

## Standing Firm: Living the Victorious Life

### Part 2 Standing Firm

#### INTRO

- Why is the armor of God necessary?
- Is it necessary to actually put it on?

#### BELT OF TRUTH

- Without \_\_\_\_\_, everything falls apart.
- Where do we find objective, everlasting Truth?
- Without cinching ourselves tightly with the Truth of \_\_\_\_\_, the other weapons will clatter in disarray. Without God's \_\_\_\_\_ we do not have a chance of standing firm. Without Truth, we will bend under the weight of the devil's schemes.

#### BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Where can you find a breastplate of righteousness?

...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ from God that depends on faith. Philippians 3: 9

- The breastplate of Christ's righteousness guards your very heart. When your heart is kept clean and strong, your very character becomes clean and strong and thus, the power you feel in the face of spiritual battles given to you by Jesus. Your very \_\_\_\_\_ is shaped by His character

#### SHOE FOR THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

- Our message is that God in his love sent his son for us. And through Jesus, we have \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our \_\_\_\_\_, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making \_\_\_\_\_, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached \_\_\_\_\_, to you who were far off and \_\_\_\_\_, to those who were near. Ephesians 2:13-17

#### WHAT ABOUT YOU?

- Am I willing to stand on the Truth of Jesus and His word?
- Am I living the life of Christ's righteousness that enables me to boldly engage in the world?
- Am I standing firm in the peace of the Gospel message?



## A CLOSER LOOK

### Helmet

The iron helmet was forged from one piece of metal and lined with leather. Crests made of dyed horsehair indicated rank. Plates hung down along the cheeks and another plate protected the back of the neck and shoulders.

### Breastplate

The iron or bronze scaled armor was built in four sections to cover each shoulder and side of the chest. The plates were sewn to a stiff leather vest, which was put on like a jacket before the front plates were tied with leather straps.

### Sword

The sword was carried on the right side and hung from the belt or a leather strap over the shoulder.

### Belt

The leather belt was tied around a wool tunic. Connected bronze plates hung from the belt to protect the soldier's groin area.

### Shield

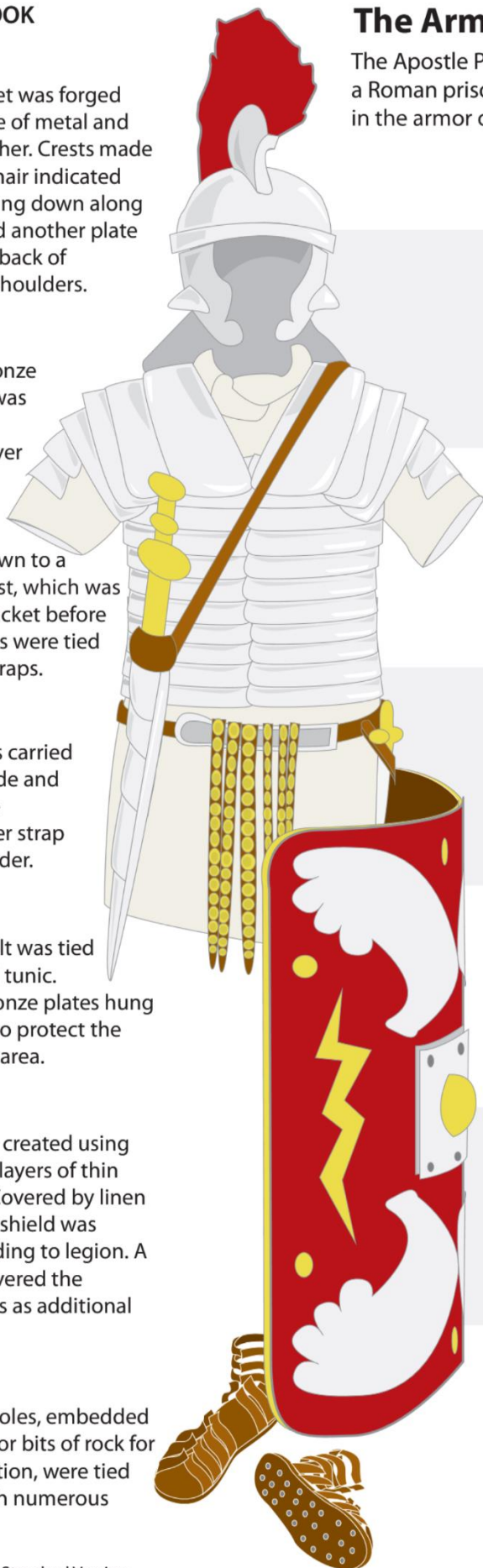
The curve was created using three bonded layers of thin wood strips. Covered by linen or leather, the shield was painted according to legion. A bronze rim covered the rounded edges as additional protection.

### Sandals

Thick leather soles, embedded with hobnails or bits of rock for increased traction, were tied to the feet with numerous leather straps.

## The Armor of God

The Apostle Paul, inspired by God, wrote a letter to the church of Ephesus from a Roman prison. As he wrote, Roman soldiers guarding the prison walked about in the armor of first century legionary.



### ARMOR OF LEGIONARY

#### Galea (Helmet)

Protected head and neck from enemy attacks

#### Lorica Segmentata (Breastplate)

Guarded vital organs

#### Gladius (Sword)

Powerful offensive weapon in the hand of a skilled soldier

Waving it served as a word of warning to the enemy

#### Cingulum (Girdle or Belt)

Supports sword, dagger and bronze apron

Worn at all times, even without other armor pieces

#### Scutum (Shield)

Overlapping shields allowed soldiers to advance together

Shield was used to defend the entire body, including the back

#### Caligae (Sandals)

Fit for both marching and fighting

Became more comfortable with constant wear

### ARMOR OF GOD

#### Helmet of Salvation

"...and take on the helmet of salvation..." Ephesians 6:17a

#### Breastplate of Righteousness

"...and having put on the breastplate of righteousness..." Ephesians 6:14b

#### Sword of the Spirit, Word of God

"...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God..." Ephesians 6:17b

#### Belt of Truth

"Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth..." Ephesians 6:14a

#### Shield of Faith

"In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one..." Ephesians 6:16

#### Readiness/Preparation of the Gospel of Peace

"...and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace." Ephesians 6:15