**4**

**The Armor of God**

**Ephesians 6:10-20**

How can we be protected from our enemies? For a Roman soldier, the answer was his armor. A bronze breastplate covered him from his neck to his thighs. A backpiece was commonly worn as well. A wide belt secured the breastplate and backpiece, and a loop on the belt held the scabbard and sword. A bronze helmet covered not only the soldier's head but also the sides and back of his neck. A leather chinstrap held it firmly in place during battle. The soldier's shield was made of two pieces of wood glued together, covered with linen and hide and then bound with iron. It was much larger than most warriors' shields and offered protection from the neck to the knees. Heavily soled sandals with metal studs on the bottom enabled Romans soldiers to march long distances and to stand firm against the enemy on uneven or slippery ground. Finally, the soldier's

offensive weapon was a short, two-edged sword used for both cutting and thrusting.

**GROUP DISCUSSION**. What sort of protective "armor" have you worn while playing various sports or activities, and why?

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***22 Spiritual Warfare***

**PERSONAL REFLECTION**. Describe a time when you

felt surrounded by God's protection.

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In Ephesians 6 Paul introduces us to each piece of Roman

armor and its spiritual counterpart. If we protect ourselves

with the divine armor God provides, then we will have nothing to fear when the evil one attacks. Read Ephesians 6:10-20.

1. As you read this passage, what battlefield images come to mind?

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2. Why must we rely on God's power if we are to be victorious against our spiritual enemies (vv. 10-11)?

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3. Throughout Paul's life he was opposed, flogged, stoned and imprisoned by various human enemies. Why then does he

claim that our struggle is "not against flesh and blood" (v. 12)?

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4. Paul identifies our true enemies as "the devil" (v.11) and the demonic rulers, authorities, powers and spiritual forces of this dark age (v.12). What evidence do you see of these hostile forces in your life or the lives of Christians you know?

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***The Armor of God 23***

5. Why do you think Paul states three times that we must stand our ground, do everything to stand and stand firm (vv. 13-14)?

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6. Why are both truth and righteousness essential components of our armor (v. 14; see also Isaiah 11:5 and 59:17)?

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7. How can the gospel message that you have peace with God

(v. 15) give you strength to stand against spiritual opponents?

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8. Faith (v. 16) refers to both what we believe and who we believe in. How can our faith act like a shield against all of the evil one's flaming arrows?

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9. What flaming arrows has the devil aimed at you recently?

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***24 Spiritual Warfare***

In what ways do you need to exercise faith in God's protection and promises?

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10. The "sword of the Spirit" (v. 17) is our only offensive

weapon. Why do we need both the Spirit of God and the

Word of God to defeat the devil?

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11. Although prayer (vv. 18-20) isn't listed as one of the pieces

of our armor, how is prayer a vital component of your spiritual warfare?

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*Take time now to pray for yourself, the members of your earthly family and the members of your spiritual family.*

*Ask God to give you the strength to be victorious against*

*the devil’s attacks.*

**Now or Later**

This week make a list of those you know who seem to be

under spiritual attack. Spend time each day praying for

them and asking God to give them his grace and strength.

If possible, write them an encouraging note or give them a phone call, letting them know they are in your prayers.