

PRESENTABLE PEOPLE

Presentable People Possess Power for Gospel Peace

Cov Pres

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

10 June A.D. 2012

ONE: Ephesians 6:13-14 Presentable People

13 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. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

the full armor of God = armor God gives us

evil day...resist...stand firm = the goal is not to be knocked down/out, off course...

Stand firm therefore...having girded your loins with truth

What truth is on center stage in Ephesians? What does it mean to gird our loins for action with this truth?

and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

What is righteousness about in the Ephesians' letter?

1:3 every spiritual blessing; 1:4 chose us in him 1:5 predestined us to adoption

1:7-8 redeemed us/gave us forgiveness 1:11 obtained an inheritance, predestined acc. to purpose

1:13 sealed in Christ by the Holy Spirit 1:20-21 raised the dead Christ is seated at God's right hand

2:5-6 made alive together with Christ we are seated with him in the heavenlies

2:8-9 saved by grace through faith...so that no one may boast

What does it mean to be presentable before God?

Why do brides often take such care in getting dressed for the wedding service?

To whom do congregations desire that a pastor's sermon be presentable?

What might eating disorders, sexual addictions, work-a-holism have to do with presentability?

TWO: Ephesians 6:10-12 Possess Power

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 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*.

Be strong in the Lord...strength of his might...Put on the full armor of God = God's strength, armor he provides

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against rulers, powers (ESV=authorities), world forces of (ESV=cosmic powers over) this (present) darkness, spiritual forces of wickedness (ESV=of evil) in the heavenly places

Do you believe Jesus? He teaches we have an enemy who is strong, scheming, yet vulnerable

STRONG

SCHEMING

VULNERABLE

Wrong belief(s) can do us/you/others great harm.

THREE: Ephesians 6:15-20 For Gospel Peace

15 ...and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 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. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

and having shod your feet girded loins, shod feet & swords: *these (and the shields) put us on offense!*

the preparation of the gospel of peace

Colossians 4:2–6 2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving; 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. 5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, as *though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

THE VERBS ABOUT THE ARMOR ARE PLURAL:

Paul, Christ's apostle, is speaking to individuals only as part of the church which is to stand and proclaim peace!

In Warner Bros. "Band of Brothers" Disc 6, *Who's Who: The Men of Easy Company: Richard Winters*, a Lieutenant who is leaving the front (at the Battle of the Bulge), pulls Winters aside, saying ominously, ***Looks like you guys are going to be surrounded...***