

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

WAIT do not read the scripture yet.

Paul quite often used metaphors to explain the concepts and ideas God put in his heart.

What is a metaphor?

Webster: Metaphor; a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them.

The use of a metaphor works only if the audience recognizes the analogy and can relate it to the speaker's objective. The first century secular stresses, fears and norms were quite different from ours in the 21st century. To truly understand the metaphors and parables of the first century we must try to understand how the first century people related to life around them. Paul used many subjects for his metaphors like farmers, athletes, war and soldiers. Each one was specifically targeted to zero in on a specific audience. Hearing the words, ARMOR OF GOD, the Ephesians would have immediately pictured, in their minds, a Roman soldier. To them, like him or not, a Roman soldier was the essence of strength, skill and power. He was the personification of the Cesar and the Roman Empire.

What did the Ephesian know about a Roman soldier?

They knew he was just a man, but a man with special skills and training. They knew that before he was allowed to wear the armor of an Imperial soldier, he had to complete rigorous training in the arts of war and combat. He had to be good at what he did because when he put on his armor, he would project all the power and authority of the Emperor of the Roman Empire.

Where ever he went he carried that image of authority. Take him out of his uniform of armor and he was just a man not unlike any carpenter, baker or shepherd. However, in his armor he was the might of the Roman Empire.

With these ideas clearly in the minds of the Ephesians Paul built on these concepts. He related each part of the uniform of armor to a specific attribute of the Christian Soldier. So how do we, of the twenty-first century, relate to the metaphor? It is relatively simple as Paul explains each part of the armor to understand what he is saying. Yes, God provides us with the armor to battle evil in the world. However, I believe that most Christians miss an important meaning of wearing the ARMOR OF GOD. **When we wear the armor of God, we must reflect the power and majesty of our Sovereign in heaven.** When you put on the armor of God and go among the people... do they say "look there goes the majesty, authority and power of God?"

Are you training rigorously?

Are you reflecting God's majesty in your life?

OK, now, perhaps with a new insight, GO, read Ephesians 6:10-20.