

[F657]

The Armor of God

—[Eph. 6:11-13](#)—

"Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...in the evil day."

Here again the Apostle forewarns us that our day, in the close of the age, would be the specially "evil day" in which Satan's powers would be peculiarly exercised—"to deceive if it were possible the very elect." He tells us of an armor that will be proof against all of Satan's delusions. It is not an armor for the flesh, but for the mind—for the New Creature. God is its maker, through human instrumentality. It is His provision, His Word, His message, His Truth. No other armor will avail in this "evil day," and for this extremity the *whole* armor will be needed—however others, in previous times, got along with portions of it only.

The Girdle of the Loins represents consecration to service; and the Apostle enjoins that we see to it that we are not consecrated to the service of error, but to the service of the Truth. Let each examine his girdle, see that he has a proper one, gird himself with it, become a servant of the Truth or, at least, have the spirit of service.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (or justification) comes next in order, for the Lord can recognize none as soldiers of the cross who do not discern and acknowledge His standard of justice, or who reject His gracious arrangement of justification (through faith and consecration) by the precious blood of His son.

The Sandals of Peace must not be forgotten; the soldier of the cross who starts in the campaign without the peace of God to assist him over the rough places, will accomplish less, and with greater difficulty, than the one who seeks to follow peace with all men—to live peaceably with all so far as possible, without compromising the Truth. Those who go unshod, go hunting trouble and are sure to find little else.

The Shield of Faith is indispensable to protection from the fiery darts of the Adversary—skepticism, higher criticism, evolution, and demonology. "Without faith it is impossible to please God." "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." [Heb. 11:6](#); [1 John 5:4](#)

The Helmet of Salvation represents the intellectual, or philosophical, appreciation or understanding of the divine plan. Apparently, it was less necessary in the past than now: but now, in the "harvest," when the Adversary is furiously attacking the Truth and turning everything scientific and educational into a weapon of destruction—now the helmet is indispensable. And now, and only now, is it provided in such size and shape that the humblest soldier of the cross can put it on. The Lord held back the Attacker within the bounds where the shield of faith would serve as protection; but now the whole armor is supplied, and not too soon for the needs of his faithful.

The Sword of the Spirit—the Word of God—is the only offensive armor of the Lord's little band. The Captain prevailed in his "good fight" against the Adversary, saying, "It is written"; and this is the battle cry of his followers. Others than the true soldiers have fought for the Lord with carnal weapons, and with human philosophies and worldly wisdom and organization, and decrees of councils and synods and presbyteries, but we must depend in the struggle of this

"evil day" upon the Word of God—"It is written!" We must use no darts like Satan's—anger, malice, hatred, strife. And "the Sword of the Spirit" can only be possessed by careful study and leading of the Spirit after consecration—after enlistment in this army.