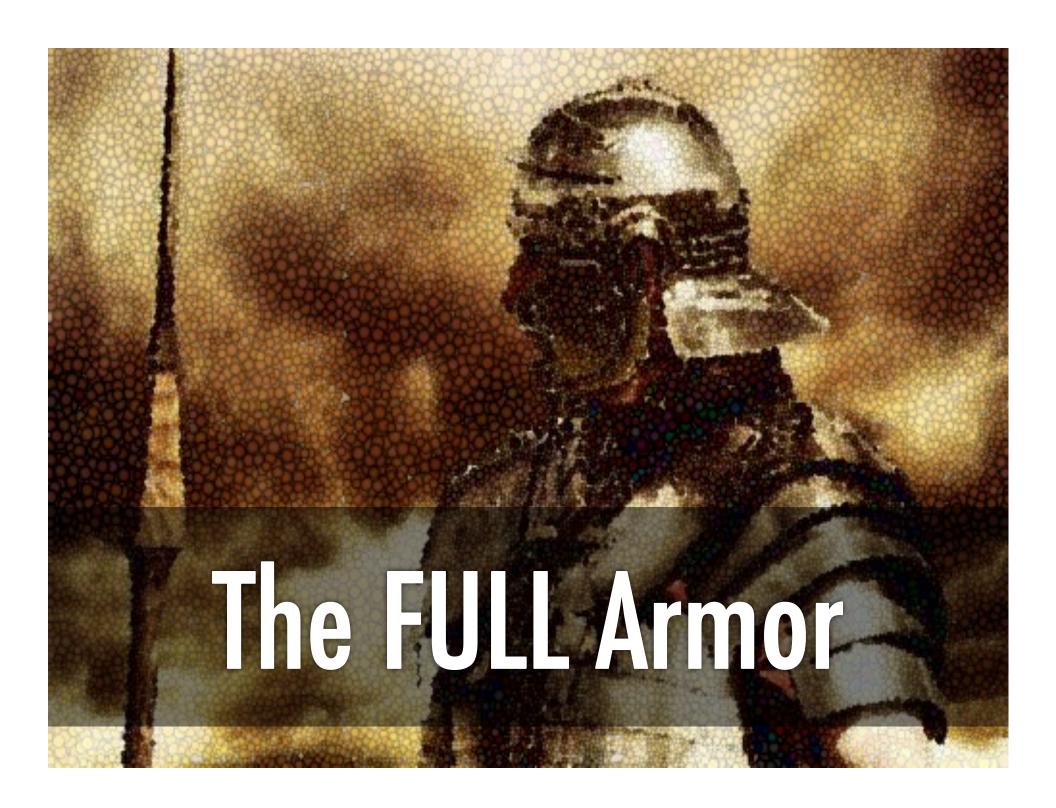


"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Ephesians 6:10-17

Spiritual Combat

- Our war is spiritual, which means we are wasting our time if we are *only* fighting the physical manifestations and practitioners of sin. If we are not changing hearts, then we are not really changing anything (1 Peter 3:3-4, Ephesians 6:12).
- Remember who our enemy is. Defeating people should not be our goal – rather, saving them from the real enemy is what we must desire (2 Timothy 2:24-26).
- Nobody gets to stay on the sidelines in this fight!



Truth And Righteousness

- Protecting ourselves with truth promotes stability in the rest of the soul. It is the lynchpin for the rest of our armor – any armor that depends on lies, ignorance, or handpicked prooftexting will not protect you for long!
- Righteousness serves as the standard on our chest, the first thing people see glistening in the sun. Is your righteousness this obvious? Or are you ashamed of the principles that you boldly proclaim around other Christians?

