

# Each Piece Put On With Prayer

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Eph. 6:10-18

B. This following story is told by Leroy Eims about when he was serving in the Marines in the South Pacific during World War II: "Shortly after we hit the beach, our armored amphibious tank took two artillery shells broadside. We immediately evacuated our disabled vehicle and darted from hole to hole toward the enemy airstrip, which we were to take. The sergeant began to check on us to make sure that we were OK. He crawled over to me and asked, 'You all right, Eims?'

"I answered, 'Yeah, I'm OK, Sarge.'

"He looked at me and asked, 'Eims, where is your helmet?'

"I felt the top of my head and answered, 'Must be in the tank, Sarge.'

"'Where's your duty belt?' Our duty belts carried ammunition for our rifles, canteen of water, and a bayonet.

"'Must be in the tank, Sarge.'

"'As a matter of fact, Eims, where's your rifle?' He looked at me with disgust and pity. Because of our hasty departure from the amphibious tank, I was dressed about the same way that I would be dressed for a game of volleyball. And there I was, hopping from hole to hole, from tree to tree!"

C. Many Christians have forgotten that the Christian life is not a playground, but a battlefield. As a result, very few of the Lord's people are armed, equipped and ready to wage spiritual battle.

## I. OUR ARMOR IS DESIGNED TO DEFEND

A. The belt of truth

1. This girdle encircled the waist and served to stabilize and reinforce the belly muscles and protect the vulnerable mid-section
2. It also provided the soldier with the means to restrain his garments so that his movement in battle would be unhindered.
3. Truth holds our lives together by giving direction and purpose - Titus 1:1
4. Truth frees us from sin, which can tangle our lives
  - a. John 8:32; Heb. 12:1

B. The breastplate of righteousness

1. This refers to the leather body armor that was worn to protect the chest and heart, the seat of emotions and feelings.
2. Doing that which is good and right will guard our hearts (emotions)
3. Ungodly living brings guilt, pain, fear, and judgment
  - a. Phil. 3:9; 2Cor. 5:21; 1Peter 1:16

C. The boots of the Gospel

1. Roman soldiers wore sandals that had nails driven through the bottoms to provide the soldier with the surest of footing on the battlefield. He did not have to worry about his feet slipping in battle - 1Peter 3:15
2. The gospel is God's power for salvation - Rom. 1:16-17

3. Armed with the gospel, we have feet that enable us to press forward with the message to others - Rom. 10:15

#### D. The shield of faith

1. This is not a little round shield, but it refers to the large, rectangular shield behind which a soldier could be safe from the enemy. Often, Roman soldiers would soak these leather shields in water before battle. This enabled the shields to be more effective in quenching the flaming darts of the enemy - Heb. 11:1-2, 6
2. Strong conviction in God can protect us from every fiery dart Satan can throw at us (false doctrine, lusts of the flesh, opposition).
3. This faith comes only from the Word of God - Rom. 10:17

#### E. The helmet of salvation

1. The helmet was given to the Roman soldier to protect his brain. Regardless of how well the rest of him was protected, a blow to the head rendered the entire soldier ineffective.
2. 1Thes. 5:8 - Paul speaks of the hope of salvation as our helmet. The hope that salvation gives protects our minds from despair and fear

## II. OUR ARMS ARE DESIGNED TO DEFEAT

### A. The sword of the Spirit

1. This refers to the short, straight, to edged sword carried by every Roman soldier. It was very effective in hand to hand combat and was essential to the survival of the soldier.
2. The Word of God is the offensive weapon that Christians must use in battle - Heb. 4:12; Acts 2:36-37, 7:54
3. The primary Greek word for the Word is "logos." This refers to the totality of the Word of God. However, the word used here is "rhema." While "logos" refers to the entire armory of the Bible, "rhema" refers to a specific word, the right sword for that battle. This is seen in Jesus' response to the Adversary - Matt. 4:1-11; 2Tim. 2:15

### B. Supplication in the Spirit

1. Another great offensive weapon is the ability to call on God in the thick of the battle. Prayer brings us to the throne of God where we get help
2. Prayer is a means whereby we remain watchful - Matt. 26:41
3. Prayer enables us to persevere in the prolonged war
  - a. Luke 18:1-8; 1Thes. 5:17; Col. 4:2
4. Prayer enables us to help soldiers on other battlefields - Eph. 6:19-20

### Conclusion:

A. As enemy forces advanced on a battlefield in the Korean war, Baker Company was cut off from the rest of their unit. For several hours no word was heard, even though headquarters repeatedly tried to communicate with the missing troops. Finally, a faint signal was received. Straining to hear, the corpsman asked, "Baker Company, do you read me?"

"This is Baker Company," came the reply.

"What is your situation?" asked the corpsman.

"The enemy is to the east of us, the enemy is to the north of us, the enemy is to the west of us, the enemy is to the south of us." Then after a brief pause, the sergeant from Baker Company said with determination, "The enemy is not going to get away from us now!" Although surrounded and outnumbered, he was thinking of victory, not defeat.

B. If we put on the whole armor of God, we will stand against the Adversary and win the victory - 1Cor. 15:57-58