

devil, not his power. It is not knowing Satan that enables me to discover his wiles, *but the keeping in God's presence*. It was always so with Christ, because He was always dependent on God. "Stand, having your loins girt about with truth." Truth is never really ours, but as the affections are ordered by it. If the soul of the hearer be not in communion with God, in the truth he hears, his loins are not girt with it. The breastplate of righteousness supposes not merely this, but that we have nothing on the conscience, (ver. 14.) *Christ's blood made it good, and walking in the Spirit keeps it so.*

Verse 15. The gospel of peace is ours in Christ; but I must have the Spirit of peace in my heart, and be sanctified by the God of peace, the soul in communion with God, with Him in the Spirit of peace; and without this, how can a saint walk as always having peace? He is then prepared to walk by the gospel.

Verse 16. Whether I look at the sin that made grace necessary, or the power which caused me to enjoy it, I may walk in perfect peace against every source of sorrow. Every fiery dart is quenched *by confidence in God*—the shield of faith. It is as essential for the conflict as for the saving of the soul. *We need to cherish confidence in the grace of God all through.*

Verse 17. I hold up my head because I know I am safe. Salvation is mine. I must first get that which is internal; that which is wrought in me is power, before I use the Sword of the Spirit. I

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