

## Theme: Alive in Christ

Background:

Author: Paul (from prison)

Readers: first to Ephesus, then circulated

Themes: Grace, reconciliation, love, unity, identity, purpose

Focus: Who you are in Christ, and how He's changing you.

Truths:

"The Christian life is not a playground; it's a battleground."

Believers are called to intentionally walk in God's provision for daily protection.

Review: 6th col verse

New verse: Ephesians 6:14-17

Passage: Ephesians 6:10-13

The Context:

Christians Live Different

We are in a battle.

Our battle is not against flesh and blood.

Our enemy is not to be underestimated.

The believer's preparation should be careful and intentional.

Title slide: the best offense

Video slide

Slide 1: vs14

"Stand"

Make a stand/take a stand

"You will stand for what is true, or you will fall for anything."

"Truth like a belt around your waist"

- The belt was the foundation of the armor.

- Truth is the foundation of the Christian defense.
- As believers our defense must be built on integrity.
- Without truth as an anchor, we are vulnerable to deceit and instability.

“Righteousness like armor on your chest”

- Upright living protects your heart and mind.
- We must choose what is right and stand against what is wrong.

Your decisions will either fortify your defense against the enemy, or it will leave you open for attack.

Slide 2: vs 15

“Feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace”

Roman soldiers wore sturdy studded sandals

- These sandals provided firm footing.
- Our strong footing comes from a peace with God.
- Ours is a mission of reconciliation, not division.

Slide 3: vs16

“Take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows”

Shields were often very large, covered in harden, leather, soaked in water

- Trust in God as our protection against Satan’s attacks

Satan’s attacks:

- Fear
- Doubt
- Guilt
- Temptation

The enemy’s attacks are intentional and destructive.

Slide 4: verse 17

“Take the helmet of salvation”

God’s armor is designed to protect our hearts and minds.

Satan’s attacks are targeting our hearts and minds.

Satan’s attack:

- Lies

- Hateful thoughts
- Evil desires
- Worry

Our thoughts and our intellect must be surrendered to God.

“The sword of the spirit”

Our only offensive weapon

- An unfamiliar weapon is a dangerous weapon.
- Jesus wielded the word accurately and effectively.

Take Aways:

Do your decisions fortify your defense against the enemy, or will they leave you open for attack?

Are you intentionally gearing up to defend against the enemy’s attacks?