



- v. 13 – The goal of our battle is to _____ for Christ.
- v. 11, 13 – God’s armor equips us to stand against the devil’s schemes.

1.) Put on truth as a guard against _____ (v. 14a).

-- The belt of truth is the truth of God revealed in Jesus Christ (John 14:6, 17:17).

-- Putting on the truth of Christ guards against Satan’s deceptions.

- Truth guards us against the spiritual poison of moral relativism, which insists that there is no such thing as absolute moral truth.

- When pressed about it, very few people actually believe in moral relativism. It is almost always a smokescreen.

-- Putting on truth guards us against self-deception.

-- Three Cautions against Self-Deception.

1.) Don’t deceive yourself about your past.

- We must be honest about why we are the way we are.

- The belt of truth requires us to take personal _____.

2.) Don’t deceive yourself about your present.

- We must be honest about our true motives.

- The belt of truth requires a _____ relationship with God.

3.) Don’t deceive yourself about your future.

- Most people live like they are never going to die.

- The belt of truth requires us to live for _____.

- Unless we cling to the absolute truth of Christ, and unless we are completely honest with ourselves, we will surely falter in the fight.

2.) Put on righteousness as a guard against _____ (v. 14b).

-- This breastplate is certainly not about self-righteousness (Isa. 64:6).

-- The breastplate of righteousness is the _____ righteousness of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21, Philippians 3:9).

-- Christ's righteousness is our sure defense against condemnation.

-- Satan will unmercifully grind every grain of guilt he can.

-- We stand confidently on Christ, not on our own goodness (Rom. 8:1).

3.) Put on zeal as a guard against _____ (v. 15).

-- Our feet are to be set ablaze by a zeal for the _____.

-- Isaiah 52:7, 1 Peter 3:15, Matthew 28:19-20

-- This "readiness" is a passion for the Gospel that necessarily flows from people who truly understand it.

-- Four Schemes of Satan to Make Us Complacent:

1.) He tells us that there are many ways to heaven.

2.) He tells us that there is always tomorrow.

3.) He tells us that someone else will get it done.

4.) He tells us life is easier when we don't get involved.

-- In our spiritual battle, there is no place for complacency (Revelation 3:15-16, Romans 12:11)

4.) Put on faith as a guard against destructive _____ (v. 16).

-- Some of Satan's flaming arrows are anger, detachment, doubt, envy, greed, lust, pride, self-pity, unforgiveness, etc.

-- Unless we hold forth the shield of faith, we are in constant danger of being wounded by Satan's flaming arrows of destructive thinking.

-- Putting on the shield of faith means believing what God says and acting according to it no matter how you _____.

-- Don't let what's wrong with you keep you from focusing on what's right with God (Jeremiah 17:9).

-- Mark Batterson – "The circumstances you complain about will become the chains that imprison you."

-- Putting on the shield of faith means forgetting what I think is wrong and doing what God's says is right (Psalm 37:4).

5.) Put on hope as a guard against _____ (v. 17a).

-- Satan is the master of discouragement and despair.

-- Because in Christ we receive the helmet of salvation, we have an unblemished, imperishable, eternally glorious, forever hope.

-- The only way Satan can discourage us is to make us forget about our _____ (1 Peter 1:3-4, Hebrews 12:1-2).

Summary

-- **The battle is upon us, and God is calling us to take a stand.**

-- If we are going to live this life for the glory of our Lord, then we must put on the armor He gives and take our stand in the name of Christ.

-- Membership matters because to be a member of the body of Christ means suiting up and standing for Christ.

-- ***Are you committed to the battle?***