PERSONAL SPIRITUAL ARMOR (Pt. 1) Belt, Breastplate, Boots

Ephesians 6:14-15

- I. <u>BELT OF TRUTH</u> (14a; Jn 8:32)—prepare yourself for action
 - **A.** <u>**Truth**</u> (Jn 17:17)

1. <u>A True Heart</u> (Eph 4:25)—Sincerity; no pretense, deceit, hypocrisy to trip you (BE TRUTHFUL)

a. Integrity (Ps 51:6)—practice what you preach

b. Transparency (Rom 13:12; Eph 5:11; 1 Jn 1:6-8)—who you are

2. <u>True Doctrine</u> (Gal 5:7; Eph 4:14, 21; 2 Tim 2:18 & 3:7; Tit 1:14; Jude 1:3)—the true faith (**KNOW THE TRUTH of God's Word**)

a. Know the Scripture (Jn 17:17)—all of it

b. Don't be deceived—not confused, disoriented, overpowered

3. <u>Jesus Himself</u> (Jn 8:32 & 14:6; Rev 3:14 & 19:11)—He is both *truthful* and *The Truth* (**KNOW JESUS**)—embodies and explains the truth of God

- B. <u>Belt</u> (1 Pet 1:13)—prepare yourself for action (work, battle)
 - **1.** <u>**To gather up your tunic**</u> (Ex 12:11; 1 Kin 18:46; Isa 5:27; 1 Pet 1:13) —An undergarment, brace

a. Gives confidence and stability—holds everything together in place

b. Truth must undergird everything else

2. <u>To fasten something to you</u> (2 Sam 20:8; Ps 45:3; 109:19; Prov 6:21; Jer 13:11)—Truth holds your weapons

II. BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (14b; Isa 59:17; 1 Thes 5:8)—

- A. <u>Righteousness</u> ()—protects from the destruction of sin
 - 1. <u>Christ's Righteousness</u> (2 Cor 5:21; Php 3:9; Gal 2:16)—given to us a. Earned by Christ
 - b. Applied to us by Faith

2. <u>Our Character and Conduct</u> (1 Thes 5:8)—righteousness is worked out in response

- a. Faith working through love (Gal 5:6)— not passive or theoretical
- b. Sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit—(Php 2:13; 1 Jn 3:9;)
- **B.** <u>Breastplate</u> (Ps 73:26; Prov 4:23)—protects heart and vital organs
 - 1. <u>Christ's Righteousness covers us</u>—(Rom 8:1)—Protects from accusation, shame, and condemnation

2. <u>Practicing Righteousness guards against temptation, corruption</u> (Tit 2:11-12)

III. BOOTS OF GOSPEL-READINESS (15)

- A. <u>Gospel</u> (1 Pet 3:15)
 - 1. The Good News of Jesus Christ—Salvation through faith in Him
 - 2. Ready and Able to share this...
- B. <u>Peace</u>
 - 1. <u>With God</u> ()—God's blessing and favor, the basis of our peace
 - 2. <u>In Yourself</u> (Lk 10:5-6)—are you peaceful?
 - a. Waking in peace yourself...
 - b. Taking peace wherever you go...
 - 3. For Others (Lk 2:14; 2 Cor 5:18-21)—Ministry of reconciliation...
- C. <u>Shoes</u>—Ready to go wherever, whenever
 - 1. <u>Lifestyle</u> (Eph 4:1)—the way you walk, walk worthy of your calling

2. <u>Mobility</u> (Ex 12:11; Rom 10:15)—prepared to go where Commander sends you