerable and weak. God created us, and knows how to get a message to us. He authenticates His message by demonstrating that the origin is outside our time domain. He does this by writing history before it happens.

6



Sword of the Spirit (v.17)



5

Helmet of Salvation (v.17)

There is a big difference between wearing a helmet and simply owning one. God's eternal salvation is always secure since it is based on the completed work of Christ. But there can be "daily salvation" in the life of the believer. We must be willing to go to battle. God does not force us to go (De.20:1-8). Gideon gave the people that were "fearful" (concerned with affairs back home—preoccupied), and "afraid" (concerned with physical harm to self) the opportunity to leave the battle field before the Midianites (Jd.7:1-7). So the Christian today may choose not to be in the battle of the Lord.

Shield of Faith (v.16)



4

The Roman shield stood about 4 feet high and about 2 1/2 feet wide. Typically it was curved laminate with three layers of wood strips and covered with leather. The outside edges were bound with rawhide stitched through the wood (sometimes bronze binding was used). It was critical for survival to fix any holes before the next battle. Are there any "holes" in your shield of faith? Faith is a response to proven truth. Skepticism actually is an essential first step toward faith. In fact, gullibility is an enemy to faith (He.11:6). To have faith in God, that is truth, you must know Him. We are born again (from above) by believing on Christ alone. Thus, to grow in faith we must learn more of Him. Our faith gives us victory over the world (1Jn.5:4).

7 Weapons of God's Armor

(Ephesians 6:10-19)