

The Whole Armor of GOD (Part 2)
Ephesians 6:16-20

For our Consideration:

The Armor of GOD –contd. (Verses 16-18)

- **Shield of Faith**
 - Don't think about historic cinema or television. With the compact shields that have the arm slit or rings inside -which knights, etc. held valiantly in battle.
 - Rather, think about the days of biblical antiquity and more ancient settings of human civilization. Major empires (including Greco-Roman) were infamous for manufacturing 'full-size' shields. They covered the length and width of the average soldier.
 - While the shield consequently was heavier, it was only used for portions of the battle or war.
 - Shields were heavy.
 - So must it be with our faith. Faith has the capacity to coat our "whole self".
 - But unlike the ancient times of war, in our (spiritual) warfare, this shield is needed indefinitely. It cannot be removed. We must work to keep our faith. *Faith enables us to endure what is designed to destroy us.*
 - "Hebrews 11:6"
- **Helmet of Salvation**
 - In the 59th chapter of Isaiah, we are made privy to the origins of this particular piece of our armor.
 - The prophet notes that the Redeemer of Israel will Himself adorn this helmet.
 - *Why is salvation associated with the helmet?*
 - Because one of the most prized territories of the enemy is the *human mind*.

- If the mind is conquered or possessed by dark forces, then the whole body is made corrupted. Thoughts are perverted and actions will be wicked.
 - To the contrary, if our mind is covered by the salvific work of Christ, we are protected and with time, the blood of Christ seeps into our inner most being and we begin to increase in having “the mind of Christ”
 - However, helmets don’t just protect ‘heads’, but ears and in some instances, the eyes to a degree.
 - Our thoughts, what we see as well as what we hear or listen to should be dictated by the fact that we embrace our salvation wholeheartedly.
 - Many agree that GOD exists. Few are able to fully trust GOD and in trusting, come to belief and in belief, obedience.
 - Now more than ever, is our salvation worth revisiting and serious rededication to.
- **Sword of the Spirit**
 - Without hesitation, the apostle declares that our immediate weapon in this ensemble is the **Word of GOD**.
 - In this season, it is delving into the Word of GOD and fervently seeking how to speak it and apply it, is necessary.
 - It is the Word of GOD, steeped in the truth of GOD’s existence and ability, that helps us to cut away at distractions and to cut down the sounds, images and practices that offend GOD and threaten our connection to GOD.
 - Recitation isn’t enough. We must practice using the Word and in using it, and keep it close by, always on hand to “fight off and to free up”.

Remembering those lead the Fight (Verses 19-20)

- With every means of prayer, petition and sincere request possible, Paul shares believers hereby ‘stay alert’ upon committing to lives of prayer.
- In closing, the apostle humbly requests prayer for both himself and for all those who spiritually labor in the leadership of the Church.

- His asking includes that the believers at Ephesus would pray for “holy boldness” amongst Christian leaders and that there would be courage to always speak “truth to power”, so that the Gospel might be shared fearlessly.