

Buckle Up Series

December 16, 2020

Scripture: Ephesians 6:11-17

Summary: Learn to Drive Series Week 2.

Buckle Up is a lesson about the Whole Armour of God, and how it protects us from the dangers of life.

Last week we talked about working on the habits necessary to grow spiritually as we learn to drive through this spiritual journey.

I hope everyone is working on those good habits?

It may take 21 days to establish a habit and 6 months for it to become part of your personality.

So let's keep working on those good habits!

So far, we've picked the type of vehicle we're traveling through life in, we know where we are, and where we're going.

Tonight, I want us to focus on being prepared.

What's the first thing you do or should do when you climb into your car?

Buckle up!

Why do you buckle up?

Over 63% of people are killed in accidents who aren't wearing seat belts.

A seat belt could be the only thing that stands between your life and your death when you venture out onto these dangerous roads.

Let me give you some advice.

We don't know what we'll encounter on the road and we can't predict what will happen to us when we get behind the wheel.

So we should buckle up!

Life is the same way.

In order to survive crises in life, we must take the necessary precautions to prepare ourselves spiritually.

I don't know about you, but in life, I would feel safer with more protection than just a seat belt!

That's why God commands us to put on the WHOLE armor of God, so we can stand against the evil that will come at us.

Look with me at Ephesians 6:11-17,

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil.

For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.

Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.

For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.

In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan.

Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

I want us to look at the armor itself.

Just like seat belts are not JUST recommended in Georgia, they are LAW, so is the armor God commands us to put on.

Have you noticed that God doesn't make suggestions?

He gives commands.

Commands we are to obey.

The armor we need to put on is

Truth

Righteousness

Peace

Faith

Salvation

Sword of the Spirit

God said we need to have our "Loins girt about with Truth."

Why does God feel that truth is so important to list it as the first piece of protective gear?

Because there is only ONE absolute, truth.

Everything that comes into our lives needs to be measured against the absolute truth, the Bible.

How can we guard against false teachers, if we don't know truth well enough to recognize them?

Recognizing false things.

Do you know how banks train their tellers to recognize counterfeit bills?

They memorize every detail about the real thing.

So we should prepare ourselves to recognize falsehoods and lies, not just from preachers, but from everyone we come in contact with.

I've had to correct believers and unbelievers about the truth.

That's why we have to read and study God's Word, so we can know the truth.

God says if the truth is in you, the truth will make you free. John 8:32

Breastplate of Righteousness:

We can't be arrogant about our righteousness, because it is not something we were able to achieve on our own.

It's only through the grace of God, that we have been made righteous.

But we CAN wear our Righteousness proudly.

One interesting fact I find here, is that there is no armor mentioned for our backs.

Maybe that's because we are supposed to FACE our enemies.

After all, with Christ in us, what do we really have to be afraid of?

Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace:

This simply means that, since we're in a race, we must be ready to run at all times.

But we are not running away from our enemies, our trials, or our troubles.

We're running toward Christ.

HE is our Savior, our Helper, and He is our source of peace.

With all the wars, and rumors of wars, earthquakes and floods, who can continue to live in peace?

Who in this world has peace in such chaos?

Only those of us who have accepted Christ in our lives.

We are "in" with the Creator and Ruler of the universe, so we can have total peace that He is still in control.

Nothing will happen to us, that's not allowed to first pass through

His loving hands.

Now don't get me wrong, we do live in a fallen world and we will experience trials, but our Father will never allow more to come upon us than what we're able to bear!

I Corinthians 10:13

13. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

“God's going to take care of me!”

When we go through those hard times, we can have peace, knowing God loves us and only wants to bless us and prosper us.

Shield of Faith:

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Faith is believing in God and what His Word tells about Him.

Faith is believing He is doing the work in our lives He promises to do.

Faith is believing that someday, because of our personal relationship with Him, He will save us from our eternal destiny of hell, and will take us to Heaven to live with Him.

Faith will protect us from all the fiery darts Satan hurls at us every day of our lives.

If you don't have the shield of faith to protect you, you are a sitting duck— and its duck season!

Without the shield of faith, you have no protection from the most evil creature alive today.

I wouldn't knowingly choose to put myself in that situation, would you?

Practically speaking, how do you "get" faith?

By not worrying every time you think about the future.

By not fretting when you find yourself in a situation that seems to have no way out.

Give it to God, He promises to take care of us.

As long as you are doing your part by living according to His will, you can trust Him to do His part.

And to review from last week, how do you find God's will for your life?

By actively working on the next level of your spiritual growth.

By doing so, you are showing God you are faithful and obedient and are seeking to please Him.

Helmet of Salvation:

God said, take the Helmet of Salvation.

That's the most important piece of armor, because without salvation, you're in danger of losing your life AND your soul.

Salvation is so easy to obtain, and it's cheaper than a motorcycle helmet!

It cost Christ His life, but for us it's free.

God said, "Believe in me and you will never die."

John 11:26

That's a pretty good guarantee, don't you think?

Of course you have to do more than to only believe in His existence to receive salvation.

Even Satan himself believes that.

You have to believe that He is Who He says He is, and that He has done what He said He has done, and then you have to allow Him to take control of your life.

Give your life to Him with no strings attached.

Sword of the Spirit:

This is the only offensive armor that God commands us to wear.

All the other pieces are for our defense, to protect us.

Have you noticed that God gave us 2 ears, but only one mouth?

He must want us to listen more than talk!

The same is true here, He wants us to focus 85% of our time and energy on preparing ourselves and making ourselves strong enough for battle.

The other 15% of our time should go into active war.

The Bible is to be our weapon.

Now let me spend a little bit of time on this, because a sword, when not used properly can cause great harm.

**You wouldn't put a sword in the hands of just anyone would you?
No, of course not.**

But I've seen Christians that use God's Word to purposefully try to hurt people, and tear them down.

We should not use His Word to push our own agenda, or to prove ourselves right.

This is a horrible misuse of God's Word, and He will punish those who misuse the holy Word.

God wants us to use His Word to proclaim truth IN LOVE to those who are willing to listen.

He promises that His Word will not return back to Him void.

That means, if we get His Word out there, He will put it to good use.

The more you read and study God's word, DAILY, DAILY, DAILY, the more you read and study God's word, the more you'll know about Him.

And the more you talk to Him through prayer, and give Him the quietness to talk back to you, the more you will begin to know Him.

My question for you tonight is,

Are you buckled up?

Are you protected from life?

Have you taken all the necessary precautions to Learn to Drive?

Do you have all the pieces of the protective gear on that God commands you to wear?

Truth (Know Him and His Word)

Righteousness (Be worthy through Christ)

Preparation of the gospel of peace

(Peace at all times)

Faith (Trust in Him)

Salvation (Escape from impending death)

Sword of the Spirit

(Read and study the Bible – DAILY)

Put on this protective gear to make your trip through life a success.