

The Greek word for “buckled around” is “perizonnumi,” “Peri” means “around” and “zonnumi” means “to put”; that is, to put around the waist or buckle.

The Roman soldiers wore a very wide belt, which was actually the foundation piece for all their military equipment.

At one place on it there was a loop for the “machaira” (sword) scabbard; at another point there was a loop from which a couple of ropes dangled, together with a sack for rations.

Items of equipment were attached all the way around this belt, which was designed in a manner to insure that it would remain firmly in place at all times and so that the equipment would be easily accessible when needed.

No Roman soldier ever fought without his belt, for it carried all of his equipment.

This military belt is said to be truth, a reference to the principle of PMA, the basis for learning Bible Truth or putting on the “belt of truth.”

The Breastplate of +R. Vs 14 “with the breastplate of +R in place.”

The Gr. for “in place” is “enduo,” meaning to “put it on.”

If you are consistent in Bible study, you gradually will build up an accumulation of truth in the human spirit, which in turn will lead to the building of the soul structure.

Without this the soul inventory, there is no maturity and, basically, no happiness in the Christian life.

“Thorax” Gr. for “breastplate.”

This piece of armor is a very interesting.

Most of the ancient peoples wore breastplates, which were made up of many layers of cloth or linen.

Some were made by attaching bits of horn or hoof to a heavy cloth foundation.

Later, they were made of bronze and even of iron.

The Roman breastplate was made of metal and protected the upper part of the body the vital spots.

In order to keep it in place, little rings were affixed to the lower edge, and it was secured to the belt by means of thongs which were drawn through the rings.

Putting on the breastplate took some time.

In our passage, this breastplate is analogous to the soul inventory.

We put on the belt (PMA) first, then the breastplate (soul inventory).

We do not become mature believers overnight as it takes time to develop a soul structure and pressure and suffering accelerate the building.

The Roman soldiers did not wear any protection on their arms, being very offensive-minded, they liked to have their arms free.

The hauberk, which was a chain mail covering for the body and arms, came into use during the Middle Ages and indicated the defensive-mindedness of that period.

But the Romans/aggressive and wanted freedom to move.

The breastplate of righteousness gives you freedom for production and action. It is not the actual production, but rather, the FREEDOM to produce.

The Feet Fitted. “And with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace” (verse 15)

Of course, Paul, describing this spiritual warfare — the intensity of the angelic conflict — would eventually come to the feet.

The infantry moves into battle on foot.

Weapons may change, but warfare demands the presence of ground troops.

The success of the army depends upon the boots on the ground.

The Roman soldier wore a very heavy-soled leather sandal, with studded soles containing cleats to give the soldier firm footing known as a “caligula

The Greek tense of *fitted* indicates a constant series of learning certain types of biblical information so that when we arrive at any particular battlefield we are ready to use that information.

This is our preparation, this is our readiness: having our feet fitted with proper footwear by means of the readiness of the gospel of peace.

Every believer is commanded to put on these army shoes, meaning every believer is in full-time Christian service, which includes witnessing.

As we move through life, it is our responsibility to be on our feet and ready to meet situations which demand that we witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word for “readiness” (“etoimasia”) means full readiness.

If there is one thing the infantryman does, he marches somewhere, often many miles.

One of the worst things in the world would be to march miles and miles to the battlefield and then step into battle without shoes!

We must arrive with the ability to fight, ready to go into action, ready to use our weapons, we must be well organized.

Our full readiness is here said to be with “the gospel of peace.”

“The gospel” The Greek word is “euaggelion.” “Eu” means “good”; “aggelion” — “announcement.” “good news.”

We have some good news, but it cannot be communicated unless it is understood and EVERY BELIEVER must be ready at ALL TIMES to communicate this good news.

There was one thing about the Roman soldier with the caligulae on his feet: he was flexible to move!

How you communicate the information is going to depend upon your vocabulary, your personality, your ability to estimate a situation, and your relaxed mental attitude.

We must never get the idea, even when someone responds to our communication of the gospel, that there is only one way to do it.

There are many approaches, so stay flexible!

The Shield of Faith. Read:verse 16) in addition to does not mean that the next item is greater.

“Take up the shield of faith means to “pick up” — in this case, to pick up something lying on the ground, just as a Roman soldier would pick up his shield when he fell in for his formation and for action.

The shield (“thureos”) was a large shield carried by the Romans to protect the entire body.

“Faith” refers to the “Peace/Storm Technique.”

- (1) Acquire a knowledge of the promises of God
- (2) Appropriate these promises and provisions by faith
- (3) Reverse concentration
- (4) Form a biblical conclusion

There are 5 ways to fulfill the command to pick up the shield of faith:

- (1) By the daily function of PMA. You need your shield every day (Rom. 10:17).
- (2) By the exhale of the word claiming the promises (Heb. 4:1,3).
- (3) By the filling of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22).
- (4) By picking up the shield in combat (1 Pet. 1:7,8).
- (5) By occupation with Christ (1 Pet.1:8; Heb. 12:2).

“With which” (literally, “with which shield”) you can extinguish . . .”

“can” (“dunami”) is a word for ability or power; the future tense anticipates the battle and indicates that there is a training period before the use of the shield.

We begin by learning some promises and then we learn some doctrines; and that is the training period.

(flaming arrows of the evil one).” “missiles which have been set on fire.”

This type of fire arrow was a very ancient weapon the Persians used in their invasion of Greece in the days of Xerxes, and it is said to have existed long before then.

Herodotus, Thucydides and Livy all make mention of this weapon.

“Of the evil one” (“ho poneros”) is Satan.

Throughout the whole realm of the Christian life, there is the principle of claiming doctrine and promises, the principle of flexibility in handling difficulties and problems of all kinds, all of which makes the Peace in the Storm technique the basic precept, the shield that quenches the missiles which have been set on fire by “the evil one.”

God has made provision for your protection from these “flaming arrows” which Satan projects toward you from all sides and all directions.

The Helmet of Salvation, “Take the helmet/salv, and the sword/Spirit, which is the word of God” (verse 17).

The word “take” means “to receive,” and to receive gladly or to receive with happiness.

The helmet is something which is placed on the head for protection.

The human soul resides inside the head and it is the soul which is said to be saved at the point of salvation (Psa. 19:7; Mark 8:36; Heb. 10:39) so the Roman helmet is used to illustrate the principle/salv.

You are never in the plan of God until you have personally accepted Jesus Christ as Savior.

The helmet of salvation specifically refers to knowing the doctrines pertaining to salvation, and thus having the assurance of salvation and eternal security.

The Roman helmet or casque was by far the best in the ancient world and was the only one that was practically foolproof. 4parts:

- (1) An excellent liner made of skin.

This skin lining emphasizes the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The 1st reference to skin in connection with salvation is found in Gen 3:21, where the Lord made Adam and Eve coats of skin.

Since skin is obtained by the shedding of blood, this lining reminds us that when we are cleansed by the blood of Christ.

- (2) Generally, the helmet was made of bronze, strong and durable and able to withstand anything that hits it.

This emphasizes the permanence of the plan of God/salv.

- (3) The helmet of the Praetorian who was guarding Paul would have had a gold crest.

This emphasizes the unique Person of the Godhead who is our Savior Jesus Christ, the God-Man.

- (4) The chin strap gave the helmet stability in battle and kept it on.

This would refer to the principle of eternal security.

Once you have believed in Jesus Christ, you cannot lose your salvation (John 10:28).

The Sword of the Spirit.

Up to this point, the items of equipment are defensive in nature.

Now, attention turns to the only offensive equipment mentioned — “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Gr “machaira.”

This was a Roman invention and was probably one of the most unusual and ingenious inventions of ancient warfare.

Unlike the lengthy, two-handed broadsword, which was used by the Gauls and the barbarians, the machaira was only about 18” long; but it was sharp on both edges and had a sharp point.

It was a very maneuverable weapon, and all parts of it could be used.

Its outstanding advantage was that the soldier was never off balance while using it.

“Spirit” “pneuma.” refers to God/HS, the source of this sword, which is the “word of God.”

The word is “rhema,” “the saying, category or the concept.”

It is a word for bible doctrine and it is our offensive weapon.

We can see clearly that, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, our lives have meaning and purpose as we are personally involved in this great spiritual warfare.

It is also clear that God has graciously made every provision for the bel/ CA the Age of the intensification of spiritual combat.

There is no limitation to the things that can be understood; nothing is hidden; everything is to be comprehended!

He has made it possible for you to meet the challenge of the intensified spiritual warfare with stability, confidence and complete inner happiness.

It is by virtue of man’s faith that the angelic dispute is resolved when angels observe man’s positive response as he first receives salvation

through faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and then as he demonstrates the adequacy of God's provision through daily study and appropriation of the contents of God's Word.

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.
Amen (Eph. 3:20,21)*