



Ephesians 6:13-17

Message Video:

[2020 2.0 - #IStandUpForYou](#)

Hollywood uses stunt doubles to prevent stars from getting hurt.

- Except Jackie Chan who does all his own stunts.
- When it comes to navigating this life, we are Jackie Chan.

BUT God has prepared and armed us with the Full Armor of God, described in Ephesians 6.

Ephesians 6:13-17

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Paul a Roman Soldier’s armor to illustrate because it was highly recognizable.

Helmet of Salvation

- Salvation (being right with God) has a clear mental component.

- Being a Christian is more than emotional, it's volitional; a choice

Mark 12:30

"And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."

- When it comes to God, use your brain.
- Have a smart faith.
- Bring your intellect and questions.

Faith is doing all your research on God then taking the next logical step.

- We should KNOW that we are saved.
- A confidence that we are saved.

When you are uncertain, go to the Bible. It has the answers to all of life's questions.

1 John 5:11-13

"And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life."

- If you have a relationship with Jesus, you have life.
- You can be absolutely sure that you have been saved.
- If you know this for certain, you can have a God-fidence in life.

Often, when we come to Christ, we expect to feel something emotional, but nothing happens.

- It's not about feelings.
- The Bible is the Word of God, He makes promises in the Bible and He never breaks a promise.
- He promises if you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved in Romans 10:9

- The Bible is our contract with God. We make a choice and we are saved.

Ephesians 6:15 (NASB)

"...and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

Roman soldiers in combat would wear boots with cleats or spikes to give them stability on the muddy battlefield.

- The Gospel is spiritual stability.
- The Gospel helps us dig in deep when life gets muddy.

We have two shoes; there are two sides of the Gospel--good news and bad news.

- Bad news: For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (Romans 3:23) -- ALL
 - None of us are good enough to get to heaven. ALL are sinners.
 - The endgame of sin is death, physically and eternally
- Good News : Romans 5:8 -- While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- The bad news is there to put the good news in full perspective.

Shoes are designed to travel.

- It's not the Gospel of slippers. It's the Gospel of Roman battle boots.
 - Those Roman boots marched over the world.
- We are to take this Gospel of Peace and GO.
 - Are you prepared to share the Gospel of Truth?
 - Share 2020 2.0 Week 1 message with someone you are not sure is saved.
- We are commanded to share the Gospel.

The Breastplate of Righteousness to protect our hearts.

Two kinds of righteousness in the Bible.

1. Declared Righteousness

a. 2 Corinthians 5:21

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

b. God transferred His righteousness to us when Jesus was on the cross.

2. Experiential Righteousness

a. Live up to the way God sees me.

b. It's not legalism or self-righteousness.

c. It's humbly trying to align my life, choices, and relationships with God.

The more I walk with integrity, righteousness, and justice, the more protected I am.

- Righteousness and justice protect marriages, churches, and nations.

Nations that do not practice righteousness and justice decay and crumble.

- The Roman empire fell because it decayed from within due to lack of righteousness and justice.
- It was rampant with racism and slavery.
- Half the Roman population were slaves.

It's time for Americans to take a stand.

- We cannot afford the luxury of staying silent.
- The church of Jesus Christ cannot afford to stay in the comfort zone of quiet.

The early church was the first to practice unity and diversity.

- Many of the church members were slaves.
 - Slave and slave master, male and female, Jew and Gentile worshipped together.

Historically, the church has led at the forefront in moments like this.

- We are in the business of spiritual and cultural life change.

Black Americans were introduced to the love of Jesus through slave masters. But Black Americans are statistically more active in church and believe in Jesus than any other ethnicity in our country.

Until we really practice justice for ALL, there is no justice for anybody.

It all means nothing if you don't stand up for something.

Discussion Starters

Remember to pick and choose the questions that work best for your LifeGroup.

1. According to 1 John 5:11-13, how can we know for certain and sure we are saved?
2. How is the Bible a contract?
3. Share your salvation story.
4. Have you always been confident of your salvation? Why or why not?
5. How does the Gospel bring stability when life gets muddy?
6. Pastor David said there are two sides of the Gospel: bad news and good news. What are they? Explain how the bad news puts the good news into full perspective.
7. Who is someone you need to share last week's salvation message with?
8. What are the two different kinds of righteousness?
9. What are some ways we can practice experiential righteousness?
10. Why did the Roman Empire fall?
11. What are some areas of our lives that righteousness protects?
12. Who was the first to practice unity and diversity? How can we do the same today?
13. Who is someone you need to stand up for?