

HOW TO STAND IN THE EVIL DAY
EPH. 6:13-18

Introduction:

- A. The Christian is at war.
 - 1. v12.
 - 2. Paul said, "endure hardness."

- B. Each day we do face the enemy for a great battle.
 - 1. v13.
 - 2. We must be ready for this encounter.
 - 3. Each day is, "the evil day."

I. WE ARE TO PREPARE FOR THE EVIL DAY. V13

- A. "wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God."
 - 1. wherefore = Therefore, because of these things.
 - 2. take unto you = analambano - to take up -- analabete aor. act. imp. analambano to take up. The word was used as a military technical term describing the last preparation and final step necessary before the actual battle begins (Barth). The aor. imp. demands an immediate action.
 - 3. whole armour = panoplion - panoply.
 - 4. of God = Not Saul's armour, but God's!

- B. "that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day."
 - 1. ye may be able = dunethete = that ye may be enabled.
 - 2. withstand = anthistemi - to stand against.
 - 3. evil day = hemera - day; ponera - evil.

- C. "and having done all to stand."
 - 1. katergasamenoi - aor. mid. part. katergazomai to accomplish, to carry out. Although the word may mean "to carry to victory," it here means not only "having made all necessary preparations," but indicates having done everything which the crisis demands, in order to quell the foe and maintain the position.

II. THE ARMOUR OF THE CHRISTIAN WHO WILL STAND VICTORIOUS.

WHAT IS THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD? V14-17

A. "v14, stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness."

1. With the flowing garments of the East, the first thing to be done in preparing for any active work, was to gird the loins. The apostle therefore says, *steteoun perizosamenoiten osphun humon en aletheia* "stand therefore having your loins girt about with truth." By truth, here is not to be understood divine truth as objectively revealed, i.e. the word of God; for that is mentioned in the following verse as the sword. Nor does it mean sincerity of mind, for that is a natural virtue, and does not belong to the armour of God; which according to the context consists of supernatural gifts and graces. But it means truth subjectively considered; that is, the knowledge and belief of the truth. This is the first and indispensable qualification for a Christian soldier. To enter on this spiritual conflict ignorant or doubting, would be to enter battle blind and lame. As the girdle gives strength and freedom of action, and therefore confidence, so does the truth when spiritually apprehended and believed.

2. breastplate of righteousness = *endusameno* - aor. mid. part. thorax breastplate. The word denotes a piece of armor that can mean everything that was worn at different periods to protect the body between the shoulders and the loins. The average Roman soldier wore a piece of metal, but those who could afford it used the very best available: a scale or chain mail that covered chest and hips.

a. Phil. 3:8-9. God's righteousness.

B. "and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." v15

1. shod = *hupodeo* - to bind under, as sandals.

2. preparation = *etoimasia* - readiness, The preparedness arising from the gospel of peace.

3. Prepared to walk because of the gospel.
 - a. Feet most vulnerable part of soldier.

- C. "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of Satan."
 1. besides all these.
 2. shield = analabontes - aor. act. part. analambano to take up, s.v13. thureos shield. It refers to the large door-shaped shield in contrast to the small round convex shield. The reference is to the Roman soldiers "scutum" which had an iron frame and sometimes a metal boss in the center at the front. Often the several layers of leather were soaked in water before the battle in order to put out the incendiary missiles of the enemy (Barth).
 3. shield = dunesesthe fut. mid. ind. belos dart, arrow. The term could be used of any type of missile (Barth). pepuromena perf. pass. part. puroo to set on fire. The perf. pass. part. indicates that the arrows were set on fire and are burning. These were arrows or spears tipped with tow and dipped in pitch.
 4. Faith is indispensable to service.

- D. "and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."
 1. helmet = perikephalaia - a protection around the head, helmet. The Roman soldier wore a bronze helmet equipped w. cheek pieces. The helmet was a heavy decorative and expensive item which had an inside lining of felt or sponge which made the weight bearable. Nothing short of an axe or hammer could pierce a heavy helmet.
 2. salvation = soterion - gen. of apposition.
 3. take - deksasthe - aor. mid. imp. dechomai - to take, to receive.
 4. sword = machaira - It signifies the short, straight sword used by the Roman soldier.

5. It is the Spirit's sword, not ours.
 6. We have little success when we attempt to use the Bible on people.
- E. "praying always with all prayers and supplication in the Spirit." v18.
1. praying - proseuchomai - pros -towards + euchomai - to speak, utter aloud, to pray.
 2. prayer = pros + euche - a speaking out.
 3. supplication = deesis - request, petition, petition for particular benefits arising from a particular need.
- F. "and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."
1. watching = agrpneo - to stay awake, to be sleepless, to pass a sleepless night, to suffer insomnia, to be vigilant, to watch.
 2. perseverance = proskarteresis - holding out or waiting, waiting until one's trial came to court, diligently remaining at one's work.
 3. supplication = deesis (see #3 above).

III. THE MODERN DILEMMA.

- A. We have lost the identity of the enemy.
1. Poverty, guilt, ignorance, disease.
 2. We choose a compromise.
- B. We don't see ourselves at war.
1. There is a basic misunderstanding.
 2. Reduce the tension.
- C. We don't see ourselves as naked.
1. Rev. 3:14-22 (v17) "thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."