

Pastor's Pen

Ready for Battle!

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."

Ephesians 6: 11

The Roman Empire was one of the greatest and most influential civilizations in the world and lasted for over 1000 years. One of the significant reasons that it lasted that long and conquered almost all of Europe was because of her legions. Rome established a professional army made up of well-equipped and trained men. While other warriors, especially in Gaul, Germania, and Britannia, wore little armor and were not trained as a cohesive fighting unit.

The legions would line up for battle in cohorts. The legion would have 10 Cohorts. Each Cohort would have 420 men except the first Cohort, which would consist of 800 men and would be at the center of the front line. These legionnaires would line up shoulder to shoulder, shield to shield, and depend on the soldier on their right to protect them. Their superior armor, helmets, shields, and weapons gave them a significant advantage.

As children of God, we, too, have an advantage over the enemy of God. In the letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for all believers to put on the full armor of God. Our struggle is not with flesh and blood (Eph.6:12) but with the enemy of God, Satan. He has given us six items we need to stand firm.

First, we are told to "Gird Our Waist With Truth." Satan is the Father of lies, and we must speak the truth. We must know God's truth. Earlier in chapter 4:14, Paul tells us why we need to know the truth, "so that we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming,"

Second, we are to put on the "Breastplate of Righteousness." The legionnaire's breastplate was to protect the heart, lungs, intestines, and other vital organs. In Paul's day, the heart represented the mind and the will, and the intestines were considered the seat of emotions and feelings. Our minds and emotions are the two areas where Satan attacks believers. The protection against those attacks of Satan is the "Breastplate of Righteousness." This is not self-righteousness or imputed righteousness (the perfect righteousness God applies to the account of every Christian the moment he believes in Christ). This refers to practical righteousness. We are called to live a life in obedience to God's Word. To put on the breastplate of righteousness is to live in daily, obedience to God.

Third, "Shod Your Feet With the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace." The legionnaire's sandals would have metal studs to hold their ground and move forward on the battlefield without slipping. The idea of the "Preparation of the Gospel of Peace" as footwear suggests what we need to advance into Satan's territory, aware that there will be traps when we share the truth of the Gospel.

Fourth, take up the "Shield of Faith." The faith Paul is referring to is our belief in God. If we have faith in Christ, this will influence how we live. Our faith can guard us during trials like a shield would during battle.

Fifth, "Put on the Helmet of Salvation." A legionnaire would wear a helmet to protect his head from a blow that would knock him unconscious or fatally wound him. The way we think needs to be protected. The head is the seat of the mind, which, when it has laid hold of the sure gospel hope of eternal life, will not receive false doctrine or give way to Satan's temptations.

Quote of the Week

"A man's free will cannot cure him even of the toothache, or a sore finger; and yet he madly thinks it is in its power to cure his soul."

— Augustus Toplady

The unsaved person has no hope of warding off the blows of false doctrine because he is without the helmet of salvation, and his mind is incapable of discerning between spiritual truth and spiritual deception.

Sixth is the "Sword of the Spirit." The five previous parts of the armor of God are all defensive. God now gives us an offensive weapon. This is the most powerful weapon a Christian has. It speaks of the holiness and power of the Word of God. In Jesus' temptations in the desert, the Word of God was always His overpowering response to Satan. Christian, you have access to the Word of God like no other previous generation. Make sure you use it as you stand firm in the whole armor of God. Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

True love to God says
- William Nicholson

"Father, if You are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from Me. Yet I want Your will to be done, not Mine!" Luke 22:42

True love to God . . .

produces sweet *submission* to His will,
does not rebel at His difficult *dispensations*,
does not resist the appointments of His wise and holy *providence*,
will not permit us to call into question any part of His *government*,
will not indulge a doubt respecting the rectitude of His *proceedings*.

True love to God says, "This trial, this affliction, this bereavement, this piercing cross — has been arranged by my Father in Heaven! He is infinitely wise, and infinitely good — He does all things well — I submit."



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old Testament
New Testament
Young Parents
Young Adults
Sunday Morning @ 9AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
Every other Saturday:
Women of Grace | 9am

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
every other week @ Chambers & Cox's
& @ Patrick's
Every Friday @ 7pm @ Royall's

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and forgot to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study
AWANA @6:30PM

Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM
Children's Church @10:30AM

Giving from service on 3/20/2022

General Offering	7,522.50
Building Fund	699.00
Uganda	200.00
Benevolence	100.00
Total	\$8,521.50

Attendance	232
Sunday School	145
Online	26

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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Welcome