PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

Seven pieces of armor to overcome Satan:

I. BE TRUTHFUL

II. DO RIGHT

III. SPREAD THE GOSPEL

IV. BELIEVE GOD'S PROMISES

V. BE CONFIDENT IN YOUR SALVATION

VI. KNOW THE SCRIPTURE

VII. PRAY CONTINUALLY

CONCLUSION:

PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

Every believer is a soldier and is expected to fight (there are no spiritual pacifists).

I Tim. 1:18-19; II Tim. 2:3-4

V. 10

"Be strong" - lit. be empowered (passive). Allow yourself to be endued with divine ability. Yield to the power that God alone gives.

V. 11

"The whole armor" - the <u>complete</u> armor; the <u>full</u> armor (planoplian).

Having on <u>every</u> piece of armor that God commands is vitally important.

While most Christians would not dream of dressing immodestly or of leaving their house

naked; many do so every day. Dressed physically but naked spiritually.

The purpose of the armor is not for "looks"; not to be spiritually "dressed up" to impress others; but it is for battle!

"Wiles" = schemes; crafty plots; deceitful tactics and maneuvers.

V. 12

Our battle is not physical but spiritual. An unseen yet real conflict that is raging all around us.

"Principalities" - high rulers

"powers" - authorities

"rulers" - lit. world rulers of this (present) darkness (kosmos & kratoras).

"Spiritual wickedness in high places" - the spiritual armies of evil in the heavenlies; a reference to the demonic spirits that soar through the universe.

Three truths:

1. We can only be strong <u>in the Lord</u> (v. 10)

2. By ourselves, we are <u>no match for Satan</u> (v. 11)

3. Spiritual battles require spiritual weapons (v. 12).

V. 13

"Wherefore" = because of the spiritual demonic armies hovering over and about us.

"Withstand" = to stand against (antistanai); to resist; to withstand is the opposite of remaining passive or of giving in to the devil; or being defeated by Him.

The only formula for getting rid of the devil is (not magical phrases or verbal formulas)

but by resisting him (I Pet. 5:8-9; Ja. 4:7).

"the evil day" - there are specific days when Satanic activity, temptation, etc. will reach each one of us. We need to be ready for those "days of evil."

"And having done all, to stand" - After accomplishing great victories, after working hard and doing all that was right and godly, there is a tendency to become complacent, to savor the past triumphs. And then, in such times, having stood, there is a tendency toward a great fall.

Seven pieces of armor to overcome Satan:

I. BE TRUTHFUL

V. 14

"Truth" -

Believe the truth
Tell the truth
Live the truth

Satan is opposite of truth; he is a liar (jn. 8). Overcome him with the truth.

II. DO RIGHT

V. 14

"Righteousness" - Do Right - hymn

Chest plate covers vital organs.

III. SPREAD THE GOSPEL

V. 15

"Feet" - cp. Is. 52:7 - "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!"

Rom. 10:15

"Preparation" - readiness

"Be ready always" (I Pet. 3:15).

IV. BELIEVE GOD'S PROMISES

The hymn writer said: "I want to live above the world though Satan's darts at me are hurled; though some may dwell where these abound, my prayer, my aim is higher ground."

V. BE CONFIDENT IN YOUR SALVATION

Ex: helmets are used in golden glove boxing; NFL; construction hard hats; motorcycling etc.

VI. KNOW THE SCRIPTURE

V. 17

"Sword of the Spirit" - Heb. 4:12; Rev. 19:15

VII. PRAY CONTINUALLY

In war times, one of the greatest tactics is to cut the lines of communication; to cut the telegraph wires; to jam and scramble the messages; to sabotage the phone lines.

Don't let Satan cut off your communication to the "Captain of the Lord's Host."

CONCLUSION:

"Stand Up Stand Up for Jesus"