



SOUNDCAST

HOLINESS PODCAST

EPISODE # 8- Putting God's Armor to Work

SUMMARY:

We are looking at the life of holiness through the window of our faithfulness to God and His divine protection of us. This lesson stresses Paul's teaching on the armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-18. In this well-known scripture passage truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation and the word of God are not obscure theological truths. Rather, they are divine gifts that protect us every day and empower us to live in spiritual victory.

KEY STATEMENTS:

“The armor is God's, not ours! I believe that many Christians miss this important truth. Paul is going to link the parts of the armor of a soldier – ie. belt, shield, breastplate, sword and so on – with **spiritual attributes, resources that are divine gifts!** I don't want us to focus on the metaphors which are just illustrations. Rather, let's focus on the reality of the **spiritual gifts God clothes us with for protection.**”

“We are unequipped! We can't forge our own weapons – not by our reason, intuition, education or experience. Too many Christians believe that all they

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need is to be saved and then they can do just fine! Not so, says Paul to the Ephesian Christians....”

“You are indwelt by the Spirit of **truth!**
You walk in the power of **right relationship** with God!
You are a witness of the gospel of **wholeness and wellness.**
You can **trust** in a God whose promises are secure and are a shield of protection!
You serve a God who **makes people whole**, who saves and heals!
You have the **word of God** that never fails!”
You are in a living relationship with a living God who is only a whisper away!”

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

I. REFLECT upon Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of Ephesians 6:14-17 in **The Message:**

“ Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. **Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words.** Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life.”

a) Have you experienced these divine attributes of protection – ie. truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation – as **more than words?** If so, describe how....If not, how can you imagine them helping you in your daily spiritual life?

b) Share and discuss your thoughts with others in your group.

II. **DISCUSS** the thoughts of Dr. Klyne Snodgrass in his commentary on Ephesians below about the armor of God as our Christian identity!

“We say 'Clothes make the person,' meaning that a person's clothes both define them and reveal who they are. Similarly, to put on a quality such as truth is to be determined by that quality. The issue again concerns **identity**. The Christian's **identity** is to be shaped by truth, righteousness, readiness, faith, salvation, and the gospel message.”

III. **PRAY** this simple but beautiful prayer by Rick Stedman for yourself and for those whom you love: (from **Praying the Armor of God**)

Lord, I (_____) am not strong enough to fight the evil one. If I try to fight him with my own strength, I will fail miserably.

And if I (_____) try to arm myself against him, I will also fail completely.

Give me the wisdom to rely only on your armor, Lord.

In Jesus' name. Amen.