

Equipped

Ephesians
6:13-15



One of the most dramatic scenes in Scripture is Jesus before Pilate in **John 18**

- In **verse 37** Jesus responds to Pilate, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”
- Then Pilate responded to Jesus sharply in **verse 38**, “What is truth?”

One of the most dramatic scenes in Scripture is Jesus before Pilate in **John 18**

- **John 14:6 NIV**, Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- I am the one and only way to acceptance by the Father
- I am the one and only place of complete and perfect truth
- I am the one and only light for living

One of the most dramatic scenes in Scripture is Jesus before Pilate in **John 18**

- **John 8:36 NIV**, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”
- **Romans 6:6 NIV**, “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”
- There is still a struggle with sin, but we have been equipped by God to stand against it

Deception

- The deception that started in the Garden of Eden has extended throughout the history of mankind and will continue until Jesus returns
- Paul instructed us last week that we are in a spiritual battle of deceptions

Deception

- **Ephesians 6:12 NIV**, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Deception

- **John 14:18 NIV**, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”
 - I will not leave you unprepared, unprotected and without hope, without truth
 - It is all found in what Christ has done in us at salvation and what that new relationship brings into our experiences of life

Paul instructs us to think truthfully about who we are now in Christ Jesus since we are in a right relationship with Him

- To grab this truth and make it ours and allow it to change our hearts and minds
- It's not just forgiveness of our sin debt
- It is truth and this truth will allow you to overcome every fiery arrow of falsehood your enemy will throw at you

Paul instructs us to think truthfully about who we are now in Christ Jesus since we are in a right relationship with Him

- Paul is in prison watched closely by trained and equipped Roman guards
- He sees their strength in their armor and their ability to use all their armor and weapons with precision
- Paul begins to grasp the idea of our armor provided to us by Christ which is much more powerful than the Roman guard's

Scripture

- **Ephesians 6:13-15 NIV** 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Please notice Paul used the line “*when the day of evil comes*” instead of “*if the day of evil comes*”

- He understands these days will come into our life
- They will come more frequently as we age and as we get closer to Jesus’ return
- Because it will come, we must get ourselves ready
 - Think of a hurricane or tornado or flash flood

Please notice Paul used the line “*when the day of evil comes*” instead of “*if the day of evil comes*”

- A soldier needs to know some things
 - The chain of command
 - Assigned weapons and jobs to perform
 - How to respond
 - So, do we as Christians as well or we will not respond any differently than those without Christ

Please notice Paul used the line “*when the day of evil comes*” instead of “*if the day of evil comes*”

- Paul is using his extensive knowledge of the Old Testament and the armor of the Roman guards of the day
- **Isaiah 11:5**, “The Messiah will come with a belt of righteousness and faithfulness”
- **Isaiah 59:17**, “Refers to the Messiah donning righteousness as a breastplate and putting a helmet of salvation on His head”

Please notice Paul used the line *“when the day of evil comes”* instead of *“if the day of evil comes”*

- Paul is using his extensive knowledge of the Old Testament and the armor of the Roman guards of the day
- **Isaiah 52:7**, “Refers to the beauty of the feet of those who bring good news of happiness, salvation and the Kingdom of God”

Paul gives us two commands before describing our armor provided by Christ- *“put on”* and *“Stand firm”*

- Vs. 13 “put on” and Vs. 14 “Stand firm”
- I wish it was like Iron Man putting on his suit
- Just a touch of a button or a word spoken then all of the different pieces come flying to him until he is ready



Paul gives us two commands before describing our armor provided by Christ- *“put on”* and *“Stand firm”*

- As smart as Tony Stark was, he was hopelessly weak without his armor, and he needed to put it on
- Tony’s suit could not protect him where he was the most vulnerable - his heart, mind, desires, emotions
- This is the protection provided us by God in Christ Jesus

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- So, what does “putting on” mean?
 - You must know and understand what needs put on
 - You must know how to put on
 - You must know why you put it on

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- Imagine being a recruit and having everything they will need as a soldier thrown at them the first day then expected to use it correctly
- There are weeks of training on how to think like a soldier
- There are weeks of training on what weapons to use and how to use them

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- The purpose so they will be protected, efficient, and obedient when under pressure
- You as God’s child must know how and why to put on your spiritual armor for the same reason

Paul gives us two commands before describing our armor provided by Christ- *“put on”* and *“Stand firm”*

- When someone receives Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they are a fresh recruit
 - They still think like someone without Jesus
 - This is why Jesus instructs us to “make disciples” in **Matthew 28:19-20**

Paul gives us two commands before describing our armor provided by Christ- *“put on”* and *“Stand firm”*

- When someone receives Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they are a fresh recruit
 - They must be instructed in who Jesus is
 - Who they now are in Christ Jesus
 - Learn to apply and use what Christ has provided
 - Their instruction manual is God’s Word

Paul gives us two commands before describing our armor provided by Christ- *“put on”* and *“Stand firm”*

- You must choose to put make these instructions yours
- Once training we must choose to accept what Christ has provided as ours and begin living this life through them
- It is a daily choice, sometime hourly, sometimes minutely

Paul gives us two commands before describing our armor provided by Christ- *“put on”* and *“Stand firm”*

- You must choose to see through truth and respond as Christ, your commander, would have you to – Why?
 - So, you can stand secure (*confident*) when attacked
- We have to learn the weapons (*truth*) placed in our hearts and minds

Paul gives us two commands before describing our armor provided by Christ- *“put on”* and *“Stand firm”*

- We have to learn our commander is trustworthy
- We must learn to trust His grace in all areas of our lives
- Then we will be able to stand confident when life gets rough
- **Jeremiah 17:7 NIV** But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.

Paul mentions the first three parts of our spiritual armor, the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness and the boots of peace

- Belt of Truth
 - This was a heavy 6” wide leather belt like a weightlifter today
 - It secured the soldier’s tunic so material wouldn’t hamper his movement
 - It helped hold in place the breastplate and sheath for his weapons

Paul mentions the first three parts of our spiritual armor, the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness and the boots of peace

- Belt of Truth
 - It kept the soldier free, protected, and agile enough to attack or defend
 - In Paul's image, the belt represents truth – the truth of God, revealed in His written Word (**John17:17**)

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- Belt of Truth
 - It also includes truth about God's character or integrity we are to imitate – practical living that conforms to the instruction of God's Word (**2nd John 1:4**)
 - We need the truth of character and doctrine to keep us from falling apart

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- Belt of Truth

- **1st Peter 1:13 KJV**, Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

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- Belt of Truth

- **1st Peter 1:13 AMP**, So prepare your minds for action, be completely sober [in spirit—steadfast, self-disciplined, spiritually and morally alert], fix your hope completely on the grace [of God] that is coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

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- Belt of Truth
 - To take all your cares, hurts, failures, anything that trips or hinders you...bind them under the Belt of Truth and leave them there

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- Belt of Truth
 - This is why Paul urges us to keep the belt pulled tight; keep the truth of God's Word close to us, at the center of our lives
 - As members of God's army, we're to stay true to what the Bible says is right, doing so will keep us safe from countless dangers

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- The breastplate of righteousness
 - The breastplate was a large piece of leather, bronze or chain mail that covered both the front and back from the neck to his thighs
 - It protected the soldier's vital organs, the core of his physical life, without which he would die in minutes

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- The breastplate of righteousness
 - For Paul this was the perfect image of the righteousness that comes from God alone, righteousness we could never earn by our own merit or maintain in our own strength
 - **Romans 3:22 NIV** This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

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- The breastplate of righteousness
 - Our enemy loves to direct his arrows at our heart, mind, and emotions
 - He longs to plant a seed of doubt of God's infinite grace
 - Missiles of doubt, guilt, shame, and condemnation tempting us to doubt God's complete love for us

Paul mentions the first three parts of our spiritual armor, the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness and the boots of peace

- The breastplate of righteousness
 - But when we stand firm in the knowledge that God has declared us righteous based solely on the blood of Christ and empowers us to live holy lives by the Holy Spirit alone, the devil and his wicked workers must retreat for a time

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- The boots of peace
 - The Roman soldiers wore heavy sandals with soles $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick with studded hollow-headed hobnails
 - They were tied by leather thongs half-way up the shin and stuffed with wool or fur
 - They were ideal for fast-moving hand-to-hand combat

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- The boots of peace
 - Think of them like football or baseball cleats, meant for maximum footing and traction to prevent sliding
 - Our footing or foundation against the evil days is our peace with God
 - Christ has secured this peace for us (**Ephesians 2**)

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- The boots of peace
 - Peace not only with God but with each other and ourselves as well
 - **Romans 8:1 NIV** there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

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- The boots of peace
 - Pressure will come to convince us that God will reject and judge us when we falter
 - If we know our peace with God is secure because God said it is secure, we can stand stable and firm in this troubled world

It's not enough to just possess these gifts, they must be buckled, they must be in place, and they must be fitted

- Hosea Bilyeu tells of a relative that lived in a tar paper shack
 - The new house was his, but he never accepted and lived in it preferring where he was at

It's not enough to just possess these gifts, they must be buckled, they must be in place, and they must be fitted

- We have looked at three great blessings from God – truth, righteousness, and peace
- Every born-again child of God has been blessed with these given to us from a loving Heavenly Father
- But unless we buckle the belt of truth around us, and place the breastplate over our hearts, minds, and emotions, and stand secure in His peace it will profit us little other than good thoughts on Sunday mornings

It's not enough to just possess these gifts, they must be buckled, they must be in place, and they must be fitted

- We must accept them as ours in Christ Jesus, this is who I am
- We must trust our Heavenly Father to make them true in our lives
- We must stand secure in our convictions and not wonder all over the fields of doubt or what ifs
- Then and only then will we stand secure and at peace regardless what is thrown at us

Three principles concerning spiritual warfare

- No attack is stronger than God's provisions
 - **1st John 4:4 NIV**, You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Three principles concerning spiritual warfare

- No scheme can penetrate God's armor given us if we have it in place and trusting it
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV**, 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Three principles concerning spiritual warfare

- No attack can prevail over God's church
 - **Matthew 16:17-18 NIV**, 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Elisha and the King of Aram

- **2nd Kings 6:16-17 NIV**, 16 “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” 17 And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”
- **Psalms 34:7 NIV**, The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

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