

WAR OF THE WORLDS

Part 4: *Dress For Success*

Introduction – The Focus Of Our Fight

People are not our real _____.

Matthew 5:38-44; Romans 12:20

The Armour – Our Essential Uniform

#1) THE BELT OF _____

#2) THE BREASTPLATE OF _____.

Proverbs 4:23; Isaiah 58:8

#3) THE SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF _____.

2 Corinthians 11:6; 10:10

1 Corinthians 9:19-22

Our mission is to present the Christian faith clothed in _____ terms, not to propagate contemporary thought clothed in _____ terms.

The Armour – Our Defensive Weapons

#4) THE SHIELD OF _____.

#5) THE HELMET OF _____.

1 Thessalonians 5:8-9

1 John 5:13

The Armour – Our Offensive Weapon

#6) THE SWORD OF THE _____.

Hebrews 4:12

Conclusion – The Ultimate Fashion Tip

Romans 13:14

Above all, put on _____!!!

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

1. Take time to review Sunday's message and share one new thing you've learned.
2. Which piece of spiritual armor do you tend to go into battle without the most?
3. We learned that the "sword" we are to use is the short *gladius*, used for quick controlled focused thrusts. Many Christians use the Word of God more like a broadsword, making general sweeping attacks. Let's look at ways Christians take liberties with Scripture, especially in the area of spiritual warfare. Read **Matthew 16:19; 18:18**, two verses that mention binding and loosening. Christians often use these verses to pray "I bind you Satan" and "we release you Holy Spirit to move in our midst", etc..
 - a) In context, what are each of these references to binding and loosening referring to? Should we use this terminology when referring to Satan and/or the Holy Spirit?
 - b) What are some other ways you've seen Christians use the Bible in a sloppy fashion?
 - c) What more could you do to improve *your* sword fighting ability?
4. Read how Satan attacked Jesus and Christ's counter attack in **Matthew 4:1-11**. For each temptation answer...
 - a) What basic human desire or need is at the heart this temptation?
 - b) In what ways are you tempted in this area?
 - c) What is Christ's response and what can you learn from this for your own battle with Satan's attacks?
5. According to our key passage, **Ephesians 6:10-20**, prayer is obviously a (if not *the*) key component to our spiritual success (see **vv. 18-20**).
 - a) According to these verses, should we bother asking God for things, or simply thank and praise him when we pray? How could we err too far in either direction?
 - b) What clues in these last verses suggest that Paul considers prayer a powerful weapon?
 - c) How consistent are you at "**praying for all the saints**"?
6. Close by praying for each other in your area of greatest need according to question #2.