

**Radical Protection - PART 3**  
**Putting on Defensive Weapons**  
**Dr. Derek Morris**

Preaching passage: Ephesians 6:14-17a  
Subject: Why we should put on the defensive weapons of the armor of God  
Complement: that we may be able to stand against the strategies of the devil.  
Exegetical idea: We should put on the defensive weapons of the armor of God that we might be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  
Preaching idea: **Jesus, your Savior and Lord, is also your Protector and your Deliverer.**  
Purpose: To challenge my hearers to surrender completely to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, and to accept His protection.

When was the last time that you felt the need for radical protection? After Part 2 of this series, a man came up to me and told me that he was under intense spiritual attack at work. You can come under attack at any time, in a variety of settings. We are all contending the cosmic forces in opposition to God.

I remember the morning of Monday, October 29, 1997. Shortly after 2:00 AM, my wife and I were jarred from our sleep by the phone ringing in our bedroom. “Hello!” I tried to pretend that I was awake. It was Robert Quitanna. Apparently, one of the students in the boys’ dorm, a young man named Michael, was under attack. He had sliced his arm with razor blade from his elbow to his wrist and he seemed to be in great distress.

I encouraged Robert to notify the boys’ dean and the chaplain. Before leaving my house, I paused to pray with my wife, choosing the radical protection that God alone can provide. When I walked into the boys’ dorm, a dean was there to meet me. He escorted me to a stairwell where a group of young men had gathered to pray. We joined together, praying for the distressed student, Michael, and also for ourselves. After a few minutes of prayer, I walked into

Michael's room with one of my students by my side. Michael was sitting on his couch, slumped over, with blood on his arm. The atmosphere was heavy, dark. I reached out my hand and touched his shoulder. He spoke almost immediately in a low monotone voice: "Don't touch me." The darkness in his voice reminded me that we needed radical protection.

So far in our series on Radical Protection we have discovered that we are all in the midst of an intense cosmic battle between good and evil. We are involved in close quarters hand-to-hand combat with cosmic forces opposed to God. We have also learned that God wants to protect us but we must choose the protection that He alone can provide. We need to put on, to take up the whole armor of God.

Today, in Part 3 of this series on Radical Protection, we will examine the defensive weapons of that whole armor of God in greater detail and then in Part 4 of this series we will examine a most important part of the armor of God—the sword of the Spirit. I invite you to take your scroll and read with me from Ephesians 6:14-17a. "....."

Let's examine these defensive weapons more closely.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth. Some say that this belt of truth with which we must gird ourselves is our truthfulness, but I would respectfully disagree. Jesus said, "I am the Truth." It is His Truth, His Truthfulness that surrounds us. When we are girded with His truth, we will walk in the truth. Truthfulness will be manifested in our lives. But it is His truth that protects us. The Psalmist declared, "Do not withhold your tender mercies from me, O Lord; let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me" (Psalm 40:11). (May Your love and Your truth always protect me - NIV)

Having put on the breastplate of righteousness. I've also read that it is our righteousness

that protects us—our right doing that protects us from evil, but the Word of God says that He is “the LORD our righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6), and that God made Jesus who knew no sin to be sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21). Again, the psalmist declared, “In You, O Lord, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness” (Psalm 31:1).

“Having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.” We are called to put on this armor of God because we have a mission. What is our mission? Not just to survive the battle, but to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. It is certainly not our Gospel that we bring, but His Gospel, and He is the Prince of Peace. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you...Let not your heart be troubled neither let is be afraid (John 14:27).

“Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” Is this shield of faith our faith? Doesn’t the Word of God tell us “this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (1 John 5:4)? Yes, but the next verse tells us “Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:5) It is through the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed—this shield of faith can extinguish how many of the fiery darts of the wicked one?—because His compassions fail not, they are new every morning, great is YOUR faithfulness. The LORD is my portion says my soul, therefore I hope in Him. (Lamentations 3:22-24)

“And take the helmet of salvation.” We know that this is not our own work. For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.” John

the Baptist boldly proclaimed the words of the prophet Isaiah: “all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:6) That salvation has come to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Paul declares, “Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles and they will hear it!” And I pray that you would not only hear the salvation of God, but receive the salvation of God and be covered by the salvation of God.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:8, Paul encourages believers to put on “as a helmet the hope of salvation.” This does not contradict Paul’s teaching to the Ephesians. For the Christian, hope is not just wishful thinking. Our hope is sure because our hope is found in Jesus. He is our Hope. (1 Timothy 1:1)

There is a danger in examining each component of the armor that we might come to the faulty conclusion that we can choose to select one piece of the whole armor of God. For example, a person might say, “I really need the helmet of salvation but I don’t want to gird myself with the belt of truth. But that is not an option. This is the panoply, the whole armor, of God, and we either clothe ourselves with the whole armor or nothing at all.

Did you notice that this whole armor of God is all about Jesus? That is why in Romans 13:12 when the apostle Paul exhorts us to put on the panoplia of light, he also says in v.14, “Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ.” That is exactly the same verb found in Ephesians 6:11. Paul exhorts us in Ephesians 6:11 to Clothe yourself with the panoply of God, whole armor of God. And in Romans 13:14 he exhorts us to Clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ. Clothing yourself with the whole armor of God involves a total surrender to the Lordship of Christ, a total dependence on the Lord Jesus Christ, a total resting in the Lord Jesus Christ. And when you do that, you are covered with a panoply of light which protects you against the

kingdom of darkness.

James, the brother of our Lord, reaffirmed that our radical protection from evil is found in the context of a relationship with God. Listen to his inspired testimony, recorded in James 4:7-8: “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” That sounds like the admonition of the apostle Paul to stand firm. Don’t run in fear. Don’t yield ground. Stand firm. Resist. But then notice the next verse. James 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” At the beginning of James 4:7 we read, “Therefore submit to God.” Radical protection comes through a complete surrender to God, a complete surrender to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

When I walked into Michael’s dorm room, with my student Andrew by my side, we had made a choice to receive the protection that God alone can provide. We had made a choice to draw near to God, to be totally surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ, totally dependent in the Lord Jesus Christ. Radical Protection is not found apart from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you remember what Michael said to me when I laid my hand on his shoulder? “Don’t touch me.” I found out later why he said that. I removed my hand and squatted by his side as he sat slumped over on a couch, blood all over his arm. He looked restless, troubled. He spoke again in a low monotone voice: “You make me feel uncomfortable.” I found out later why he said that too. I asked him if he wanted me to leave. No response. I said, “Michael, we want you to know that we care about you and we want you to have peace.” “That’s not possible,” he replied. “Everything is possible to those who have faith,” I said. “Faith in what?” was his reply. “Faith in Jesus. Everything is possible to those who have faith in Jesus Christ.” He remained silent.

At that moment a word of Scripture flashed into my mind. It was taken from the story of

the healing of the blind man Bartimaeus. Jesus said to blind Bartimaeus, “What do you want me to do for you?” So I asked Michael, “Michael, what do you want God to do for you?” He thought for a moment. “Help me to forget.” Here was the open door. He was willing for God to work, to bring healing to his mind. “Help me to forget.” I thought to myself, “God can do that. Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

As Andrew and I knelt down to pray, Michael slip off the couch and onto the floor. He curled up in a ball. He was groaning. We prayed a blessing over his life in Jesus’ name and asked that God would help him to forget. Finally Michael seemed to be at peace. He looked up at me and said, “Can I have a hug?” I was a little hesitant. I took his hand and he grasped my hand. “You would like a hug?” I asked. He nodded. “I just felt so alone.” As I reached down and hugged Michael, he whispered in my ear, “Will he come back?” “Will who come back, Michael?” “The dark man. Will the dark man come back?” “No,” I said. “The dark man will not come back. We will pray right now that God will send the dark man wherever God wants him to go and ask that the dark man will never be able to trouble you again.”

After we prayed, I asked Michael, who seemed totally relaxed and peaceful, “How long has the dark man been troubling you?” “Since I was 6 years old,” he replied. When he was 6 years old, his father had committed adultery and abandoned his mother and abandoned him. That father who should have been praying protection for his family opened a door to the enemy and the dark man seized his son and harassed him for 15 years. But now Michael was free by the power of Jesus’ name. Hallelujah.

I met with Michael a few days after this night meeting and he shared several things with me that I will never forget. Michael shared with me that after he had been set free by the power

of Jesus' name, the dark man showed up at his girlfriend's apartment. I'm telling you, my friends, the battle is real. We are involved in close quarters hand-to-hand combat with principalities and powers, world rulers of the darkness of this age and spiritual forces of wickedness in super-terrestrial realms. That is why we all need the protection that God alone can provide. And we need to ask God to provide that protection for our loved ones too. I am convinced that unless they willfully reject that protection, it will be given to them because we have asked in Jesus' name.

There is something else that Michael shared with me with I met with him a few days after our night meeting. Do you remember what he said to me when I walked into the room and laid my hand on his shoulder? "Don't touch me." Then he said, "You make me feel uncomfortable." Well, Michael told me when I met with him several days later, "When you came into my room that night I wanted to hurt you. That's was sobering thought. He was a big, burly young man. "When you came into my room that night I wanted to hurt you, but I could not because you were clothed with fire. Andrew was also clothed with fire. There were others in the room who were not clothed with fire but I did not want to hurt them."

By the grace of God, we had chosen to receive the protection that God alone could provide. We were clothed with fire. I am here today, by the grace of God, to testify that the battle is real. We must all contend with cosmic forces opposed to God, but our strength, our victory is in the Lord. God wants to protect us, and we must choose the protection that God alone can provide. We must consciously, daily, clothe ourselves with the whole armor of God, which involves a complete surrender to Jesus not only as Savior but also as Lord.

I invite you to make that complete surrender to Jesus as Savior and Lord today and every

day and to put on the whole armor of God.

Someone might be saying, “But Derek, you don’t know all of the bad things that I’ve done in my life. I don’t deserve that kind of mercy from God.” You’re right. You don’t, and neither do I. Salvation and radical protection both come to the undeserving who are willing to receive God’s gifts with a humble and contrite heart.

I met a young lady this past weekend who knows that the cosmic battle is real. She had been one of my students at SAU. I still remember the day that she came into my office. According to her own testimony, she was dragged into my office by a friend. Some days earlier she had said to God, “I’m done with You, God.” She was tired of all of the guilt. She had been trying to live two lives and it wasn’t working. Not long after that, she was looking in a mirror and she said something very foolish: “Satan, I guess it’s just you and me now, so you might as well come in.”

When a friend “dragged her” to my office, I could sense the presence of evil. Anger oozed out of every pore of her body. I asked her, “Rebecca, can I pray with you?” “No!” “Can I pray for you?” “If you want to, but not in my presence.”

For the next month or so, she was totally out of control. In her own words, her life was “hell”. She felt the presence of overwhelming anger, overwhelming evil. Her room-mate was scared for her life and was making plans to move out. Finally Rebecca realized that she had a choice to make. She could either allow herself to be totally consumed by evil or she needed to cry out to God. I am so thankful to report that Rebecca chose Plan B. She cried out to God. This was her prayer: “God, I’m absolutely miserable. I have nothing to give You but I need Your help.” Actually, she was wrong. She did have something to give to God—herself. Her

broken, damaged self, just as she was. Rebecca cried out to God and He delivered her from all her fears, all the oppression, all of the harassment, all of the darkness. For the first time in a long while, Rebecca felt an inner calm. She experienced a peace that the world cannot give—a peace that the devil and all of his hosts cannot take away. Rebecca was covered with the panoply of God.

Rebecca has devoted her life to helping people find freedom from the chains that bind them. She would be the first to admit that she is still growing in her walk with God, a work in progress. Without the grace and mercy of God, she is totally lost. Without the protection that God alone can provide, she is totally defenseless against the enemy. But by the grace of God she is more than a conqueror through Him who loved her and gave Himself for her.

And we are also more than conquerors through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. We don't have to be terrorized by the enemy, and we certainly don't have to give up in despair and yield our lives to Satan. You can choose to completely surrender your life to Jesus as our Savior and Lord. You can choose to clothe yourself with the whole armor of God.

Remember: **Jesus, your Savior and Lord, is also your Protector and your Deliverer.**

Are you willing today to totally surrender your life to Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? Then I invite you to slip to your knees and make that commitment right now. For some of you, it may be for the very first time. For others, it may be a reaffirmation that you totally surrender your life to Jesus as your Savior and Lord. And while you're on your knees, if you haven't done so yet today, thank Him for covering you and your loved ones with the whole armor of God. Rejoice that **Jesus, your Savior and Lord, is also your Protector and your Deliverer.**

