



-- v. 13 – The goal of life’s battles is to stand strong in CHRIST

- This passage implores us equip ourselves with God’s spiritual resources and stand strong against evil and temptation.
- As Paul looks at Roman soldiers in their armor, he is thinking about a much more important kind of armor.

1.) Put on God’s TRUTH to guard against lies (v. 14a).

- Wearing the belt of truth means cultivating a biblical worldview.
- When we let God teach us how to understand the world, we are able to stand strong against Satan’s lies.
- Satan will attack with every lie he can imagine. If we are going to stand strong in the Lord, then we must put on the belt of truth.

2.) Put on the RIGHTEOUSNESS of Jesus to guard against trying to get to heaven by ourselves (v. 14b).

- The breastplate of righteousness is the perfect life of Jesus that God gives us as a gift when we give our lives to Him.
- God’s gift of Christ’s perfect righteousness is our only sure defense against trying to save ourselves.
- We stand strong in what Jesus has done, not what we have.

3.) Put on EXCITEMENT as a guard against lazy faith (v. 15).

- God wants our feet to be put into motion by excitement about the Gospel (Isaiah 52:7).
- Are you excited to live this life so that others might love Jesus and go to heaven?

4.) Put on FAITH as a guard against destructive thinking (v. 16).

- We need the shield of faith, because our enemy is constantly firing flaming arrows designed to pierce us with unbiblical thoughts.

-- Putting on the shield of faith means believing what God says and acting upon it no matter how we feel because God is faithful.

5.) Put on HOPE as a guard against discouragement (v. 17a).

-- The helmet of salvation is the perfect and eternal hope that God offers us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

-- If we always remember that heaven will be infinitely greater than anything on earth, then we can stand strong against discouragement.

-- The helmet of salvation reminds us that we are blessed by God and filled with inexpressible joy!

Summary

The battle for human souls is raging all around us, and God is calling us stand strong in His name. If we are going to stand strong against sin and Satan's schemes, we need to dress ourselves in the full armor of God.