

A HAPPY RETROSPECT OF A USEFUL LIFE. 2 Tim. 4:7

1. "I have fought a (the) good fight." 2 Tim 4:7 Some things pointed up:

1. Every Christian is a soldier.

2. His enemy threefold:

(1) World. If any man love the world the love of the father is not in him. Rom. 12:2
John 2:15

(2) Satan. And lest I should be exalted above measure through abundance of the revelation there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me lest I should be exalted above measure. 2 Cor. 12:7

(3) Flesh. For when we were come into Macedonia our flesh had not rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, and within were fears. 2 Cor. 7:5

Two sources of troubles:

A. Without were fightings.

1. Church troubles. "The care of all the churches." 2 Cor. 11:28

2. The inconsistencies of false brethren. "In perils among false brethren!" 2 Cor. 11:26

3. Opposition among his own countrymen. "Perils by mine own countrymen." 2 Cor. 11:26

B. Within were fears.

1. Bodily weakness. "A Thorn in the flesh." 2 Cor. 12:7. Might be any kind of physical weakness. Some seem to forget that preachers have bodies at all.

2. Mental weariness. The mind soon tires. Because of the shortness of time the preacher has often to do his work with a flagging brain. Ministerial work is very tiring to physical as well as mental strength.

3. Mental depression. Many things that cast down the spirits of good men. Fraud in trade. Corruption in politics. Moral filth in popular literature. Sectarianism. CAN'T IN RELIGION.

NOTE: To see a work so great as the gospel of Christ preached will produce in the hearts and lives of men, the sun of opportunity fast slipping away to the darkness of night brings mental depression to the one who really cares.

ASAPH, a recorder and musical composer saw all this and said "my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped." Psalms 73:2

THE CHRISTIAN WARFARE...THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD.

1. The whole armour of God: The Christian uniform.

1. In the armed forces of our country the uniform a man wears reveals the branch of service he is in. Army, Navy, Air Corps, Marines ETC.

2. If a man claims to belong to and in reality does belong to that peculiar tribe who have pinned their life to Jesus Christ, it should make a difference, it does make a difference a visible difference in that life.

3. It is not some kind of a literal uniform that identifies a man as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. This uniform (Armour) cannot be bought by any man for so much cash. It cannot be furnished by any man free to another man.

2. What this Divine Armour consists of:

1. TRUTH. "Having your loins girt about with truth." Eph. 6:14

(1) Truth is our proper girdle, necessary, because we fight for the God of truth (Tit. 1:2) and against Satan the father of lies (John 8:44). John 8:32

2. BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. "Having on (wearing) the breastplate of righteousness." V. 14

(1) Having not mine own righteousness...but that which is through the faith of Christ, .. the righteousness which is of God by faith. This simply means:

A. Faith in Christ acted upon, steadfast obedience to Christ, secures this righteousness (forgiveness) of which Paul speaks. Let us not show the bare breast of our own righteousness to the tempter, rather show the righteousness of God imputed to us through obedient faith to him.

DEARBORN VALLEY

Church of Christ

17200 WEST OUTER DRIVE

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

THE CHRISTIAN MAN... THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

The Whole Armor of God: The Christian Soldier

- 1. In the armed forces of our country the uniform a man wears reveals the branch of service he belongs to. Navy, Air Force, Marines, etc.
- 2. If a man claims to belong to God in reality, he should wear a uniform which reveals his allegiance to Jesus Christ, it should make a difference in his life.
- 3. It is not some kind of a liberal uniform that identifies a man as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4. The uniform (armor) cannot be bought by any man for so much cash. It cannot be furnished by any man free to another man.

What This Divine Armor Consists of:

- 1. Truth: "Having your loins girded about with truth." Eph. 6:14
- 2. Righteousness: "Having on (wearing) the breastplate of righteousness." Eph. 6:14
- 3. Peace: "Having on (wearing) the shoes of peace." Eph. 6:15
- 4. Faith: "Having on (wearing) the helmet of salvation." Eph. 6:17
- 5. Word: "Having on (wearing) the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Eph. 6:17
- 6. Prayer: "Praying always with an alert mind and in Christ's name." Eph. 6:18

2. What this Divine Armour consists of continued:

3. SANDALS. "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." Eph. 6:15

- (1) Tender, bare feet, a very great liability. The Christian must be prepared to advance against his enemy.
- (2) He must be prepared to obey his Captain, to fight, to suffer, to die in the cause of truth. A soldier of any other mind is worthless.

4. THE SHIELD.

- (1) Above all, taking the shield of faith. Eph. 6:16 An oblong shield covering a great part of the body. No faith in its

widest sense constitutes this shield. How?:

- A. Faith in God as our Father, in Christ as our Redeemer, in the Holy Spirit as our Sanctifier and Strengthener.
- B. Faith in all the promises as we find in Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, and expressed in the words, "To him that overcometh."
- C. Faith is our shield in spiritual warfare. Faith is, in a word, "the victory that over comes the world." 1 John 5:4
- D. Satan showers his fiery darts, burning arrows, upon the soul of the Christian. IT is this shield (faith) which makes the soul of the Christian impenetrable to such destructive missiles. How all this? Because it falls back upon the Divine Word, receives the mercy of God, the strength of Christ and the help of the Holy Spirit.

5. THE HELMET. "And take the helmet of salvation." Eph. 6:17

- (1) The helmet protects the head. And how the head needs protection. 1 Thess. 5:8: "But let us who are of

the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." Here it is called "the hope of salvation."

- (2) The helmet of salvation, the helmet, the hope of salvation protects the head. HOW?

- A. It (hope) supports the Christian in toil.
- B. It supports the Christian in sorrow and sickness. We hope for better days.
- C. It supports the Christian in death. Psalms 23:4: "yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death..."
Rev. 2:10: The Christian will persevere unto death. "Be thou faithful unto Death..."
- D. "The helmet, the hope of salvation," preserves our heads from being filled with

6. IDLE DREAMS, OF WORLDLY HAPPINESS. DREAMS OF POWER OR FAME, FROM BEING SEDUCED BY THE WORLD'S PLEASURES...BY THE WORLD'S HONORS.

6. THE SWORD. "The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." Eph 6:17 How about the force of the Word of God?

- (1) 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
What can we do with a sword (the Word of God) so powerful? It is no good unless we use it! Some things we may do with God's Word:
 - A. We may take the sword of the Spirit (God's Word-Truth) and slay all error.
 - B. The sword of the Spirit (God's Word) furnishes us with the RIGHT that slays wrong.
 - C. The sword of the Spirit (God's Word) furnishes us with the happiness that slays the misery of the world ETC.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARMOUR

1. Put on the whole armour of God...Not a part of the armour of God. Absolutely necessary.
2. That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Eph. 6:11)

DEARBORN VALLEY

Church of Christ

17200 WEST OUTER DRIVE

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

2. What is the armor of God?

- 3. ROMANS 13:12 "and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." 1 Cor. 13:3
- (1) Tender, bare feet, a very great liability. The Christian must be prepared to advance against his enemy.
- (2) He must be prepared to obey his Captain, to fight, to suffer, to die in the cause of truth. A soldier of any other kind is worthless.

4. THE SHIELD

- (1) Above all, taking the shield of faith. 1 Cor. 13:7 An oblong shield covering a great part of the body. To win in its latest sense connotes this shield. 1 Cor. 13:7
- (2) Faith in God as our Father, in Christ as our Redeemer, in the Holy Spirit as our Sanctifier and Strengthener.
- (3) Faith in all the promises as we find in Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, and expressed in the words, "To him that overcometh."
- (4) Faith is our shield in spiritual warfare. Faith is, in a word, "the victory that overcometh the world." 1 John 5:4
- (5) Satan shoots his fiery arrows, burning arrows, upon the soul of the Christian. It is his shield (faith) which makes the soul of the Christian impervious to such destructive missiles. How at times? Because he takes hold upon the living Word, receives the mercy of God, the strength of Christ and the help of the Holy Spirit.

5. THE HELMET

- (1) The helmet protects the head, and now the head needs protection. 1 Thess. 5:8 "but the helmet of the hope of salvation." 1 Cor. 13:7
- (2) The helmet of salvation, the helmet, the hope of salvation protects the head. 1 Cor. 13:7 It (hope) supports the Christian in peril.
- (3) It supports the Christian in sorrow and distress. We hope for better days.
- (4) It supports the Christian in death. 1 Cor. 13:7 "Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, the death of the Christian will nevertheless be a death." 1 Cor. 13:7
- (5) "The helmet, the hope of salvation," preserves our heads from being filled with the ILLUSIONS OF WORLDLY HAPPINESS, DREAMS OF POWER OR FAME, FEAR OF HONOR, OR THE WORLD'S PLEASURES... BY THE WORLD'S HONORS.

6. THE SWORD

- (1) The sword of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, reaching 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
- (2) 1 Cor. 13:7 "The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." 1 Cor. 13:7 How about the force of the Word of God?
- (3) We may take the sword of the Spirit (God's Word-Truth) and slay all error.
- (4) The sword of the Spirit (God's Word) furnishes us with the LIGHT that slays wrong.
- (5) The sword of the Spirit (God's Word) furnishes us with the WISDOM that slays the misery of the world, etc.

THE SUBJECT OF THIS ADDRESS

- 1. Let us on the whole armor of God... Not a part of the armor of God. 1 Cor. 13:7
- 2. That we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 1 Cor. 13:7