

pared for battle. Every piece of his armor has its counterpart in the provision which God has made for our defense. Let us notice the different parts of this armor.

1. *Having your loins girt about with truth.* The military belt was fastened about the waist to hold the garments together, and brace up the body for action. It stands for firmness, conviction, and resolute decision. This is of the first importance in the Christian warfare. And what is it that gives us this? Nothing gives such confidence and assurance as familiarity with the great truths which God has revealed in His Word, and which are the Christian's reasons for being what he is. He who is unfamiliar with these, is like a soldier without his girdle; he is weak before the enemy. Therefore the Christian warrior must be first of all a diligent student of the truth.

2. *Having on the breastplate of righteousness.* The enemy will be sure to strike at the weakest place, especially if this is the vital spot. Now there is no place where we are so weak, as in the matter of righteousness, and there is nothing so vital as this. "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:20). Absolute righteousness is required, and we have none. Satan sees this, and aims his arrows at it. He accuses the believer of sin. He points out to him his utter unfitness in life and character for fellowship with God and the holy ones. And how many, knowing that the accusation is true, have been overcome.

For protection against this, we have provided "the righteousness of God, which is by faith," and which is "upon all them that believe" (Rom. 3:22). This, like