

# *Who Will Be Left Standing?*

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- I. Our duty as a Christian is not to defeat the devil but to withstand his assaults.
  - A. God has instructed us and commanded us to be prepared for the assaults of the devil.
  - B. We are to PUT ON the whole armor of God, "...that ye may be able to stand..."
  - C. Defeating the devil is not part of our orders from the high command.
    1. First, because we are not able to defeat him.
    2. But we are well able, with God's help, to resist him and to withstand his attacks, his devices, and his lies.
  - D. To stand means to remain the same in regard to what is right and true.
    1. To stand means to be fixed, stationary, not to back up or give place to another who opposes.
    2. To stand means to remain steady and stable and not shaky, uncertain, or vacillating.
    3. It means to continue unchanged.
  - E. All the assaults of Satan are designed to change you, to change your mind, your concepts, your convictions, and your foundations.
  - F. The armor of God is described here to identify the very things that Satan targets when he is trying to move you from your foundation.
  - G. It is very easy to see that these are indeed the very things that the devil works on our minds to change our concepts and ideas about.
  
- II. The armor of God
  - A. Loins girt with truth.
    1. Truth is always the first target of Satan.
    2. We can observe from the world around us and the churches and the people who call themselves Christians that they are constantly changing what they believe to be true.
    3. Truth has become and pliable, evolving, subjective thing that we make up as we go, and to our own liking.
    4. He is a liar and a lie is his first and most effective weapon against our soul.
    5. He comes to us in our minds enticing us to question and doubt what we know to be true.
    6. If he can shake us here we are defeated and we will not stand.
  - B. The breastplate of righteousness.
    1. Righteousness is another thing that is always changing in the minds of people, and especially those who call themselves Christians.
    2. But true righteousness does not change any more than God changes.
    3. If something was right or wrong 50 years ago or 100 years ago then it is still wrong now.

4. Only the devil himself could convince people that morals change with the times.
  5. It is very obvious that most of those who identify as Christians do not have on the breastplate of righteousness or they would not be approving all this perversion and insanity that is going on right now.
  6. The breastplate protects the heart and lungs and without it we will not be left standing for long.
  7. People are very prone to changing their views on what is right and wrong when someone they love is involved in it.
  8. If you have on the breastplate of righteousness it simply means that you have learned from the Word of God what is right and what is not and you believe the Word of God and not the feelings of your heart.
- C. Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.
1. Barefooted we are pretty much lame and useless.
  2. We cannot run and we cannot carry anything.
  3. We are very prone to sit down or lie down if we are barefooted if we are any kind of rough ground.
  4. Again, it is obvious that someone, somewhere has hijacked the idea of being prepared to represent the Lord and his salvation to someone who is seeking.
  5. Instead of a holy life, a personal walk with God, a thorough understanding of the Scriptures, a heart full of love and compassion, and prayerful burden for the lost, and a faithful church member, we now have it reduced to a sales pitch for a vacuum cleaner.
  6. About all the preparation the average Baptist gets in church is emotional services and pressure to “win souls” as they call it.
  7. This leaves people shallow in doctrine and shaky on their foundation and they are prone to change everything and go to a charismatic church or the contemporary idol worshippers.
- D. Taking the shield of faith.
1. The shield is our first line of defense.
  2. The shield stops everything from touching your body.
  3. It takes the blows which would otherwise do you great harm or kill you.
  4. All the other pieces of armor are there for the fiery darts that get past the shield.
  5. If we simply trust God, which is what faith is, then nothing will touch our mind, our heart, and nothing will change what we believe about right and wrong and good and evil.
  6. When our shield is down we are much more vulnerable.
  7. Just like the truth, the devil works hard to get us to lay down the shield.
  8. Our shield of faith is down when we are thinking for ourselves and managing our lives and our business by leaning to our own understanding instead of acknowledging God in all our ways.
  9. Satan will orchestrate the circumstances so that all the evidence we can see looks as though God has abandoned us and that we are a fool to trust Him and wise to lean to our own devices.
- E. The helmet of salvation.
1. The devil works very hard to change what people think salvation really is.
  2. He has been very successful with this strategy and the great majority of religious people are deceived about what it means to be saved from sin.
- F. The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.
1. What has been changed more than the Word of God?
  2. How many people still believe the King James Bible is the Word of God?
  3. How sure are you about that matter?