

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22 – 26, 2009

THE LORD'S ARMY

Lesson One	The Lord Is My Captain	(Hebrews 2:9-10)	<i>Helmet of Salvation</i>
Lesson Two	The Devil Is My Enemy	(1 Peter 5:8-9)	<i>Shield of Faith</i>
Lesson Three	The Bible Is My Weapon	(Hebrews 4:12)	<i>Sword of the Spirit Prayer</i>
Lesson Four	The Church Is God's Army	(2 Timothy 2:1-4)	<i>Girdle of Truth Sandals of the Gospel</i>
Lesson Five	Heaven Is My Victory	(2 Timothy 4:6-8)	<i>Breastplate of Righteousness</i>

THE LORD'S ARMY

Series Introduction:

1. We are at war!
2. Until we accept this fact, we will never be able to make sense of the world that we live in and the events of our lives.
 - a. The Devil is real – and he is a vicious enemy.
 - b. Jesus is real – and He is a compassionate and courageous captain.
 - c. The world is the battlefield in a struggle between good and evil.
 - d. The heart of man is where this battle is either won or lost.
 - e. Every person, whether they know it or not, is involved in the battle.
3. In this war, there are only two sides – and everyone is on one side or the other.
 - a. There is the side of evil – the Devil's side.
 - i. Those who practice wickedness and sin are on this side.
 - ii. Those who support the wicked and sinful are on this side.
 - iii. Those who choose to remain neutral are on this side.
 - b. And, there is the side of good – the Lord's side.
4. To be on the Lord's side, one must join His army.
 - a. It is a volunteer army (Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 22:17).
 - b. It is a spiritual army (1 Thessalonians 5:8; 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:3-4; 4:7).
 - c. It wages a spiritual warfare – fights a spiritual battle (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).
5. This week, we will be studying about the Lord's army.
 - a. **Lesson One** will focus on the Captain of this army – Jesus – and why we should follow Him into battle.
 - b. **Lesson Two** will focus on the enemy of the Lord's army – Satan – and on how he fights against us and on how we can defeat him.
 - c. **Lesson Three** will focus on the weapon of the Lord's army – the Bible – and how we may use it to defeat the enemy and save others who have been captured by him.
 - d. **Lesson Four** will focus on the Lord's army – the church – and how each soldier has a battle to fight and is a vital part of God's fighting force.
 - e. **Lesson Five** will focus on the victory of the Lord's army – Heaven – and how we have assurance of both winning the battle and going to Heaven to be with God.
6. Also, each lesson will emphasize a different piece of the Christian Armor (Eph. 6:10-18).
 - a. The Helmet of Salvation – *the importance of being and staying saved from sin*
 - b. The Shield of Faith – *the importance of true faith as a defense against Satan*
 - c. Prayer – *the importance of prayer as both a defense and a weapon*
 - d. The Sword of the Spirit – *the importance of knowing and using the Word of God*
 - e. The Girdle of Truth – *the importance of the Gospel in strengthening God's soldier*
 - f. The Sandals of the Gospel – *the importance of the Word in providing solid footing*
 - g. The Breastplate of Righteousness – *the importance of right living in the soldier's life*
7. The goal of each lesson and this week's study is to enable each of us to prepare ourselves for battle, to “fight the good fight of faith” and to “lay hold on eternal life” (1 Tim. 6:12).

THE LORD'S ARMY

Lesson One: **The Lord Is My Captain**

Text: Hebrews 2:9-10

Primary Lesson: **Follow The Leader!**

1. The major emphasis of this lesson is the authority of Jesus.
2. Because He has proven Himself as man's greatest Captain, we should be willing to follow Him.
3. Because He is the Captain of His army (the church and the individual Christian), He has the right to make the rules.
4. Thus, the emphasis is on having Bible authority (a "thus saith the Lord") for everything that we do.

Secondary Lesson: **Obey Orders!**

1. Since Jesus is the Captain, His followers must submit to His authority.
2. Obedience to the Word of God is essential to be pleasing to the Captain and to be saved from sin.
3. Thus, a second emphasis is on being obedient to God's Word.

Christian Armor: **The Helmet of Salvation**

Ephesians 6:10-18 *vs. 17*

Supplementary Lessons: *For younger classes*

1. Jesus
 - a. His love shown in His miracles – *healing, feeding, etc.*
 - b. His love shown in His death...
 - c. His love shown in His law – the Gospel...
2. Obedience
 - a. Obeying God
 - b. Obeying the Bible
 - c. Obeying parents
3. Since the older classes will be studying Jesus and His role as Captain, an important aspect of His leadership that needs to be emphasized is His love.
 - a. Younger classes will learn that Jesus loves them.
 - b. They will also learn that His love is expressed in acts of kindness.
 - c. Yet, they will also learn that His love is expressed in commandments – much like a parent's love for a child.
4. Thus, being obedient to parents and to God is another lesson for younger children.

Key Stories:

1. The Conquering of Jericho (Joshua 5:13 – 6:21)
2. Jesus Is the Head of the Church (Matthew 16:16-18; Ephesians 1:22-23)

Introduction:

1. Any army going into battle must have strong, competent leadership.
 2. Because of His courage, example, and instructions, there is no greater leader than Jesus, the Captain of our salvation.
- I. Joshua Meets the Captain of the Lord's Army (Joshua 5:13 – 6:21)
- A. When the children of Israel came into the land of Canaan, they had many enemies to face.
 - B. However, God had promised that He would be with them and help them fight their battles (Deuteronomy 11:22-25; 20:1-4).
 - C. The first battle they would have to fight would be against the city of Jericho.
 - D. So, before this first major battle, the Captain of the Lord's army appeared to Joshua.
 1. He had his sword drawn – meaning that He was ready to go to battle for the children of Israel.
 2. He declared that He had appeared as the Captain of the host of Jehovah.
 3. He revealed Himself to be God (likely, the second person of the Godhead – the Word who would be born of a virgin and take upon Himself human flesh as Jesus) when he accepted the worship of Joshua.
 - a. He even told Joshua to remove his shoes for he was standing on holy ground.
 - b. This harkens back to Moses' experience at the burning bush (Exodus 3:5).
 - c. The ground was holy because of the presence of God in that place.
 4. Upon recognizing this man as the Captains of the Lord's army, Joshua asks the appropriate question, "What saith my Lord unto his servant?"
 - a. In other words, Joshua is ready to take orders from his commanding officer.
 - b. Joshua understood that it was not he (Joshua) who was the leader of Israel; rather, it was God who would guide them to victory.
 - E. When the Captain of the Lord's army appeared, He gave instructions that were to be obeyed in order to win victory in the battle for Jericho.
 1. First, He gave an encouraging promise that He had already given the victory over the city to the Israelites.
 - a. However, this did not mean that they had nothing to do to take the city.
 - b. In fact, they still had to obey the commands of the Lord in order to acquire the victory that God had promised.
 2. Then, He told the men of war to surround the city and march around it one time each day for six days.
 - a. As they marched, seven priests were to join the procession, each of them carrying a trumpet.
 - i. *An interesting side note is that these were the jubilee trumpets, sometimes translated as "cornet." (Lev. 25:9-10)*
 - ii. *Someone has written, "Instead of the dreadful trumpet of war, they were ordered to sound the trumpet of joy, as already conquerors."*
 - b. They were to march in front of the Ark of the Covenant.

3. Next, He commanded them to march around the city seven times on the seventh day.
 4. Finally, after they had done all of these things, the priests were to blow their horns and all the people were to shout.
 5. Only when they had done all these things in obedience to the Captain's instructions would the wall of the city fall down flat.
- F. The children of Israel obeyed the Captain exactly and won the victory over the city of Jericho.

II. Jesus Is the Captain of the Lord's Army

- A. Today, God's people have many enemies to face.
1. We face the enemies of temptation and sin.
 2. We face the enemies of error and false doctrine.
 3. We face the greatest enemy of all – Satan.
- B. However, God has promised to be with us and to help us fight our battles (Romans 8:31; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 13:5).
- C. To prove His love for us, God sent His Son to be our Captain – to lead us into battle and give us victory over sin and error.
1. Jesus came to set an example for us to follow.
 - a. He faced and overcame temptation (Hebrews 4:15-16).
 - b. He faced and overcame suffering (Hebrews 2:10, 18; 5:8-9).
 - c. He faced and overcame death (Hebrews 2:14-15; 2 Timothy 1:10).
 2. Jesus came to demonstrate the courage needed to defeat the enemy.
 - a. He did not back down from the fight when He was tempted by the devil in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).
 - b. He did not back down from the fight when He was in agony in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-44).
 - c. He did not back down from the fight when He was crucified at Calvary (Luke 23:33-47).
 3. Thus, Jesus proved Himself a worthy Captain who deserves our allegiance and obedience.
- D. He has given us instructions to follow so that we may win the battle against Satan.
1. Jesus has promised us victory over all enemies (Romans 8:35-39; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; 2 Corinthians 2:14; 1 John 4:4; 5:4).
 - a. However, this does not mean that we do not have to do anything.
 - b. Just like the Israelites still had to obey God to win the city of Jericho, so we must obey Christ to win the victory over Satan.
 2. He commands us to obey His plan of salvation.
 - a. We must hear His Gospel (Matthew 13:15-16; John 8:32).
 - b. We must believe in Him as the Son of God and Savior of the world (John 8:24; 3:16-18, 36).
 - c. We must repent of our sins (Luke 13:3, 5; 24:47).
 - d. We must confess our faith in Him (Matthew 10:32-33).
 - e. We must be baptized for the remission of our sins (Mark 16:15-16).
 3. Only when we follow the instructions of Jesus (the orders of our Captain) will our sins be forgiven.
- E. He also teaches us how to get back on the right path when we stumble and sin.

1. We must repent of our sins (Acts 8:22).
 2. We must confess our sins (1 John 1:7-9).
 3. We must pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:22-24; James 5:16).
- F. He has given commands to obey to win the battles that we face as Christians.
1. We are to put on the Christian armor as a defense (Ephesians 6:10-18).
 2. We are to study His word daily (Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15).
 3. We are to pray without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17; Luke 18:1; Col. 4:2).
 4. We are to mature and grow in faith and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18; Colossians 1:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Peter 2:2).
- G. Thus, Jesus as Captain of the Lord's army is the Head of the church.
1. He purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28).
 2. He built the church and He is the foundation of it (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:11).
 3. Thus, He makes the rules for the church.
 4. He commands us to assemble to worship God (Hebrews 10:23-25).
 - a. We must do this as He commands (John 4:24).
 - b. We assemble on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
 - c. We worship by singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).
 - i. This is the only kind of music authorized by Christ to be used in worship to God.
 - ii. To add another kind of music would be to disobey the orders of our Captain.
 - d. We worship by praying (Acts 2:42; 4:24-32).
 - e. We worship by giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
 - f. We worship by preaching/teaching (Acts 20:7).
 - g. We worship by partaking of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-29).
 - h. These are the Captain's orders for our worship – so, we must not alter them in any way.
 5. He informs us how the church is to be organized.
 - a. There is no other head but Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23).
 - b. Each congregation is overseen by a plurality of elders (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).
 - c. Each congregation is served by deacons (Philippians 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8ff)
 6. He instructs us in the work of the church.
 - a. Benevolence (James 1:27)
 - b. Evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20)
 - c. Edification (Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:11-12)
- H. Because Jesus is the Head of the church – the Captain of the army – we must submit to His authority.
1. We must have His authority (scripture) for everything that we do.
 2. We must obey His Word, whatever it commands.
 3. We must follow Him, wherever He leads.
- III. The Helmet of Salvation Is a Gift from the Captain of the Lord's Army
- A. When we obey the orders of the Captain (the Gospel of Christ), we receive the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:37-38).
 - B. This salvation is a gift from God that we receive through submission and obedience (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 5:9).

- C. Being saved from sin helps to protect us from the attacks of Satan.
 - 1. This is why part of the Christian Armor is the **helmet of salvation**.
 - 2. We wear a helmet to protect our head.
 - 3. The helmet of salvation protects our minds.
 - 4. It is able to remove all doubt!
- D. Salvation is proof of God's love for us.
 - 1. When the devil tries to tell us we are not good enough, the helmet of salvation says that God loves us.
 - 2. When Satan says that we are unlovable, the helmet of salvation says that Jesus died for us.
 - 3. When our enemies persecute us and threaten our lives, the helmet of salvation says that God cares for us.
- E. No soldier would go into battle without wearing protection for his head.
- F. No Christian should attempt to stand against the enemy without protecting his mind.

Conclusion:

- 1. Are you wearing the helmet of salvation?
 - a. Have you been saved by obeying the Gospel?
 - b. Have you lost your salvation through sin?
- 2. Are you following the Captain as a dutiful soldier in the Lord's army?

THE LORD'S ARMY

Lesson Two: **The Devil Is My Enemy**

Text: 1 Peter 5:8-9

Primary Lesson: **Know Your Enemy!**

1. Since we are engaged in a fight for our souls, we must learn everything we can about our enemy.
2. By learning about who Satan is and how he attacks, we can prepare ourselves for the fight and win the victory.
3. Thankfully, the Bible gives us a clear picture of our enemy and his tactics.
4. He is as vicious and dangerous as a lion; yet, he roars loudly enough for us to know when he is near.
5. Let us study our enemy and defend ourselves against his attacks.

Secondary Lesson: **The Best Defense Is A Good Offense!**

1. The best way to defend ourselves against the devil is to be vigilant against him.
2. We must take the initiative to learn all we can about him.
3. We must take the initiative to guard ourselves against him.
4. We must take the initiative in reading and studying the Bible.
5. We must make the first move in doing good so that we will not practice evil.
6. Let us defend ourselves against Satan by fortifying our faith now!

Christian Armor: **The Shield of Faith**

Ephesians 6:10-18 *vs. 16*

Supplementary Lessons: *For younger classes*

1. The Devil
2. Nothing to fear with God
 - a. God loves His children.
 - b. God protects His children.
 - c. God provides for His children.

Key Stories:

1. Satan Attacks Job (Job 1-2)
2. Satan Attacks Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)
3. Satan Attacks the Church (Revelation 12)

Introduction:

1. The Bible describes the devil in terms that illustrate his nature as the enemy of God and of God's people.
2. It also details how he attacks those who strive to be faithful servants of God.
3. Satan is a cruel and ruthless enemy.
4. However, the Bible teaches us how to defend ourselves against him.

I. Satan Attacks Job (Job 1-2)

- A. Job was a man who was faithful to God in every aspect of his life (1:1-5).
- B. Because of his faithfulness to God, Satan wanted to harm him (1:6-12).
- C. When the devil attacked Job, he held nothing back (1:13-22; 2:7).
 1. He killed all of Job's oxen and donkeys along with the servants who cared from the, save one (1:14-15).
 2. He killed all of Job's sheep along with the servants who cared for them, save one (1:16).
 3. He allowed all of Job's camels to be stolen and the servants who cared for them were all killed, save one (1:17).
 4. He caused a storm to kill all ten of Job's children (1:18-19).
 5. Finally, he took away Job's own health (2:7).
- D. Consider the descriptions of the devil in Scripture with his actions toward Job.
 1. **SATAN** – this word means “adversary” or “enemy.”
 - a. It refers to one who withstands, stands against or opposes another.
 - b. Clearly, Satan was the enemy of Job – and a ruthless one.
 2. **DEVIL** – this word means “slanderer” or “false accuser.”
 - a. It refers to a person who tells lies about another to cause harm to that person, his character or his relationships.
 - b. The Devil is pictured as a slanderer in the story of Job.
 - i. Not only did he lie about Job (1:11), but the devil also lied about God (1:9-10).
 - ii. He accused Job of only serving God so he could be blessed (or, get something from God).
 - iii. He also accused God of having to bribe man to worship and serve Him.
 - c. The Devil is still lying about God and about man today.
 3. **TEMPTER** – this word means “one who tries or tests another, one who entices another to sin.” (Cf. Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5)
 - a. Satan will use any means available to him to try to get man to sin.
 - b. In Job's case, the devil destroyed nearly everything that Job had – including his health – to try to get him to turn against God.
 4. **THE WICKED ONE** – this description shows the devil to be “evil or bad.” (Cf. Matthew 13:19, 38; 1 John 2:13-14; 3:12; 5:18)
 - a. Satan can be called the “wicked one” because no one else even comes close to his measure of evilness.
 - b. Clearly, the devil displayed his wickedness in his attack on Job.
 5. **BEELZEBUB** – this word actually means, “lord of flies” or “lord of filth.” (Cf. Matthew 10:25; 12:24, 27; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15-19)

- a. This is an altered form of Baalzebub who was a false god of the Canaanites [Baal] (2 Kings 1:1-16).
 - b. It indicates Satan's association with that which is false, dirty, filthy and disgusting.
 - c. Again, think of Job's sickness and his sitting down "among the ashes" (in the garbage dump) as a picture of where Satan is and where he wants all men to be.
6. **BELIAL** – this word indicates one who is "reckless, lawless, vain or good for nothing." (Cf. 1 Samuel 25:25; 2 Corinthians 6:15)
- a. Obviously, the devil is lawless, for he always disobeys and breaks the laws of God.
 - b. This he did with Job when he sought to destroy him out of hatred rather than to help him out of love (cf. Matthew 7:12).
7. **LUCIFER** – this word means "brilliant or splendid" or "day star, brilliant star." (Cf. Isaiah 14:12)
- a. This name describes Satan before he fell and became the enemy of God and man.
 - b. In the story of Job, one easily can see how far Satan has fallen.
8. **THE GOD (PRINCE) OF THIS WORLD** – this phrase indicates Satan's power in influencing the world of men.
- a. The idea of the word "god" as it is applied to the devil is that he is the object of worship of those who reject the true God of Heaven. (Cf. 2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - i. Satan is not God, nor is he a god.
 - ii. But, when one rejects the one, true God, he gives his allegiance to Satan and, in essence, treats him as a god.
 - iii. This is seen most clearly in the practice of idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:19-21).
 - b. The word "prince" means "ruler;" thus, Satan is seen as the ruler of this world because men submit to his will when they sin. (Cf. John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
 - c. It is important to understand that Satan's power is limited to this world.
 - i. He is not God; therefore, he does not have infinite power.
 - ii. He can only operate where, when and how God allows.
 - iii. This is seen in the story of Job (1:12; 2:6).
 - d. The events in the life of Job demonstrate Satan's power in this world.
9. **THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR** – this phrase is descriptive of Satan's rule over demons and evil spirits and over those men who choose to follow him.
- a. Satan is the ruler over those who allow him to use them.
 - b. In the life of Job, his wife and his friends had become servants of Satan (Job 2:9-13; etc.).
10. **THE SERPENT** – this word highlights Satan's deceptiveness, deceit, trickery and subtlety. (Cf. 2 Corinthians 11:3; Revelation 12:9; 20:2)
- a. When we are first introduced to Satan, it is in the form of a serpent in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-6).

- b. Here, he deceived Eve into partaking of the forbidden fruit.
- c. In Job's life, Satan tried to deceive him into thinking that God was the cause of all his suffering (cf. Job 1:16; 2:9).

- 11. **THE DRAGON** – this word illustrates the destructive power of the devil. (Cf. Revelation 12; 20:2)
 - 12. **ABADDON / APPOLYON** – these words both mean “the destroyer,” and are used of Satan's destructive power in Revelation 9:11.
 - 13. **THE ENEMY** – Matthew 13:25-39; Luke 10:19
 - 14. **MURDERER** – John 8:44; cf. Romans 5:12; Isaiah 59:1-2
 - 15. **LIAR** – John 8:44
 - 16. **ACCUSER** – Revelation 12:10
 - 17. **ONE WHO HAS POWER OVER DEATH** – Hebrews 2:14
- E. From these descriptive names of Satan and their manifestation in the life of Job, we learn that the devil is a ruthless enemy of man.
- 1. We learn that the devil is real.
 - 2. We learn that the devil is restricted in his power.
 - 3. We learn that the devil is relentless in his desire to destroy.
 - 4. We learn that the devil is ruthless in his attacks on man.
 - 5. We learn that the devil is without respect for God or man.
- F. Just as he attacked God's faithful servant Job, we can be sure that he is still on the hunt to attack God's servants today.

II. Satan Attacks Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

- A. Satan was not afraid to attack God's faithful servant Job.
- B. He demonstrated that his hatred of the righteous knew no bounds when he attacked God's faithful Son, Jesus the Christ.
- C. The same cruelty he used in attacking Job was present in his attack of Jesus.
- D. Thankfully, Jesus resisted the devil and provided an example for all of how to defeat Satan.
- E. We will study this account more closely in our next lesson.

III. Satan Attacks the Church (Revelation 12)

- A. The book of Revelation pictures Satan as a great dragon who desired to destroy the Lord's church.
 - 1. In verse 6, the church is pictured as a woman who is forced to flee into the wilderness because of the threat of the dragon.
 - 2. In verse 13, the woman is pictured as being persecuted by the dragon.
 - 3. In verse 17, we are told that the dragon will continue to make war against the church.
- B. There are several methods used by the devil to attack the church.
- C. These are described in relation to the seven churches of Asia in chapters 2 and 3.
 - 1. 2:1-7 – The church at Ephesus was attacked through false doctrine.
 - 2. 2:8-11 – The church at Smyrna was attacked with severe persecution (poverty, tribulation, imprisonment and death).
 - 3. 2:12-17 – The church at Pergamos was attacked by error and martyrdom.
 - 4. 2:18-29 – The church at Thyatira was attacked through temptation to sin and commit immorality.

5. 3:1-6 – The church at Sardis was attacked by complacency and apathy.
 6. 3:7-13 – The church at Philadelphia was attacked with error and false teachers.
 7. 3:14-22 – The church at Laodicea was attacked through a spirit of lukewarmness, arrogance and rebellion.
- D. Satan still attacks the church today in the same ways.
1. Christians are persecuted.
 - a. By ridicule...
 - b. By being ostracized...
 - c. By abuse, violence, imprisonment, etc.
 2. False teaching abounds.
 3. Temptation is abundant in each Christian's personal life.
 4. The devil wants us to give up and stop fighting for what is right.
- E. The devil will do anything within his power to see that the church fails in her mission of saving the world.

IV. The Shield of Faith (Ephesians 6:16)

- A. Thankfully, God has given us a means to defend ourselves against the devil.
- B. First, He has warned us about the nature of our enemy (1 Peter 5:8-9).
- C. Second, He has informed us about how the devil will attack.
- D. Third, He has given us the shield of faith to protect ourselves.
 1. This shield will allow us to extinguish all of the flaming arrows that the devil hurls at us.
 2. The word for shield refers to a large, door-shaped shield that one can hide their entire body behind.
 3. Our shield is made of faith – true, biblical faith (Hebrews 11:6).
 4. This faith believes in God and in His inspired Word.
 5. Yet, this faith also trusts God that He will be faithful and true to His Word.
 6. But, this faith also obeys God – does whatever He commands in His Word.
 7. With this kind of faith serving as our shield, we can defeat any attack that Satan may unleash upon us.
- E. What a strong defense our faith is!
 1. When Satan tries to get us to doubt God, our faith reminds us that God is loving, gracious and true.
 2. When Satan tells us that sin is harmless fun, our faith reminds us that sin is destructive and deadly.
 3. When Satan tells us to give in to avoid persecution, our faith reminds us that God is on our side and Heaven is our reward.
- F. Are you defending yourself with the shield of faith?

Conclusion:

1. The devil is a relentless and ruthless enemy.
2. However, he can be defeated.
3. We must put our faith in God and obey His Word to be assured of triumph over our enemy.
4. The Lord's army must fight against the enemy of God.

THE LORD'S ARMY

Lesson Three: **The Bible Is My Weapon**

Text: Hebrews 4:12

Primary Lesson: **Know Your Weapon!**

1. In any kind of conflict or fight, one must be trained in the use of a weapon.
2. If we want to defeat our enemy – Satan – we must engage in the fight and use the appropriate weapon.
3. Since our weapon is the Bible, we must spend time training ourselves in the use of the Word of God.
4. This means we must study!

Secondary Lesson: **Handle Your Weapon with Care!**

1. Any weapon may be used for good or evil.
2. It may be used in a right way or in a wrong way.
3. This also is true with the Word of God – it can be used or misused.
4. Thus, we must always be careful to “handle aright” [ASV] (“rightly divide” [KJV]) the Scripture (2 Timothy 2:15).

Christian Armor: **The Sword of the Spirit**

Ephesians 6:10-18 *vs. 17*

Supplementary Lessons: *For younger classes*

1. The Bible
 - a. The importance of caring for the Bible...
 - b. The importance of reading the Bible...
 - c. The importance of studying the Bible...
2. What the Bible teaches...

Key Stories:

1. David fights Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-54)
2. Jesus fights Satan (Matthew 4:1-11)

Introduction:

1. While we are given many things as armor to defend ourselves against the attacks of the devil, the child of God has only one weapon.
 2. That weapon is the Word of God.
 3. Some might think that we need a different weapon to defeat such an enemy as Satan.
 4. However, the Bible is the only perfect weapon to use to attack the devil.
 5. Something that might seem inadequate or useless has great power when it is used by God.
- I. David Defeated a Giant with a Sling and a Stone
- A. David was sent by his father to the battlefield to check on his brothers.
 - B. Upon arriving and seeing the armies arrayed for battle, David ran to his brothers.
 - C. At this time, one of the Philistines named Goliath came forward and spoke against the army of Israel.
 1. Goliath was a giant, about 9 ½ feet tall (six cubits and a span).
 2. He wore a helmet of brass, a coat of mail that weighed over 150 pounds, and brass protection for his legs.
 3. He carried a brass spear, the head of which weighed almost 20 pounds.
 4. He also had some big words for Israel, saying that he could defeat anyone in the army of Israel in a one-on-one fight.
 5. Because of his size, his armor, his weapons, and his words, the army of Israel ran away from the presence of Goliath.
 - D. When David heard Goliath's words, he became upset that anyone would speak with such disrespect against the people of God.
 - E. So, David volunteered to go out and fight the giant, Goliath.
 - F. Keep in mind the odds that were stacked against David.
 1. First, Goliath was taller, bigger and stronger than David was.
 2. Also, David was still a youth whereas Goliath was a man experienced in fighting and in war (vs. 33).
 3. Goliath was heavily armored and armed while David wore no armor and carried only a staff, a sling and five stones.
 4. From a human standpoint, it seemed obvious who would win this fight.
 - G. However, David had something on his side that Goliath did not have – the LORD of hosts.
 1. Read closely verses 45-47.
 2. David was not afraid of the size or of the weapons of his enemy.
 - a. He came to battle in the name of the LORD of hosts.
 - b. Thus, he trusted that God would give him the victory.
 3. David was not discouraged by the seeming inadequacy of his weapon – a sling.
 - a. Again, his confidence was in God, not in himself.
 - b. He knew that it did not matter that it seemed impossible for a sling to stop a giant like Goliath.
 - c. He said, "The LORD will deliver thee into my hand."
 4. Verse 47 is the key – "The LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's."
 - H. "So, David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone" (vs. 50).

II. Jesus Defeated Satan with the Word of God

- A. David faced a formidable opponent in the giant, Goliath.
- B. However, with God's help he was able to defeat his enemy with a weapon that seemed insignificant.
- C. However, as great as David's challenge was, Jesus faced a greater enemy – Satan.
- D. Satan is a ruthless, cruel, evil enemy.
 - 1. He attacked Jesus in the worst place – the wilderness, where He was separated from anyone who could have helped or encouraged Him.
 - 2. He attacked Jesus at the worst time – after He had fasted for 40 days and nights and was facing physical suffering.
 - 3. He attacked Jesus in the worst area first – His hunger, by tempting Him to turn stones into bread.
 - 4. He attacked Jesus with the worst deception – twisting Scripture to try to deceive the Son of God.
 - 5. He attacked Jesus with the worst allure – offering Him the kingdoms of the world which He had come to save.
 - 6. He attacked Jesus in the worst setting – just after His baptism and as He was beginning His public ministry.
- E. Yet, Jesus was able to defeat the devil at every temptation.
- F. The weapon He used to win a victory over Satan was the Word of God.
 - 1. Each time Jesus was tempted, He answered the devil by quoting Scripture.
 - 2. Each time, Jesus said, "It is written."
 - 3. Thus, the devil could not deceive or confound Jesus.
- G. As a result, the devil left Jesus and angels came and served Him.
- H. It is important to emphasize that the Word of God is the only weapon needed to defeat the devil.
 - 1. The battle is not a physical one, but a spiritual one.
 - 2. Thus, one does not need swords or guns.
 - 3. Instead, we need a weapon that will wound our enemy because he has no defense against it.
 - 4. That weapon is the Bible.
 - 5. Though many may think it is not an adequate weapon, we should remember the story of David and Goliath.
 - 6. God delivered David by a sling and a stone.
 - 7. God delivered Jesus by the power of His Word.

III. The Christian fights with the Sword of the Spirit

- A. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.
 - 1. The Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; John 16:13; 2 Timothy 3:14-16).
 - 2. Thus, when one uses the weapon of Scripture, he is using the sword of the Spirit.
- B. The Bible is Truth (John 17:17; Psalm 19:7; 119:151).
 - 1. Thus, it can answer every lie of the devil.
 - 2. It will answer every false doctrine of man.
 - 3. It will deal a fatal blow to Satan for he is a liar and there is no truth in him (John 8:44).

- C. The Bible is all-sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3).
- D. The Bible is living and active (Hebrews 4:12; Romans 1:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:23).
- E. Such a powerful weapon must be handled correctly.
 - 1. The devil deliberately mishandled the Word when he tempted Jesus.
 - 2. Others deliberately mishandle it in order to deceive their fellow man.
 - 3. Some mishandle it by mistake or in ignorance.
 - 4. Whatever the reason or the motivation, the result is always the same – sin, which causes separation from God.
 - 5. If we want to win our fight against Satan, we must become skilled in using the Scripture (Hebrews 5:12-14).
- F. Thus, we must spend much time studying the Word of God.

Conclusion:

- 1. Our enemy is powerful and cruel.
- 2. But, we have a weapon that can defeat him and ensure us of a victory over sin and Satan.
- 3. That weapon is the Spirit-inspired Word of God.
- 4. Yet, in order to use it properly to defend ourselves and attack our enemy, we must study it carefully and exercise ourselves in using it.

THE LORD'S ARMY

Lesson Four: **The Church Is God's Army**

Text: Hebrews 4:12

Primary Lesson: **The Few, The Proud, The Christians!**

1. The Lord's church is an army – a fighting force that stands against the devil and his servants.
2. It is a volunteer army, made up of individuals from all walks of life.
3. Thus, there must be unity in the Lord's army.

Secondary Lesson: **Be Army Strong!**

1. Every army is made up of individual soldiers.
2. The Lord's army is made up of Christians.
3. Yet, each one has a work to do and a role to play.
4. In order for the army to succeed, each soldier must find his job and do his part.
5. Thus, there must be strength of conviction and character among the people of God.

Christian Armor: **The Girdle of Truth**
The Sandals of the Gospel

Ephesians 6:10-18 *vs. 14-15*

Supplementary Lessons: *For younger classes*

1. The Bible is the guidebook of the church.
2. The importance of the church...
 - a. As a family
 - b. As an assembly of worship
3. Our worship helps to unite us.
 - a. Singing
 - b. Prayer

Key Stories:

1. Gideon's Army of 300 (Judges 7)
2. The Church Is Scattered (Acts 8)

Introduction:

1. Those who submit to the authority of Jesus as their captain and obey the Gospel of Christ become members of the Lord's church (Acts 2:38, 42, 47).
2. Those who are members of the church of Christ recognize Satan as their enemy.
3. Those same members of the church use the Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God) to attack the enemies of the cross of Christ.
4. They also clothe themselves with the Christian armor to protect them in battle against the devil.
5. These people – the Lord's church – make up an army, a powerful fighting force for good and against evil.
6. They alone are promised salvation and victory over Satan, sin, death and hell (Ephesians 5:23).

I. Gideon's Army of 300

- A. As we think about the Lord's church as an army, it is important to remember that God is not dependent upon large numbers or human wisdom.
 1. We learned this lesson in our last study about the weapon of the Christian.
 2. David did not need a nuclear bomb to defeat Goliath; with God on his side, all he needed was a sling and a stone.
 3. Jesus did not need a supernatural machine gun to defeat Satan – all he needed was the Word of God.
- B. Thus, the story of Gideon's army illustrates an important principle about God's fighting force – with God on your side, you are in the majority.
- C. As Israel prepared to go to battle with the Midianites, God informed Gideon that his army was too large.
 1. In human thinking, we would assume that the larger the army the greater the chance for victory.
 2. But, God does not play the odds and He is not bound by chance.
 3. Instead, He knew that if Israel won with a large army they would credit themselves with the victory and forget that God was the source of their success.
- D. So, God instructed all who were "fearful and afraid" to leave the scene of the battle.
- E. As a result, Gideon's army shrank from 32,000 men to 10,000 men.
- F. God said that there were still too many soldiers so He would test them and choose who should go to battle and who should not.
 1. God instructed the men to go down to the water to drink.
 2. He told Gideon to divide them into two groups – those who got down on their knees to drink and those who lapped the water by putting their hands to their mouths.
 3. God said that those who lapped like a dog should go into battle with Gideon.
- G. After this test, God had reduced Gideon's army to 300 men.
- H. With those 300 men, God was able to defeat the entire army of Midian.
 1. Gideon divided the men into three groups.
 2. To every man he gave a trumpet, a lamp and a pitcher.
 3. That night, Gideon and his men surrounded the camp of the Midianites.
 4. When Gideon blew his trumpet, all the men in his group did the same.
 5. On this signal, the other two groups began to blow their trumpets.

6. Then, they all broke their pitchers, held forth their lamps and shouted, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!”
 7. Every man stood in his assigned place – no one became afraid and ran.
 8. Thus, the Midianites thought they were surrounded by a large army and, in their panic and fear, they began to attack one another as they fled from the battlefield.
 9. So, Israel won this battle with only 300 men and without fighting a single person.
- I. Because Gideon’s army did what God commanded, they became the Lord’s army – and, no matter how small their number, they were victorious.

II. The Church Is Scattered

- A. Today, the church is the Lord’s army.
1. Someone may ask “Which church?” but the Lord has only one.
 2. It is the church that was built by Jesus (Matthew 16:18).
 3. It is the church that was bought by Jesus (Acts 20:28).
 4. It is the church that is ruled by Jesus (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 5:23-24).
 5. It is the church that preaches the Gospel of Christ (Acts 20:27).
 6. It is the church that practices the Gospel of Christ (Ephesians 5:27).
 7. It is the church that worships according to the Gospel (John 4:24).
 8. It is the church that is organized according to the Gospel (Philippians 1:1).
 9. It is the church that wears the name of Christ (Romans 16:16).
 10. It is the church that belongs to Christ (Ephesians 5:25).
- B. This is the same church that began on Pentecost and that we read about in the book of Acts.
1. We read about its beginning in Acts 2.
 2. We read about its boldness in Acts 3.
 3. We read about its unity in Acts 4.
 4. We read about its steadfastness in Acts 5.
 5. We read about its work and service in Acts 6.
 6. We read about its persecution in Acts 7.
- C. In Acts 8, we are allowed to view the church acting as an army and going forth into a world of sin and error.
1. Because of persecution – exemplified in the death of Stephen and the attacks made by Saul – the members of the church at Jerusalem were scattered from that city into all parts of the world.
 2. However, they did not use this as an opportunity to give up and go back to their old lives.
 - a. It would have been easy to stop living as a Christian in order to avoid persecution and death.
 - b. It would have been easy to think that what had happened at Jerusalem was a fluke and was good while it lasted, but that it was something that must be left behind.
 - c. It would have been easy to give up when separated from others who shared the same beliefs.
 - d. But, these Christians did not give up.

3. They understood that they were an army and that their enemy – Satan – had enslaved the world with his lies and deceit.
 4. So, as these disciples were scattered abroad, they went everywhere preaching the word.
- D. The first example of Christians working as soldiers in the Lord’s army is when Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them.
1. This city was dominated by a man named Simon who claimed to be a sorcerer who could perform magical, miraculous feats.
 2. However, Philip did not let this hinder him from preaching the Gospel in this city.
 3. In fact, he preached the truth about Jesus and proved the authenticity of his words by working real miracles.
 - a. He healed many who were sick.
 - b. He cast out demons from those who were possessed.
 - c. He brought great joy to the city.
 4. So, the people began to believe and obey the Gospel – being baptized for the forgiveness of their sins.
 5. So powerful was the message of salvation preached by Philip that even Simon believed and obeyed the Gospel.
 6. Word of these great results reached Jerusalem and two of the apostles, Peter and John, came down to the city.
 7. So, the Lord’s church became established not only in Jerusalem, but also in Samaria – not only among the Jews, but also among the Samaritans.
 8. Philip had fought valiantly as a soldier of Christ in attacking the error and sins of those held captive by the great enemy, Satan.
- E. The second example is Philip’s willingness to leave Samaria and preach the Gospel to the Ethiopian eunuch.
1. Philip did not use the excuse that it was too far to travel to preach.
 2. Philip did not use the excuse that the eunuch was too wealthy to be receptive.
 3. Philip did not use the excuse that the eunuch was too powerful to hear the word.
 4. Philip did not use the excuse that the eunuch could not understand the Gospel.
 5. Philip did not use the excuse that it would take time to teach the eunuch.
 6. Philip did not use the excuse that the Ethiopian had a different skin color.
 7. Instead, Philip preached the Gospel, the eunuch believed and obeyed it and they both went on their ways rejoicing.
 8. A true soldier in the Lord’s army does not make excuses but engages the enemy and does the work that God commands him to do.
- F. Philip illustrates the attitude of the entire church that was scattered.
- G. They went forth into the world as an army – a fighting force that would engage the enemy wherever he was found.
- H. They would stand for and teach the truth to any and all who would listen.
- I. Thus, the church spread from Jerusalem to Samaria, Ethiopia, Antioch, Babylon, Galatia, Macedonia, Rome and into all the world!

III. The Girdle of Truth and the Sandals of the Gospel

- A. In order to fight as a soldier in the Lord’s army, we must put on the Christian armor.
- B. An essential part of that armor is the Truth of God’s Word.

- C. Not only is that Truth our sword to fight against the enemy, but it is also a means of protection.
- D. When the Roman soldier went into battle, he wore a special kind of sandal.
 - 1. They wrapped around his insteps and his ankles to give him support as he stood against his enemies.
 - 2. The soles were studded with nails or spikes (much like our cleats used in various sports) to give him a solid and firm foundation from which to fight.
- E. In like manner, when the Christian goes into battle, he must wear the right kind of shoes.
 - 1. The Gospel of peace is what gives the Christian soldier the support and firm foundation he needs when fighting an enemy such as Satan.
 - 2. If we are not grounded in the Gospel, then we may be toppled by the attacks of Satan – his lies, deceptions and false doctrines.
 - 3. Only the knowledge of God’s Word can fortify us against our enemy.
- F. Also, the Christian must clothe himself with the Truth of God’s Word.
 - 1. The Gospel is our firm foundation from which we fight.
 - 2. However, it is also the girdle which surrounds us as we engage in the battle.
 - 3. It is the truth which makes one free (John 8:32).
 - 4. It is the truth that purifies one’s soul (1 Peter 1:22).
 - 5. It is the truth that defends us against our enemy.
 - 6. Thus, the Christian must wrap himself in the Gospel of Christ.
- G. The way we put on these pieces of armor is by studying, learning, applying, believing and obeying the Truth.
- H. Are you prepared to fight as a soldier in the Lord’s army?

Conclusion:

- 1. The Lord’s army is a power fighting force.
- 2. However, its success depends upon a complete submission to God’s will.
- 3. Its success depends upon a knowledge of God’s truth.
- 4. Its success depends upon each soldier doing his or her part.
- 5. Since we are soldiers, we must fight faithfully and steadfastly against sin and Satan.

THE LORD'S ARMY

Lesson Five: **Heaven Is My Reward**

Text: 2 Timothy 2:1-4

Primary Lesson: **Victory!**

1. Victory – the word evokes powerful emotions.
2. When one thinks of victory, he thinks of an end of fighting – an end of war.
3. When one thinks of victory, he thinks of a feeling relief and peace because the enemy has been overcome.
4. When one thinks of victory, he thinks of a new beginning of peace and security.
5. When one thinks of victory, he thinks of being welcomed home with open arms.
6. The Lord's army is promised a victory over all enemies for each soldier who serves faithfully.
7. That victory comes with the greatest reward of all – Heaven!

Secondary Lesson: **Freedom Is Not Free!**

1. However, our freedom from sin and our eternal home in Heaven do not come without a price.
2. Jesus suffered the torture and agony of the cross to provide these blessings for us.
3. Likewise, we must endure hardships that come with living the Christian life and we must be willing to sacrifice for the cause of Christ.
4. Our eternal freedom comes with a personal price – faithfulness unto death (cf. Revelation 2:10).
5. We must be willing to fight for our freedom!

Christian Armor: **The Breastplate of Righteousness**

Ephesians 6:10-18 *vs. 14*

Supplementary Lessons: *For younger classes*

1. The church – on a journey to Heaven
2. Heaven – a home with God

Key Stories:

1. Israel Enters the Land of Canaan (Deuteronomy 6:1-11)
2. The Promise of Jesus (John 14:1-6)

Introduction:

1. There are many parallels between the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan and the journey of the church from earth to Heaven.
2. The Lord's church is an army that must confront enemies throughout its journey here upon earth.
3. But, if we remain faithful in the fight against Satan, we will have victory and the eternal reward of Heaven.
4. The children of Israel illustrate these principles as they made their way to their promised reward – the land of Canaan.

I. Israel Enters the Land of Canaan

- A. The children of Israel were made slaves in the land of Egypt.
- B. When they cried out to God, He sent Moses to deliver them and lead them to the promised land of Canaan.
- C. To secure their deliverance, God sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians and, following the final plague, they were allowed to leave Egypt.
- D. Soon after, Pharaoh changed his mind and began to pursue the Israelites with his chariots and soldiers.
- E. To save them, God miraculously parted the waters of the Red Sea and allowed Israel to cross on dry ground.
- F. When Pharaoh and his soldiers tried to follow, they were drowned as God caused the waters to come back together.
- G. The Israelites journeyed to Mount Sinai where God delivered to them His law (called the Law of Moses), including the Ten Commandments and the instructions for building and worshipping at the Tabernacle.
- H. Finally, they traveled to the southern border of the land of Canaan where God was prepared to bring them into the land and give them victory over their enemies.
 1. Here, the Israelites sent out twelve spies – one man from each tribe – to investigate the land.
 2. When they returned, they confessed that the land was fruitful, bountiful and flowing with milk and honey (Numbers 13).
 3. However, ten of the spies said that the inhabitants of the land were too strong and powerful to be defeated.
 4. Two spies, Joshua and Caleb, declared that with God's help they could conquer the land and defeat their enemies.
 5. Sadly, the people chose to listen to the ten unfaithful spies rather than to the two faithful men.
 6. Thus, they refused to obey God and go into the land of Canaan.
- I. However, because of their lack of faith, God caused them to wander in the wilderness for forty years – until the faithless generation died.
 1. During the time they left Egypt until they finally came into Canaan, the children of Israel faced many enemies and obstacles.
 2. Yet, God always provided for them exactly what they needed – water, food, or even victory over their adversaries.
- J. Finally, the time came for them to enter into the Promised Land.
- K. Consider what they found when they came into the land of Canaan.
 1. First, they found that God was faithful (Deuteronomy 6:10).

2. Second, they found that they received the promised reward (6:10).
 3. Third, they found houses that they did not have to build (6:10).
 4. Fourth, they found provisions that they did not have to acquire (6:11).
 5. Fifth, they found wells of water they did not have to dig (6:11).
 6. Sixth, they found that God provided for all their needs abundantly and bountifully (6:11).
 7. Seventh, they found the love of God (Deuteronomy 7:13).
 8. Eighth, they found freedom from sickness and plagues (7:15).
 9. Finally, they found out just how dependent upon God they were (8:16-18).
- L. God was truly gracious and kind to give such bountiful blessings to the children of Israel.
- M. However, this only gives us a hint at how wonderful our reward for faithful service will be.

II. The Promise of Jesus

- A. In John 14, Jesus made a promise to His disciples.
1. First, He offered them comfort for their troubled hearts.
 - a. They were troubled because Jesus had just told them that He was going away from them and that they could not follow Him at that time (John 13:33-38).
 - b. Though His leaving would make them sad, it was also a cause for great joy.
 2. Next, He reminded them that He was trustworthy and would not lie to them.
 3. Then, He told them of His Father's house in Heaven.
 4. He gave them this promise, "I go to prepare a place for you."
 - a. One of the reasons Jesus was leaving the earth was to prepare a place for His disciples in Heaven.
 - b. Think of it! Our home in Heaven was prepared for us by Jesus!
 5. He also promised, "I will come again."
 - a. Even though Jesus had to go away, He would return one day.
 - b. The hope of a Christian is to one day be united (or, reunited) with Jesus our Savior in Heaven.
 6. Finally, He promised that when He returns He will take His followers to be with Him – to live in the same place He lives.
 7. He even gave us great assurance when He said, "Whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."
 - a. In other words, we know where Jesus has gone – into Heaven.
 - b. And, we know the way to get to where He is.
 - c. He is the way to Heaven – and, if we want to go there, we must follow Him.
- B. As we think of how wonderful it would be to enter the land of Canaan and live under God's protecting and blessing hand, let us consider how much better it will be to live in Heaven.
1. When we get to Heaven, we will be reminded that God is faithful.
 - a. He has promised us Heaven (Matthew 25:34).
 - b. He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2).

2. When we get to Heaven, we will receive our reward (Matthew 5:12; 1 Corinthians 3:8).
 3. When we get to Heaven, we will have a new home – a house built by God (John 14:2-3; Hebrews 11:16; Revelation 21:2-3).
 4. When we get to Heaven, we will find all things prepared for us (Revelation 21:7, 22-27; 22:1-5).
 5. When we get to Heaven, we will receive living water (Revelation 21:6; 22:1).
 6. When we get to Heaven, we will find freedom from sorrow, sickness and death (Revelation 21:4-5).
 7. When we get to Heaven, we will dwell forever in the infinite love of God, for we shall see Him (Revelation 22:3-4; 1 John 3:1-3).
- C. What a beautiful and comforting thought – that God will allow us to live with Him forever!
- D. Heaven is a place of reward because it is a place of victory!
1. We will be comforted by knowing that the battle is over and Satan has been defeated (1 John 5:4).
 2. We will be at peace for all sin and temptation is excluded from our new home.
 3. We will be at rest for our fighting days will be over (Hebrews 4:9-11).
 4. We will be joyous for we will receive a crown of life (2 Timothy 4:6-8).
 5. We will celebrate for we will be united with the saved – the faithful soldiers – of all the ages.
- E. However, if we want to receive the reward of Heaven, we must keep on fighting – faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10).
- F. Thus, we must make sure we have put on and continue wearing the Christian Armor.

III. The Breastplate of Righteousness

- A. Simply put, righteousness is doing that which is right.
- B. By doing what is right – obeying the commands of God – we have access to the blood of Christ that washes away our sins.
1. Initially, this involves obeying the Gospel plan of salvation.
 - a. Hearing Romans 10:17
 - b. Faith Hebrews 11:6
 - c. Repentance Acts 17:30
 - d. Confession of Faith Romans 10:9-10
 - e. Baptism Acts 2:38; 22:16; Revelation 1:5
 2. For the Christian, this involves walking in the light (1 John 1:7-9).
- C. When our sins are forgiven, we are considered by God to be righteous or justified.
- D. This means that we do not have to pay the penalty for sin – eternal death – because Jesus has paid it for us.
- E. Thus, we can see how righteousness is compared to a breastplate – the piece of armor that guards the vital organs.
- F. By living in righteousness, we guard ourselves against anything the devil may use to attack us.
- G. So, we need to understand what it means to walk in the light.
1. First, the light that we walk in is the Word of God (Psalm 119:105).
 2. Second, to walk in the light means to live according to God's will.
 3. So, we must study and obey the Word of God in order to be cleansed from sin.

4. However, walking in the light does not mean that we will never make a mistake or never sin.
 5. But, when we do stumble, God provides a way for us to be forgiven again.
 - a. First, we must repent of our sins (Acts 8:22).
 - b. Then, we must confess our sins (James 5:16; 1 John 1:9).
 - c. Finally, we must pray to God and ask for forgiveness (Acts 8:22-24).
 6. So, walking in the light also involves correcting mistakes that we make along the way.
- H. Obedience is essential!
- I. It is not always easy to do what is right, but the reward is worth any sacrifice we must make.
- J. “Heaven will surely be worth it all!”

Conclusion:

1. As we strive to fight as soldiers in the Lord’s army, we must remember what we are fighting for.
2. We fight for the God who loved us and gave His Son for our sins.
3. We fight for the Lord who died on the cross so we might be forgiven.
4. We fight for the Truth that teaches men and women how to be saved.
5. We fight for the souls that are lost and doomed to a devil’s Hell.
6. We fight for our own victory over sin and the eternal reward of Heaven.
7. This fight can only be won through faithful obedience.
8. Will Heaven be your eternal home?

Summary:

1. Are you a faithful soldier in the Lord’s army?
2. If so, the Jesus is your captain and you are following His example, obeying His doctrine and serving His cause.
3. If so, the devil is your enemy and you are fighting daily against his attacks.
4. If so, the Bible is your weapon and you are studying it daily to be able to use it on the battlefield.
5. If so, the church is your band of brothers – the army that you are a part of and that you unite with in battle against a common enemy.
6. If so, Heaven is your reward and you will rest forever in the presence of Almighty God.
7. May this series of studies motivate you to stand and fight for the cause of Christ.
8. We do not fight with bullets and bayonets, but with truth, righteousness, peace and prayer.
9. And, in the end, if we are faithful on the field of battle, Heaven will be ours.