

The Armor Of God

*“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”
(Eph. 6:11).*

Ancient battle armor and equipment can only be found in a few unique museums around the world. Admittedly, it is almost humorous to think of any modern-day soldier wearing a breastplate and wielding a sword and shield. However, while dressing much differently than the warriors of past ages, today’s soldier is also in great need of protection, both defensively and offensively.

The Roman soldiers of New Testament times wore various forms of armor. But the usual set of armor for the legionaries included six pieces: a girdle or belt, a breastplate, special shoes, a shield, a helmet and a sword. The first five of these were for defensive purposes and the last one was used offensively. Far from being unnecessary or of little value, each piece of armor was beneficial in the entire scheme of warfare.

The Apostle Paul was very familiar with the armor of Rome because he was often chained to Roman soldiers for the Gospel’s sake. Drawing from his first-hand observations, he mentioned all six pieces of the armor in the concluding section of this Epistle (Eph. 6:11-17). There are two specific exhortations to the Ephesian believers, and to you and me as well, to be arrayed with “the whole armour of God” (6:11, 13).

Christians are to certainly use the armor of God! Each of us is commanded to exercise personal responsibility in this matter. “Put on the whole armour of God.” We cannot expect the Lord to dress us for the battle. This is not the pastor’s role, either. Each believer must clothe himself or herself with this special attire. One of the best ways to put on the spiritual armor is piece by piece in prayer. This brings us to a second emphasis.

Christians are to completely use the armor of God! We are to put on the “whole,” the “full, or complete” armor of God. Every piece in the outfit must be employed by the soldier of the Lord. Each piece of the armor basically requires the other five pieces. The sword calls for the shield; the breastplate calls for the girdle; the helmet calls for the shoes. Some pieces were actually fastened to others. The truth is we must be fully prepared for spiritual warfare.

Christians are to confidently use the armor of God! We are reminded that we are up against the “wiles” (deceptive devices) of Satan. Our struggles are not just with people, or “flesh and blood, but we are opposed by “principalities . . . powers . . . rulers of the darkness of this world,” and “spiritual wickedness in high places” (6:12). Yet we can confidently trust in the strength and power of our God, and in the spiritual armor He has provided for the battle.