**CHRISTIANITY IS BEING ATTACKED** (Part 2)

By Danny McGaughey

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God gave us our marching orders. “18And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20) In the last part of Matthew 28:20 Jesus tells us that He is with us always, to the end of the age. He surely is. We find Him with us because of the in-dwelling Holy Spirit and His Word.

Not only did He give Christians marching orders, He gave them weapons for spiritual battle. ”11Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **12**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **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 firm. **14**Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15**and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. **16**In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; **17**and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, **18**praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:11-18)

Paul wrote the epistle of Ephesians while under house arrest in Rome awaiting trial. He was chained to a Roman soldier constantly. Paul observed the weapons of war the Roman soldier had and applied them to weapons for Christians to defend ourselves from Satan’s attacks, and not only for defense, but also as offensive weapons. First, Christians are to stand firm. How can one battle with a slippery foothold? Not very well. The Christians’ firm foundation is based on their knowledge of God’s Word. Second is the belt of truth. The word of God taken into the heart gives strength. Just as the belt was an essential part of the soldier’s protection, so is the belt of truth, which is an essential part of the Christian’s defensive weapons. Third is the breastplate, used to protect the chest and vital organs. Righteousness is the breastplate God has provided for Christians to protect themselves from the fiery darts that the enemy hurls at them. The fourth is shoes. Why would shoes be so important? Because if the Christian soldier is to stand, he must have a firm foothold, and to help protect all areas of the body. Just as the soldier fought mostly hand-to-hand, so our battle against Satan is with the weapons God has provided. All the weapons mentioned thus far have been defensive. Fifth is the shield of faith, a critical weapon for defense. The Roman soldier’s shield was four feet long and two feet wide. When a platoon of Roman soldiers was together and held their shields up, it was almost impossible to penetrate them. As a Christian, your faith is a critical part of your defense. In fact, it is the Christian’s main defense. As the Christian’s faith increases, their resolve against Satan increases because they spend more time in study and Bible reading regularly. “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17) Paul now tells his readers to “take up the helmet of salvation.” For the Roman soldier, his helmet was very critical for his protection. It protected his head from blows from the enemy. The Christian’s helmet is their knowledge of God’s word. It is that knowledge that increases their faith, increases their trust in God, and the reassurance that God and He alone provides salvation. Now Paul refers to an offensive weapon. It is the “sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” God gave us His word to be used as both offense and defense of our belief in Him. “16All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17**that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (II Timothy 3:17) It has the power not only of truth, but of divine truth. Paul does not tell us to pick and choose which weapon we want to use.

He tells us to put on the **whole** armor of God. It takes all of them for protection from Satan, and it is the power for our defense and offense. “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.” (John 15:18) We have been warned. However, we must fulfill Mathew 28:20 and prepare for battle by doing exactly as Paul tells us. “10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **11**Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **12**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:10-12)

Why do Christians battle to the end? I suggest two reasons why: “I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one.” (Ezekiel 22:30) “**12**Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. **13**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Revelation 22:12-13) Christians arise and stand in the gap. Be bold and be strong because the Lord your God is with you. Have a blessed week.

What We Sow: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rE_PNUNmw9c&list=RDrE_PNUNmw9c&start_radio=1>