



Thank you for downloading
CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately 4 pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

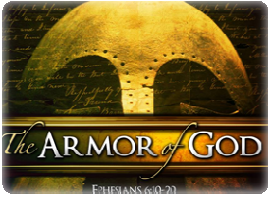
If you would like to receive the
CQ Rewind FULL EDITION at no charge, simply sign up at
www.ChristianQuestions.net.

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



Got Armor?

Romans 13:12: (NASB) *The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.*



Last week we took a hard look at Islam and compared its message of devotion to that of Christianity. We looked at its personal and national approach to "jihad" and saw significant differences from our own Christian faith. Today we will focus on the Christian "jihad" - the Christian's personal struggle to fight our warfare - not against others but against Satan. How do we fight this fight? What are we armed with? What makes us think such a battle against such an enemy can be won?

Who is the enemy and how do we secure our protection for this armed conflict?

Ephesians 6:10-12 **Who is the enemy?** **1 Peter 5:8:** Rulers, powers, world forces of darkness, and spiritual wickedness are all headed by Satan himself! There is no bigger, badder, more brutal enemy that we could ever face! You had better be armed!

Ephesians 6:14: (NKJV) *Stand therefore, **having girded your waist with truth**, having put on the breastplate of righteousness...*Note the belt neither protects nor attacks, it simply holds everything together.



Roman Legionary's clothing (belt), *Phalera Filmworks*

- *The military belt insures the weapons remained firmly in place. The belt is made of leather and has metal plates for both decoration and reinforcement. At the front is an apron of leather straps, decorated with metal disks and pendants.*

John 17:17-18 **1 Peter 1:13-16:** The truth of Scripture needs to be planted in and held firmly in our minds. It is profound that God's word gives all of the rest of the armor a consistent base from which to be able to function.



Observations about this truth:

- *It is of God* - therefore of higher origin than any other source;
- *It is consistent* - it gives black and white principles from which we can deal with all shades of gray;
- *It is eternal* - it defines not only what *has* happened and what is at present, but it also defines what *will be*;
- *It is irrefutable* - it stands the tests of time, philosophy, compromise and doubt.

This truth is the foundation - perhaps the unnoticed foundation - for victory over Satan! That little belt of truth is very important in our Christian life.

Just how good a weapon is the Shield of Faith?

Ephesians 6:16: (NASB) *in addition to all, taking up **the shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

(Source: Bible Commentary from Jamieson, Fausset and Brown) Shield - the large, oblong, oval, door-like shield of the Romans, four feet long by two and a half feet broad; not the small, round buckler.

A buckler is a different kind of shield. Both types of shields are biblical: **Psalms 91:4**
The buckler is a mobile protection, largely to be controlled by the soldier who bears it:
Proverbs 2:7



Observations about the shield:

- This shield is carried onto the battlefield - it can be put down.
- It is a massive portable protection - an offensive weapon for pushing back an enemy.
- It represents a double protection carried to cover the armor that one wears on the body.
- You won't storm a castle with it! It's meant to form a wall of defense.



- You will be protected when in a place of vulnerability - a place where there are no walls. It is a portable wall, just like our faith should be. Do we carry our portable wall wherever we go?
- This shield is specific to quenching the fiery darts of The Wicked One. A buckler would not suffice, as we are clearly overmatched in this battle.

This type of shield is featured to send us a specific message: We are *not* to seek the hand-to-hand combat that would be appropriate for a buckler. We *are* to be on the battlefield with our fellow soldiers and fight together. There is safety within the fellowship of Christianity.

As an example, in the early church, the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians had to learn to stand side-by-side and be willing to die together for their cause.

The shield's purpose is to protect our whole person. We need to be able to stay behind it to provide an added layer of protection from what could blindside us. We can't fight the fight without faith.

Proverbs 18:10: When your shield is down in a position of difficulty, we can run to that strong tower!

Faith as a shield thwarting the darts of the enemy in action: **Psalms 56:1-4:** Without faith, it is impossible to fight this battle against the wiles of the devil! **James 2:18-20:** Faith with no works is like having the shield but staying home. We can't cower in the background. Works with no faith is like showing up on the battlefield with no shield. We can't try standing on our own without God's strength. **1 Peter 5:9**

So, how do you use the Sword of the Spirit?

Ephesians 6:17: (NKJV) *And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God;* All of the other armor is in place to protect and guard that which is vulnerable. This sword is the only purely offensive weapon, so what is it capable of doing?

2 Corinthians 5:17: So, if the Spirit is described as a sword, we can safely say that this sword is a gift from God and it gives its chosen user a great power to wield. It is called the "sword of the Spirit," yet it is defined as the "word of God." The new creation, begotten of the spirit of God, can use and understand the word of God. Anyone can use the word of God as a sword (such as a non-believer quoting a Scripture in a negative way), but not with the sword of the Spirit, using the attitude in which the Scriptures are presented. You need God's Spirit to be able to properly use God's word.

The Apostle Paul demonstrates some proper use of this power: **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**



Observations about the sword:

- It is a weapon of offence we can use to attack the enemy.
- It is given to us to use in our hand.
- We choose how to wield it. Do we use it sparingly and only on Sundays, or every day?
- We can put it down.

What is a primary differences between all of the armor versus the Shield of Faith and the Sword of the Spirit? All other armor is given by God and is fastened onto us. The Shield of Faith and the Sword of the Spirit, by contrast, are held and actively used by us, picturing what we give to God. The temptations in this world are enticing! God has prepared for us all that we need to stand firm. We can have courage in the face of fear. Courage is not the absence of fear; it is taking pro-active action in the face of fear. We want to be a good soldier for Christ.

Let's take another look at our theme text: **Romans 13:12:** (NASB) *The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.* If we are embroiled in the "deeds of darkness," our armor of light won't fit. Satan wants us to think we are battling alone, but we stand shoulder to shoulder with our fellow soldiers.





Ephesians 6:14: (NKJV) *Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**...*

So, whose righteousness are we talking about here? Romans 3:9-12: The playing field for soldiers is level. No one comes into Christ in a favored state because of their personal "high standing" before God. All are sinners and as such are all worthy of death. We are all broken, battered and bruised but can come together and be armed with the righteousness of Jesus to stand strong.

1 John 2:1-3: The righteousness of Jesus protects our vital organs.

Roman Legionary's clothing (breastplate), *Phalera Filmworks*

- *A Legionary soldier was of course well armed, but his body is also very well protected by a helmet, armor (breastplate), and a shield. His body armor is made of iron plates riveted to heavy leather straps on the inside of a harness so they won't break easily during a fight. When the armor is assembled, he can put it on like a jacket...The breastplate weighs almost 10 kilos (about 22 pounds), but because the different parts move along with the body movement and the weight is spread evenly over the upper body, he can wear it in relative comfort all day long.*



Observations about the breastplate:

- This breastplate of righteousness is in fact the righteousness and justification of Jesus.
- It is a weapon of defense, as the Ransom satisfies the just requirements of God and saves us from death.
- For it to protect all of our vital organs it must be attached to us - it must move as we move.
- This breastplate is held in place by the girdle of the truth of God's plan, for God's plan is centered on the price that Jesus paid.

Wearing this righteousness warrants choices that lead to a dramatic change in our behavior:

2 Corinthians 6:14-18: Being a soldier of Christ is a different life - from the inside out.

Ephesians 6:15: (NKJV) *and having **shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace**;*

This seems like an odd statement - your feet wear the "preparation" of the Gospel of peace? Why not wear the Gospel of peace itself?

Roman Legionary's clothing (sandals), *Phalera Filmworks*

- *His military sandals have been cut from a single piece of leather. The thick sole has hobnails. This prevents the sandals from wearing down, and it gives him a firm grip on the slippery soil.*

First, God is a God of peace: Romans 16:20: We can't win over Satan, but we can fight and in turn God will crush Satan. We win the battle over ourselves by our self-denial and our Christ-likeness. **Second, the "good news" of the Gospel confirms that peace and salvation are derived from the plan of the God of peace:** Isaiah 52:7: Feet imply you are carrying something, like a delivery person. We carry with us and spread the Gospel of peace. We literally carry that Gospel wherever we go, the "good news." **Third, the "good news" confirms the pathway to peace and salvation:** 2 Corinthians 5:18-20: Once we, as true Christians, are reconciled to God through Christ, we become ambassadors. Ambassadors live in a foreign country but represent the government of the country from which you came. As an ambassador for Christ, we are coming from the kingdom of God, essentially. We represent that government and carry it to others. There is a pathway to salvation and our responsibility is to show that pathway.

Fourth, to know all of this as a soldier of Christ is to be responsible for it - to be prepared to present it: 1 Peter 3:14-15 Do you know the truth of God or do you take someone else's word for it? The idea is to be prepared! We need to know why we believe what we believe. The faith in the Scriptures is not blind. It is informed, it is intelligent, it has integrity, and it has something concrete to offer! The preparation of the Gospel of peace that we wear on our feet means we are prepared to carry it to our destination. **Fifth, wherever your steps take you, you spread the Gospel.** Romans 10:14-15 "Preach the Gospel. Use words, if necessary." -Rick's Uncle Steve We should have such a powerful influence on those around us that people see our kindness, generosity, integrity, and more. These sandals are tied to our feet. They can't just be kicked



off. This is a powerful part of the armor because it carries us to deliver the message of the Gospel in any way possible. Most often it isn't our words, but it is instead our actions and how we live. So, the message here is simple: Wherever you go, whatever you do, if you are engaged in this battle, one of your responsibilities is to have the "Gospel of Peace" reflected in your every step. Habakkuk 3:19

So, if righteousness is body armor, what protects our brain?

Ephesians 6:17: (NKJV) *And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God;*

Obviously, this helmet is there to protect the head, the mind, the attitude, the control center for the entire soldier. How fitting that this protection is made of salvation, for we must have an intellectual acceptance and understanding of the ransom of Jesus on our behalf. With this understanding in place, we are able to truly focus on the battle at hand.

Isaiah 1:17-18: **LEARN - SEEK - REBUKE - DEFEND - PLEAD** - these have to be protected by salvation. We could easily be taken off course by Satan. Even though we are sinful, we are considered clean in the sight of God because of salvation from the righteousness of Jesus. Our head must be protected by that salvation.

This salvation through Jesus should be a primary focus of what we look for in life:

Hebrews 12:2-3: (NASB) *²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. This salvation through Jesus should be a primary focus of what we meditate on in life: ³For consider him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

We should be inspired to get up and keep fighting! We should approach the battle with gratitude and thanksgiving that the armor is even available. As long as we do our part, we are invincible until our work is done! Do we see that all of the armor is built around Jesus?

This salvation through Jesus must become part of us: 2 Timothy 2:14-16: - the helmet is to focus us clearly on the object at hand. The pieces of armor are all *strapped on* and become a part of us. We need to move forward with all the armor on or we are in danger. So, what does this armor do?

Sandals - bring our feet to a thoughtful delivering of the Gospel. We have to know what we are talking about and be willing to carry it with us.

Breastplate - the righteousness of Jesus that is attached to us, protecting our vital organs. Remember it is put on like a jacket and it protects us with the righteousness of Jesus and not our own.

Belt - the truth that binds all of our protection to us and that holds the sword of the Spirit "at the ready."

Helmet - The salvation that protects our thoughts, and therefore our deeds, as we go into battle.

Shield - the large external protection of faith that can protect our entire being when necessary. When standing shoulder-to-shoulder with other soldiers, we can create a wall of faith to push back evil.

Sword - God's own power and influence placed by our side and in our hand to battle an enemy we could never defeat on our own. It is an offensive weapon that is the word of God. We have the responsibility to make sure we strike well and clean. We apply the Spirit of God to the word of God so that it is used appropriately.

The Whole Armor of God: "Don't leave home without it!"

**Got armor?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!**