

Spiritual Warfare

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 11

The Armor of God

In our last lesson, we learned a little bit about Rome. The city of Rome was a very important place during the time that Jesus was on earth. It was one of the largest cities. There were many Christians in Rome who were persecuted by the Roman government, and especially by a ruler named Nero. The Romans worshiped gods that were not real. Rome had many huge buildings and sculptures. It was a beautiful place. The Jews were very familiar with the practices of the Roman culture. The Romans had taken over many other countries. People were used to seeing Roman soldiers come through their towns checking on things. The Roman soldiers wore a specific kind of armor.

The men in the United States military have certain kinds of clothing that they are supposed to wear. They do not have armor like the Romans had, but they have uniforms and carry certain weapons. The Roman soldiers wore a lot more armor than our military does today. They wore heavy metal coverings that were thick.

In the book of Ephesians, Paul wrote to the church that they should “put on the whole armour of God.” When he wrote this, he was in a prison in Rome. During Paul’s journeys, he was in prison many times. He was probably used to seeing the Roman guards. He knew what their armor looked like. Paul used the Roman soldiers’ armor to give the Christians a picture of what we should do to fight against the devil.

Intention for the Armor

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

—Ephesians 6:13

The Roman armor was very heavy and tough. It was able to keep the soldiers protected as others fought against them, and it helped the soldiers be better fighters when they attacked. The book of Ephesians describes this as “stand and withstand.” Stand means “to remain upright.” Withstand means “success during oppression.” Oppression is a big word. It means “fight against.” So, the armor that the Romans wore helped them when their enemy was fighting against them. The Bible tells us that the armor of God should help us do the same thing. We are going to learn what that armor is.

Protection of the Armor

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

—Ephesians 6:14

Soldiers today wear a material that is bulletproof. It is much stronger than the heavy metal plates that the Romans wore. A soldier would be crazy to go into battle without wearing his armor.

Christians are the same way. We need to make sure that we wear the armor of God every day so that we can fight the devil.

The Bible says that the armor of God is truth and righteousness. Truth is like a soldier's plan of attack. It helps a person decide how he is going to fight. The book of Psalms calls the law of God "truth."

Righteousness gives Christians the strength to fight. The Bible says, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1).

Application for the Armor

The armor of God doesn't only protect us when the devil fights us. It also helps us fight! We can fight by telling people about Jesus. When people get saved, Satan gets mad. The battle between good and evil in this world is all about people getting saved. Satan doesn't want anyone to get saved. Jesus wants everyone to get saved. We need to fight for Jesus and tell as many people about Him as we can.

Inspiration for the Armor

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

—Ephesians 6:17

Some people can't join the army or the marines. If a person can't see well, the army won't let him join because he won't be able to fight well. God only has one thing a person has to do to be in His army: get saved! Everyone can be in the Lord's army. We just have to accept what Jesus has done for us.

The Roman soldiers had a sword and a spear as their weapons. The Bible tells us that the Christian's sword is the "sword of the Spirit." That sword is the Bible. Do you remember when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness? The only thing he used to fight Satan was the Bible. That's why it is important for us to read the Bible and memorize it. We need to have it ready in our minds so that when the devil tries to tempt us we can have the Bible to strengthen us and fight him.

Conclusion

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

—Ephesians 6:18

The Romans' armor was so heavy that they needed to have someone else put it on for them. We need prayer to help us use the rest of our armor.

Do you remember the song about the Lord's army? It says, "I may never march in the infantry, ride in the cavalry, shoot the artillery. I may never fly o'er the enemy, but I'm in the Lord's army." We may never be in the U.S. Army, but we can be in the army of the Lord. We can help Him fight the devil and win people to Jesus with the armor of God.