

What kind of protective gear have you worn? How did you feel the first time you put it on? What did it take for you to get into the habit of using it? What happened when you neglected to use it properly?

It took months for me to get used to wearing my seatbelt. I remember thinking it was unnecessary. Eventually I came to trust it. Now it's second nature for me to put it on and cinch it up even when I'm moving the car a very short distance. I rather like the fact that I'm connecting myself to a 2,200 lb. piece of body armor.

Spiritual warfare calls for armor that God provides for those He loves. Think of Him as waiting for us to "buckle up" before we enter dangerous traffic.

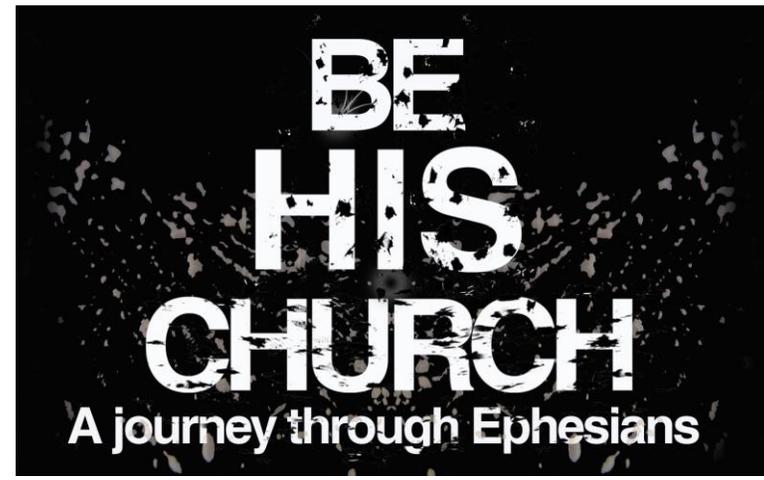
"...the breastplate of righteousness"

"...the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace"



Personal Application and Interaction

1. Go back to the questions in the opening paragraph of these notes. What kind of protective gear have you worn or “put on” that took some getting used to for you? What did you do to get used to wearing them? How does this analogy help you understand the importance of putting on the full armor of God?
2. God gives (or imputes) the righteousness of Christ to those who repent of their sins and turn to Jesus for salvation and restoration. How has His righteousness protected you in your “struggle...against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”?
3. How does your own spiritual or moral failure make you all the more vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy?
4. How does the gospel of peace prepare you for spiritual battle? How do you actually cooperate with God in this preparation process?



Standing Firm

Pastor John
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