

INTRODUCTION

- * We come to the conclusion of our study of Paul's letter to the church of Ephesus. Paul reminds them that as they seek to "Walk Worthy" of the calling with which they were called, they will be faced with a spiritual war. As Paul told the church in Corinth, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)
- * Today, we will discuss the four commands which we are given in relation to Walking Worthy in this spiritual war and the accoutrement which God has provided us to wear during the course of the warfare!

INSTRUCTION

I. BE STRENGTHENED! (v. 10)

A. The Word (cf. Acts 9:22; Romans 4:20; Philippians 4:13; 1 Timothy 1:12; 2 Timothy 2:1; 4:17; Hebrews 11:34)

B. The Source of Strengthening (cf. 2 Chron 20:1-23)

II. PUT ON! (v. 11-13)

A. What? (v. 11)

B. Why (v. 11-13)

1. THE PURPOSE (v. 11,13; cf. Eph 4:14)
2. THE REASON (v. 12):
 - a. Negatively (cf. Romans 6:12-16)
 - b. Positively
 - * cf. 1 Cor 15:24; Eph 1:21; 3:10; Col 1:16; 2:10,15; Titus 3:1
 - * cf. Romans 8:38; Jude 1:6 ... cf. Rev 1:8; 3:14; 21:6; 22:13; John 1:1

III. STAND! (v. 14-16): The _____

A. Your Belt - Having Girded Your Waist with Truth (v.14a)

1. TRUTH - AS _____
2. TRUTH - AS _____

B. Your Breastplate - Having Put On the Breastplate of Righteousness (v. 14b)

1. RIGHTEOUSNESS - AS _____
2. RIGHTEOUSNESS - AS _____

C. Your Footwear - Having Shod Your Feet (v. 15)

1. THE P_____ (cf. 1 Pet 3:15 ; 2 Tim 2:21; Titus 3:1)
2. THE P_____ (cf. Rom 10:14-15; Isa 52:7; Luke 2:14; Eph 2:17; Romans 5:1; Acts 10:36)

D. Your Shield - Taking the Shield of Faith (v. 16)

IV. TAKE! (v. 17-20): The _____

A. The Equipment (v. 17)

1. THE HELMET OF SALVATION
2. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

B. The Empowerment (v. 18-20)

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER
2. THE TIME OF PRAYER (cf. 1 Thess. 5:13)
3. THE COMPOSITION OF PRAYER
4. THE NATURE OF PRAYER (cf. John 4:23-24; Romans 8:16-17, 24-27)
5. THE VIGILANCE OF PRAYER (cf. 1 Peter 5:8; Acts 1:14; 2:42,46; 6:4; Romans 12:12; Col 4:2)
6. THE FOCUS OF PRAYER

INTROSPECTION

- * HOW ARE YOU DOING IN THE SPIRITUAL WAR?
- * ARE YOU ENGAGED IN THE **-REAL-** BATTLE? OR ARE YOU DISTRACTED BY FLESH AND BLOOD?
- * ARE YOU FINDING STRENGTH IN CHRIST, OR LOOKING FOR IT ELSEWHERE?
- * ARE YOU ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN EXPANDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD?
- * HOW IS YOUR PRAYER LIFE? HOW WOULD GOD DESCRIBE IT?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How does our commitment to put on the WHOLE armor of God affect our evangelistic efforts?
- * How can we effectively assist one another in putting on the whole armor?