College of the Scriptures

Greater Christ Temple APOSTOLIC CHURCH

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806 Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

"Winning And Reigning"

True Spiritual Warfare pt. 02 *Apostle Mark A. Haywood* pastor / teacher



Ephesians 6:13-18

- **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- **14** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.
- The items of this spiritual armor are, in fact, mental armaments, which, when applied by the saint, are effective for protecting the renewed mind from the wiles (methods, schemes, techniques) of the devil.

- <u>Vs. 14</u> **"Stand** (endure the attack of the enemy) **therefore**, having gird your waist with truth". As a belt holds your pants up and holds your outfit together, so a firm grip on truth will hold your mind together when the enemy tries to drive you insane.
- "Having put on the breastplate of righteousness"... The breastplate was a multi-layered form-fitting body shield which was used to protect the chest, specifically the heart, from the swords and spears of the enemy. Righteousness is the state of being in right relationship with God. Right thoughts, right words, right actions, which come from right motives (a pure heart/spirit/inner man). Righteousness then protects the mind from being pierced by the swords (words and evil suggestions) of the enemy.
- <u>Vs. 15</u> "Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace".

- The shoes of a warrior are important in order that one might have sure footing during combat, they also protect ones feet from the treacherous terrain of the battlefield itself.
 - To shod your feet (cover or arm your feet) with the preparation of the gospel of peace, then, is to prepare yourself to walk in (live the lifestyle of) the SHALOM (peace) of Christ because of what He has done for you (the gospel). We are instructed to pursue peace with all men (Hebrews 12:14) and by doing so we will be led by the Spirit to manifest AGAPE.
- <u>Vs. 16</u> "Above all, taking the shield of faith". The shield is not technically faith itself, but the object of our faith, God. When we trust in God (have faith), God Himself becomes a shield to protect us (<u>Ps. 18:30</u>).
- Faith in God is an impenetrable defense against every kind of satanic attack!

- Vs. 17 "Take the helmet of salvation". A helmet is made to protect the head, and in like manner, the spiritual helmet protects the mind and also the authority. Salvation (deliverance) itself is the helmet, thusly, when the Christian takes hold of his/her salvation and insists on the completeness of said salvation (deliverance) despite what the enemy may present, he/she both protects the mind from being pierced or infiltrated by the thoughts of the enemy, and protects and preserves the authority (headship) which has been restored by the sacrifice and gift of Christ. By standing on the truth of one's salvation in Jesus Christ, one becomes a Defender of the Kingdom.
- "Take... the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God". A sword, of course, is an offensive weapon, the only one listed amongst the articles of this armor of God. Every other item is used in defense against the enemy's attacks, but the Word of God is our sword with which we take

the offense and destroy the works of the devil.

- We are called to be aggressive against the Kingdom of Darkness and take the offense against the devil (see <u>Matthew 16:18</u> and <u>Genesis 22:17</u>).
- Vs. 18 "Praying always". If the saints do not pray, the saints may expect nothing to change, for we are consistently instructed to pray always, that men aught to always pray, pray without ceasing, etc.
 We know that the effectual (confident and convinced, thusly highly effective) fervent (heat-felt, passionate, and true) prayer of a righteous person avails much (accomplishes results thought impossible).

Psalm 119:165 (AMP)

165 Great peace have they who love Your law; nothing shall offend them or make them stumble.



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Sunday School | 9:00 AM Morning Worship | 10:30 AM



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