

THE



*“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)*

---

May 2023

No. 449

---

## THE FULL ARMOR

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Eph. 6:10-13)*

Notice what is stated twice in this passage, to put on the whole

---

THE HARVESTER  
141 County Road 474  
Woodland, AL 36280  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



armor of God. Many of us are good with parts of the armor but can you truly say that you have all that you need to fight evil? Someone might have one part of it without having another, important part. The “armor” mentioned in Ephesians is symbolic of things that can help us make sure that we are doing all that we can to resist evil. The next verse in this passage starts to outline what comprises our symbolic armor.

*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (Eph. 6:14)*

We know the truth as the opposite of a lie. While this is accurate, another definition for truth is a “verified or indisputable fact, proposition, principle, or the like:” Truth is an important part of being a follower of God.

*He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:4)*

*For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. (John 3:20-21)*

So how do we know the truth? We continue to study and follow the Word.

*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*

*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:31-32)*

The other part of the verse about the armor dealt with righteousness. Being righteous is the ability to be “characterized by uprightness or morality:” If you have truth and you follow the truth you should therefore have righteousness.

*For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. (1 Pet. 3:12)*

*Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. (1 John 3:7)*

If you do not have righteousness, you are not following God's will.

*In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. (1 John 3:10)*

The next part of our armor deals with the gospel of peace.

*And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (Eph. 6:15)*

We should always be looking for peace and a way to achieve that through the gospel.

*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: (Heb. 12:14)*

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! (Isa 52:7; see also Rom. 10:15)*

Peace is mentioned many times in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. It is an important part of following God. The other interesting thing is that there are other instances of the other parts of the armor being mentioned together. Showing how important it truly is to have the whole armor of God and not just a portion of it. It shows that it is really impossible to have one and not the other.

*And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. (Jas. 3:18)*

*Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth. (Jer. 33:6)*

As Christians we also have to know that even though we are striving for peace with all, there may be times that we are attacked. That's why the next part of our armor is important.

*Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (Eph. 6:16)*

We must have faith. Faith that we are doing the right thing and that we are following God to the best of our ability. People will attack our beliefs; they will attack our faith. The beautiful thing is that the same faith that they are attacking can shield us from their attacks, and it can help make us whole from those attacks.

Faith is also important because it helps us remember why we continue to live in the way that we do. The book of Romans talks about God's promise to Abraham being realized because of faith.

*[Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. (Rom. 4:20-25)*

Again, faith and righteousness are together. Showing that you need other parts of the armor to continue the fight for God.

The final verse that mentions the armor in the passage from Ephesians has two more pieces to consider.

*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (Eph. 6:17)*

Salvation delivers us from sin. It comes from following God's word and doing all that we are told to through the scriptures in order to obtain the salvation. This is not an argument of faith versus works, that is for another article. This is an argument that to take the helmet of salvation means to have salvation protecting us. Having faith that our salvation will help us as we strive to be with God one day.

*Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: (1 Pet. 1:9-10)*

The final part of the armor talks about the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. This is not the only time that the word of God is compared to a sword.

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Heb. 4:12)*

Not only does the word show who we truly are, but this part of the armor also really ties everything together. God's Word helps us to fight against sin, it helps us grow our faith, helps us know the way to salvation, helps us know how to be righteous, and how important peace is. One part of the armor cannot truly live without the other. That's why it is so important to always have on the whole armor, and to not go out into the world hoping that someone will not attack the part of us that is not "covered" properly.

*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Eph. 6:13)*

A. D.

## THE VIRTUOUS WOMAN

Proverbs 31:10-31

- (10) *Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.*
- (11) *The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.*
- (12) *She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*
- (13) *She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.*
- (14) *She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.*
- (15) *She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.*
- (16) *She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.*
- (17) *She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.*
- (18) *She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.*
- (19) *She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.*
- (20) *She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.*
- (21) *She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.*

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

The Harvester

141 County Road 474 \* Woodland, AL 36280

Phone: (256) 449-9221\* Email: [theharvesteronline@gmail.com](mailto:theharvesteronline@gmail.com)

Web Page: [www.churches-of-christ.org](http://www.churches-of-christ.org)

- (22) *She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.*
- (23) *Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.*
- (24) *She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.*
- (25) *Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.*
- (26) *She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.*
- (27) *She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.*
- (28) *Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.*
- (29) *Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.*
- (30) *Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.*
- (31) *Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.*
- 

## GODLY MOTHERS IN THE BIBLE

Jochebed, mother of Moses (Exo. 2:1-10; 6:20; Num. 26:59)

Naomi, mother-in-law of Ruth (Ruth 1-4)

Hannah, mother of Samuel (1 Sam. 1:1-2:21)

Lois and Eunice, grandmother and mother of Timothy  
(2 Tim. 1:3-5)

Mary, mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-51; John 2:1-12)

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

---

<b>DATES</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
May 5 - 7	Rainsville Rainsville, AL	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
May 14 - 19	Napoleon Woodland, AL	Bill Prince, Jr. (Oxford, AL)

---

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. When was the festival of Passover established?
2. Why were the Israelites afraid to enter the Promised Land?
3. What was the name of Ahasuerus' new queen?
4. What was the affliction of Bartimaeus?
5. What did Saul see on the road approaching Damascus?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. How did Moses assure victory against the Amalekites?  
HE KEPT HIS HANDS HELD UP (Exo. 17:11-12)
2. What were the restrictions on marriage for the daughters of Zelophehad? THEY MUST MARRY WITHIN THEIR TRIBE (Num. 36:6)
3. In Nebuchadnezzar's dream what happened to destroy the statue made from different metals? A STONE HIT THE FEET AND BROKE THEM INTO PIECES (Dan. 2:34)
4. In which city did King Herod live at the time of Jesus' birth? JERUSALEM (Mat. 2:3)
5. What was the name of the man who requested Jesus' body for burial? JOSEPH (OF ARIMATHAEA) (Mat. 27:57-58)