

Defense Against Defeat Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 6:14-17.

B. Life is a struggle.

C. The reason for struggle is that there are powers and principalities that are at work against us.

D. The wiles of the devil.

1. The flesh is at work within us.

2. The devil attacks our mind and emotions.

a. The devil wants to create imbalance.

b. His goal is to create discouragement, confusion or indifference.

c. The devil aims for ruin.

II. It is possible to overcome when we are strong in the Lord by putting on the whole armor of God.

A. The armor is a symbolic description of the Lord Himself.

B. Christ is our defense.

III. How to lay hold of Christ.

A. Two classifications of the armor.

1. Something we have already done in the past if we are Christians at all.

2. Those things to be taken up presently in the moment.

B. The order of the armor is important. For instance, one cannot exercise the sword of the Spirit without girding himself with truth..

IV. First division.

A. Girding your loins with truth.

1. This is always the place to start.

2. Truth is the solution for indifference.

3. In coming to Christ, you have found the truth to all things and life.

4. Jesus is the truth and the key to life.
5. Christian faith is not blind faith—Christ demonstrated that He was the truth by what He said, by what He did, particularly through His resurrection, and by what He is in the present.
6. All conflicting philosophies must be tested at some point—just because something does something good does not mean it is true.
7. Truth never needs modernizing or updating.

B. The breastplate of righteousness.

1. This is the security of Christ protecting the heart.
2. The breastplate helps the Christian to believe he is worthy of God.
3. We do not stand on our own merits though—we came to God on Christ’s merits through His imputed righteousness. (Romans 8:1)
4. We are accepted by grace.

C. Feet shod with the gospel of peace.

1. Peace in the heart makes you able to fight.
2. This peace is Christ—our well-being.
3. Through justification, our hearts have peace with Christ and we have good morale.
4. We all fail, but Christ understands that we fail and knows how to bring us through.
5. We are to be strong with His strength and for His sake.

Application questions:

1. How does Christ relate to the three elements of the first division of God’s armor? Explain.

2. The Christian already possesses the “loins,” “breastplate,” and “feet shod”—what is the importance of knowing that for him in the present?

3. Which element of the armor brings you the most encouragement today? Explain.
