

# *The Armor of God*

*Salvation*

*Ephesians 6:10-17*

*Righteousness*

*Truth*

*Faith*

*Word of God*

*The Gospel*

*30<sup>th</sup> Annual*

**Biblical Viewpoints Lectureship**  
November 7-11, 2010



# The ARMOR OF GOD

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30<sup>th</sup> Annual  
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Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:11-13

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# **Spiritual Warfare**

*Roby Ellis*

Sunday AM, November 7, 2010  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual Biblical Viewpoints Lectureship

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 10:1–6

*Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: <sup>2</sup> But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: <sup>4</sup> (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) <sup>5</sup> Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; <sup>6</sup> And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

## **Introduction**

- A. As Christians, we are at war.
  - 1. Paul charged Timothy to “war a good warfare” (1 Tim. 1:18), to “fight the good fight of faith” (6:12), and to “endure hardness, as a good soldier” (2 Tim. 2:3).
  - 2. Near the close of Paul’s second letter to Timothy, he said, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7).
- B. Our warfare is not carnal, but spiritual.
  - 1. When Pilate questioned Jesus about His kingdom, the Lord said,  
My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence (John 18:36).
  - 2. We are citizens of a spiritual kingdom, and as it is with any other kingdom, there are those who seek to do us harm and to destroy us.
- C. We must be united in our stand against our enemy and never forget that we are involved in a battle for souls on a daily basis.

## **Discussion**

- I. We first need to know something about our enemy.

- A. In physical combat, the military spends much time, energy, and resources to learn everything possible about their adversary.
1. The United States military gains intelligence about our enemies by use of technology (satellite, aircraft, etc.), undercover agents, and interrogation.
  2. We obtain information about our spiritual adversary by means of observation and through the revelation that God has given us in the holy Scriptures.
- B. Satan is our adversary in this war.
1. The name “Satan” is actually a Hebrew word (יְהוֹשָׁפָט) that means “adversary.”
  2. This word was often translated into Greek as διάβολος (*diabolos*, accuser).
    - i. This is from the verb διαβάλλω (*diaballo*, to accuse, cf. Luke 16:1).
    - ii. It is from this word that we get the words “devil” and “diabolical.”
    - iii. Another translation of יְהוֹשָׁפָט is the related word ἐπίβουλος (*epiboulos*).
  3. The word is used several times in the OT, not always in reference to the devil.
    - i. When Balaam went with the messengers of Balak against God’s order, “the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary [יְהוֹשָׁפָט; διαβαλεῖν, LXX] against him” (Num. 22:22, cf. v 32).
    - ii. When David dwelled among the Philistines in the final days of Saul’s reign, they refused to let David go to war with them against Israel, “lest in the battle he be an adversary [יְהוֹשָׁפָט; ἐπίβουλος, LXX] to us” (1 Sam. 29:4).
    - iii. When Joab and Abishai sought to kill Shemei for cursing David, the king replied, “What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries [יְהוֹשָׁפָט; ἐπίβουλος, LXX] unto me” (2 Sam. 19:22)?
      - (a) When Peter rebuked the Lord (thinking to protect Him), Jesus said, “Get thee behind me, Satan [Σατανᾶ]: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savour-est not the things that be of God, but those that be of men” (Matt. 16:23).
      - (b) Anytime we stand in the Lord’s way, we become the adversary.
  4. The OT also refers to Satan himself at times.
    - i. In the book of Job, Satan (יְהוֹשָׁפָט; διάβολος, LXX) converses with God and makes accusations against God’s faithful servant (Job 1:9–11; 2:4–5).
    - ii. When the KJV says that “Satan [יְהוֹשָׁפָט; διάβολος, LXX] stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel” (1 Chr. 21:1), it is difficult to tell whether this is speaking of Satan or one of Israel’s many foes.

*Note:* Young's Literal Translation gives "an adversary" instead of "Satan."

- C. Our adversary's mission is to destroy us.
1. Satan hates us for one simple reason: because God loves us.
  2. Peter says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).
  3. Paul identified his "thorn in the flesh" as "the messenger of Satan to buffet [κολαφίζω, to strike with the fist] me" (2 Cor. 12:7).
- D. Satan will destroy us if we give him the opportunity.
1. Satan quickly wrecked the Paradise that God had made for man (Gen. 3).
  2. When the devils entered the herd of swine by the Lord's permission, they ran immediately to their death in the sea (Mark 5:13).
  3. How quickly Judas met his tragic end after Satan entered him (John 13:27)!
  4. Paul wrote that we must beware: "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Cor. 2:11).
  5. Satan is subtle and deceptive (Gen. 3:1; 2 Cor. 11:3), and he is constantly setting snares for our feet (1 Tim. 3:7; 2 Tim. 2:26).
  6. Satan's lies are often seasoned with bits of truth (**Luke 4:1–13**), for which cause we must guard ourselves with the whole truth (Ps. 119:160), as Jesus did.
- E. As powerful as our adversary is, we can defeat him.
1. Paul wrote, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil" (Eph. 4:26–27).
  2. Satan wins the battle against us when he convinces us to turn away from God.
  3. James said, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (Jas. 4:7–8).
  4. If we will faithfully draw ourselves nearer to God, not even Satan will be able to snatch us out of our Father's hand (**John 10:26–29**).
  5. Satan knows that he cannot compete with the power of God, and he knows that not even he can accuse us if God has pardoned us (**Rom. 8:31–34**).
- F. Satan hasn't given up yet!
1. There are many lies that Satan would like for the world to believe today.
    - i. "Vile as you are, there is nothing that you can do to be saved."
    - ii. "God doesn't expect you to do anything; just believe."

- iii. “The Bible mentions baptism, but it isn’t necessary for your salvation.”
      - iv. “Once you’re saved, you can never be lost again.”
      - v. “One church is just as good as another.”
    - 2. There are many lies that Satan would like for the church to believe today.
      - i. “You can worship God at home just as well as you can with the saints.”
      - ii. “Teaching the lost is someone else’s responsibility, not yours.”
  - G. Our adversary is going to fight to his bitter end (Rev. 20), and we must fight to the finish as well if we wish to be victorious (Rev. 2:10, 2 Tim. 4:6–8).
- II. We need to understand our objectives in this war that we are fighting.
- A. Without predetermined objectives, it is impossible to tell if a war has been won.
    - 1. When Abraham pursued his nephew’s captors to Dan, his mission was clear: to rescue Lot and those who were with him (Gen. 14).
    - 2. When the children of Israel reached Jericho, their mission was to bring down the city’s mighty walls and to take the city (Jsh. 6:1–5).
    - 3. Their objective after this was to take all of the land that God had promised and to destroy any remnant of the Canaanite people and religion (Num. 33:55).
    - 4. When David prepared his troops to go to war against the band of rebels that was being led by his son Absalom, the king made it clear that they were to quell the rebellion and bring Absalom back unharmed (2 Sam. 18:5).
    - 5. While “we do not war after the flesh,” we are fighting a war (**2 Cor. 10:3–4**), and our objectives—which are spiritual in nature—need to be clearly defined.
  - B. Our objective is not to pull down literal strong holds, but spiritual ones (**v 4**).
    - 1. Whereas the Israelites tore down the strong walls of Jericho and other cities, we tear down barriers that have separated men from God.
    - 2. These barriers include prejudice (Acts 11:18), deception (Acts 13:12), and sin (Isa. 59:1–2)—strong walls that nothing but the truth could ever bring down!
    - 3. Through His death on the cross, Jesus tore down the middle wall of partition that separated the Jews and the Gentiles (Eph. 2:14–19).
  - C. It is not our mission to cast down (καθαίρω, *kathaireo*) towers or empires, but rather to cast down those things that exalt themselves against God (**v 5**).
    - 1. In the house of Elizabeth, Mary praised God and said,



He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down [καθαίρῃ] the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree (Luke 1:51–52).

2. Stephen reminded the Jews of how God had “destroyed [καθαίρῃ] seven nations in the land of Chanaan” (Acts 13:19, cf. Deut. 7:1–2).
3. It is our mission to destroy the man-made “arguments” (NKJV) which cause men and women to refuse to obey the God of heaven.

D. Unlike the pillaging Assyrians and Chaldeans, it is not our mission to bring human beings into captivity, but rather the thoughts of the heart (v 5).

1. Solomon said of man, “As he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7).
2. Jesus said,

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment (Matt. 12:34–36).

3. Jesus challenges us not only to reform our actions, but even our thoughts—thoughts about our brethren, the opposite sex, and even our enemies (Matt. 5–6).

E. Our mission is clear, and God has equipped us with the tools to accomplish it.

III. God has given us all the tools that we need to carry out our mission.

A. Saul couldn’t give David what he needed for battle, but God could.

1. When David readied himself to fight with the Philistine giant, Saul provided a coat of mail and a helmet of bronze as well as a sword, but David said, “I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them” (1 Sam. 17:39, ESV).
2. David marched against Goliath armed with the only thing that he had tested in circumstances like this—the divine aid of the LORD his God (v 37)!

B. God has given us the armor that man could never provide.

1. The armor of God is specially designed to protect us against what Paul calls “the wiles [μεθοδεΐα, *methodeia*] of the devil” (Eph. 6:11).
  - i. Other translations have “schemes” for the word μεθοδεΐα (ESV, NASV).
  - ii. The word used one other time in the NT, also in the letter to the Ephesians:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight [μεθοδεία] of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive (Eph. 4:14).

2. Just like the war we are fighting, this armor is spiritual in nature and will safeguard us from evil in the world and even in the church (v 12).
  3. If we will take this armor, we will be able to withstand every assault of our adversary when it comes, and we will remain standing in the end (v 13).
  4. God's soldiers always fight in a standing position, ready always to advance against the enemy, never to retreat (v 14).
  5. God's armor consists of five essential components (vv 15–17).
- C. Not only has He given us armor for protection, but God has also given us a weapon with which to fight against our adversary—"the sword of the spirit" (v 17).
1. Satan is armed with flaming darts, but our shield is able to extinguish every one of them (v 16), so that we have nothing to fear.
  2. Satan, on the other hand, cannot withstand the sword God has given us to wield.
    - i. When Jesus used the Scriptures against Satan, the devil could not defeat Him.
    - ii. At the word of Jesus, the devils came out (Matt. 8:16).
    - iii. When Jesus' enemies tried to "take hold of his words" (Luke 20:20), they found that they could not (v 26), for how does one snatch a swinging sword?
  3. When Satan's lies are held up against God's truth, the truth always prevails.
    - i. The court magicians of Pharaoh could not match the power of God's Word spoken by Moses, and, in the end, they could not even stand in the presence of Pharaoh because of the plagues God brought upon them (Ex. 9:11).
    - ii. Paul said that those who "resist the truth...shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs was also" (2 Tim. 3:9–10).
  4. Paul says that God's Word is sharper than any "twoedged sword" (Heb. 4:12).
    - i. It pricked the hearts of 3000 individuals at Pentecost (Acts 2:37).
    - ii. It cut the hearts of the Jewish council members who heard Stephen (Acts 7:54).
  5. It has been said that "the pen is mightier than the sword," and truly there is no sword stronger than the one found in the words penned by inspired men.
- D. As we see our enemy advancing against us with the speed and stealth of a lion and with flaming arrows in his quiver, it is easy to become frightened, but remember that our armor is

impenetrable and that our weapon will always defeat the devil.

IV. We serve under a great Commander.

A. Jesus Christ is “the captain of our salvation” (Heb. 2:10).

1. The word translated “captain” (ἀρχηγός, *archegos*) is elsewhere translated “prince” (Acts 3:15; 5:31) and “author” (Heb. 12:2) in the KJV.
2. This word can refer to the author of something, the principle person (e.g., of a tribe, Num. 13:2), or a leader (Num. 14:4; Jdg. 11:6).
3. Jesus is all three: the author of life (Acts 3:15) and salvation (Heb. 12:2), the exalted Prince and Savior (Acts 5:31), and the leader of God’s people.

B. Our Commander has never lost a battle.

1. Even the greatest human leaders have their setbacks, including Alexander the Great, Napoleon, and Washington, but Jesus has never lost a battle.
2. Although He fought many hard battles with temptation, He never lost one.
  - i. Paul says that Christ our high priest “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15).
  - ii. Concerning Jesus, Paul said that God “hath made him to be sin [the offering for our sin, NLT] for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21).
3. Although He suffered many trials, He never surrendered.
4. Although He was persecuted, He never retreated.
  - i. Even when all of His disciples forsook Him in the garden at the time of His arrest (**Matt. 26:56**), Jesus went alone into the city to suffer the humiliation and of the mock trial and the torture of the crucifixion.
  - ii. Jesus had the ability to order a heavenly rescue (**Matt. 26:53**), but He chose instead to complete the mission that the Father had given Him.
5. Jesus finished His mission. Will you finish yours?

C. Jesus will lead us to victory.

1. He will make us victors over sin (Rom. 6:1–7).
2. He will make us victors over the grave (1 Cor. 15:54–57).
3. He will make us victors over the world (John 16:33, 1 John 5:4).

- D. As the old hymn says, "He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat." Will you answer the call and have the courage to follow Him into battle?
- V. What does it take to be a good soldier?
- A. It takes courage.
1. Christians in the early church desperately needed courage.
    - i. Peter and John showed courage when they faced the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:13).
    - ii. In prison the apostle Paul would say,
 

In nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Php. 1:20–21).
    - iii. Paul preached the gospel with boldness in the face of "much contention" in Philippi (1 Th. 2:2), Lystra, Thessalonica, Ephesus, and Jerusalem.
    - iv. Paul urged young Timothy to "preach the word" and to "be instant in season, out of season" (2 Tim. 4:1).
  2. When the enemy advances and launches his fiery arrows, will you have the courage to stand and to attack, or will you surrender and retreat?
- B. It takes dedication.
1. Paul said that a "good soldier" must "endure hardness" (**2 Tim. 2:3**).
  2. A good soldier is not concerned about worldly things (**v 4**).
  3. A good soldier is not willing to sell out to the enemy for any price.
- C. It takes submission.
1. A good soldier doesn't need an explanation; he just needs his orders.
  2. James says, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:6–7).
  3. He adds that God will exalt the one who humbles himself before Him (**v 10**).
- D. Have you been a good soldier for the Lord?

### Conclusion and Invitation

- A. If you want to share the spoils, you must take part in the battle.
1. The spoil that we will share is everlasting life in the presence of God Almighty.

2. The spoil belongs to everyone, regardless of whether their commission involves marching on the front lines or keeping the home fires burning.
  3. When David pursued the Amalekites that burned Ziklag, there were 200 of his men who could not go, but David's orders were that he that "tarrieth by the stuff" should have an equal share of the spoil (**1 Sam. 30:21–25**).
  4. In order to enjoy the spiritual spoils of spiritual warfare, you needn't be the strongest or the ablest, but you must be enlisted as a soldier.
- B. Are you allowing the adversary to beat you, or are you standing and fighting?
- C. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me" (Matt. 12:30). Whose side are you on?

Roby Ellis/336 Old Milligan Hwy/Johnson City, Tennessee 37601

**“The Armor of God”**  
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TRUTH  
*Eddy Craft*

INTRODUCTION:

A. The soldier’s girdle was the innermost part of his armor that held every other piece in place. It also served to protect the organs in the lower abdomen. The truth does the same for the soldier in God’s army. Satan’s lies can never penetrate the truth. If we lay the truth aside, we are vulnerable to the devil’s deception, but as long as we are girded with the truth, we will never fall. Most people in our society have such a poor understanding of God’s Word that they could be convinced of just about anything, but the serious Bible student has no difficulty spotting the flaws of false doctrine.

B. In this lesson I will look at our obligations to that truth.

C. EACH MEMBER OF THE GODHEAD IS SPOKEN OF AS TRUTH:

1. The Father (Deut. 32:4).
2. The Son (John 1:14; 14:6)
3. Holy Spirit (John 15:26; 16:13).

D. The Word of God is also spoken of as truth (John 17:17; I Thess. 2:13).

**I. WE HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO SEEK TRUTH:**

- A. Jeremiah 5:1.
- B. John 5:39.

**II. TO KNOW TRUTH:**

A. John 8:32.

B. I Tim. 2:4.

**III. TO BELIEVE THE TRUTH:**

A. I Tim. 4:3.

B. There are many today that will not believe the truth.

**IV. WE ARE TO LOVE THE TRUTH:**

A. 2 Thess. 2:10-12.

B. How much do you love the truth?

**V. BUY THE TRUTH AND SELL IT NOT:**

A. Pro. 23:23.

B. Do everything you can to get truth and never give it up.

**VI. SPEAK THE TRUTH:**

A. Eph. 4:15, 25.

B. Always speak the truth but do it in love.

**VII. RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE TRUTH:**

A. 2 Cor. 4:2.

B. 2 Tim. 2:15.

**VIII. WALK IN THE TRUTH:**

- A. 2 John 1:4.
- B. 3 John 1:3-4.

**IX. WE ARE TO WORSHIP IN TRUTH:**

- A. John 4:24.
- B. This is a command!

**X. WE ARE TO REJOICE IN THE TRUTH:**

- A. 1 Cor. 13:6.
- B. To many times we rejoice in the wrong things.

**XI. WE ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE TRUTH:**

- A. 2 Peter 1:12.
- B. Established means: “to confirm; fix; stablish, stedfastly set, strengthen”  
(Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries).

**XII. WE ARE TO OBEY THE TRUTH:**

- A. 1 Peter 1:22.
- B. Have you obeyed the truth?

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. The best safe guard against error is truth.
- B. If you know the truth you will never be deceived by error.

Eddy Craft/136 Deer Glen Dr./Elizabethton, Tennessee 37643



## THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

*Ray Frizzell, Jr.*

### Introduction:

- I. As a Christian, we are in the fight of our lives.
  - A. The Christian life is a battle ground, not a playground.
    1. We face a strong enemy, with victory possible by the help of our Lord.
    2. It is a life and death struggle, with issues involved so far-reaching and the conflict so universal as to make impossible the exemption of any one of us.
  - B. The armor for the battle, as described in Ephesians 6, involves what each child of God must **put on, keep on, and rely on.**
  - C. God's armor enables one to withstand and it equips one with a willingness to do battle.
- II. Our study will focus on one aspect of the armor of God—"...and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace." (Ephesians 6:15)

### Discussion:

- I. HAVING OUR FEET SHOD
  - A. This is clearly an allusion to the foot wear of the Roman soldier.
    1. Josephus, in the sixth volume of his major work, the **Jewish War**, describes the soldiers' footwear as "shoes thickly studded with sharp nails."
    2. The soldier's footwear was designed to provide not only sure footing but also protection for long marches covering tremendous and even treacherous amounts of terrain.
      - a. A soldier who could not keep his footing was a vulnerable soldier.
      - b. The military successes of Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar were due largely to their army's ability to undertake long marches at incredible speed over rough terrain.
      - c. These heavy shoes/boots were called the caliguli.

- d. Even will all the other aspects of his armor, no soldier could go far without his feet being properly shod.
- 3. Only as soldiers had a solid foundation could they stand unmoved against their opposition.
- B. In Paul's reference to our spiritual warfare, he seems to be stressing the vital need to wear the proper footwear.
  - 1. In our spiritual conflict Satan and his forces will seek to trip us up.
    - a. Briars of doubt and pitfalls of discouragement may be placed in our pathway.
    - b. If we are to "stand", we must "leave no unguarded place", no unprotected foothold.
    - c. From Greek mythology, we recall the story of "Achilles' heel."
  - 2. A key thought being stressed seems to be "readiness" and "preparedness".
    - a. The Christian soldier's foothold needs to be sure and settled.
    - b. In the struggles against sin and error, we must be sufficiently equipped so as to enable us to stand.
  - 3. This calls to our attention the basis for adequate foot preparation in the spiritual conflict.

## II. "THE GOSPEL OF PEACE"

- A. Our readiness/preparation comes from, is produced by, "the gospel of peace."
  - 1. Great emphasis is given to "peace" in God's Word.
    - a. In Paul's epistles, one of his favorite titles for God is "God of Peace." (Romans 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23)
    - b. When Christ, "the Prince of Peace" was born, the angels sang, "glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).

- c. The gospel of Christ is called “the gospel of peace” (our text).
  - d. The church is referred to as a kingdom of peace (Romans 14:17) and God’s children are called “peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9).
  - e. We are charged to “seek peace and pursue it” (1 Peter 3:11) and to “live in peace” (2 Corinthians 13:11).
  - f. True servants of the Lord are promised that “the peace of God that passeth understanding” shall guard our hearts and thoughts (Philippians 4:7).
2. But, just what is this “peace”?
- a. It is not merely the absence of trouble, but a wholeness or completeness in those things which make for one’s highest good.
  - b. It is not the opposite of activity but the opposite of brokenness.
  - c. Man is at enmity with God (Isaiah 58:21) and can never have the peace **of God** until he has peace **with** God.
    - 1) Peace with God is made possible through Christ who “is our peace” (Ephesians 2:14).
    - 2) Man’s peace treaty is signed in red, the precious blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:15; Romans 5: 1,2).
  - d. As we come to know peace with God, we discover the peace of God in our hearts “and let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts” (Colossians 3:15).
3. Thayer gives one definition of “peace”: “A conception distinctly peculiar to Christianity, the tranquil state of the soul assured of its salvation through Christ and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort it is.”
- B. The “Gospel of Peace” is significant in the armor of Christian soldiers.
- 1. Obviously, the gospel must be preached so men can know the peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- a. We cry aloud to those against whom we wage war that our message is one of peace; our mission is not to enslave but to make known the way of peace and joy.
  - b. The gospel is so designated because it is a peace bringing power which destroys the enmity in men's hearts and establishes tranquility in its place.
  - c. Even though we are in a struggle, we still bear a message of peace and reconciliation to mankind.
2. If our feet are shod with the good news of peace, we are protected and will be able to stand our ground against the devil.
- a. The readiness which Paul seems to have in mind (and made possible by the "gospel of peace") enables us to have a steady mind, kept from fear.
  - b. To have an awareness of peace with God and to live in tranquil communion enables one to fling himself into the battle with calm assurance and strong determination.
  - c. In our spiritual warfare, Satan will use every scheme possible to trip us up.
    - 1) Satan seeks to weaken our resolve, to cause us to doubt our salvation.
    - 2) Whatever the onslaught, we need the "spiritual footwear" that will enable us to stand.
    - 3) We cannot wage an effective war against the spiritual hosts of darkness if we are not at peace with God ourselves.
  - d. We must have the blessed assurance that we are in the right relationship with God, that we are approved by Him, that He is with us in the battle.
    - 1) The Gospel of Peace provides the only foundation that resolves the sin question and thus provides peace to our soul.

- 2) Because we have peace with God we can successfully stand against all the wiles of the devil.
- e. This peace with God enables us to stand with our feet firmly planted on the word of God and stay there, unmoved by the devils threats and lies.
  - 1) The truth of the gospel provides light and sight to keep us from straying from the path of safety and security.
  - 2) There is peace in knowing that what we are doing is right, that God is pleased with us; such knowledge brings a peace that helps us to effectively resist the arguments of darkness and the attacks of our adversary.
3. Our goal should be to immerse ourselves in the great truths of the gospel.
  - a. Could it be that we are often not effective in the battle for truth and righteousness because we are lacking knowledge of “the gospel of peace” – can we be deeply and firmly planted, with a spirit of courageous readiness for the battle with evil.

Conclusion:

- I. If we are going to “stand” and “withstand” our feet must be shod “with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”
  - A. With the peace of God, we need not fear the attack of any/all forces of evil.
  - B. If we are to defeat Satan, we must be at peace with God and with each other.
- II. Do you/I have the firm foundation that comes from knowing the peace of the gospel?
  - A. There must be a constant “readiness”, with never a time for complacency, in this spiritual warfare against the hosts of wickedness.
  - B. Let us “follow after the things which make for peace and things wherewith one may edify one another.” (Romans 14:19)

[Ray Frizzell, Jr. Shackle Island church of Christ Goodlettsville, Tennessee 37072]

## The Shield of Faith

### Ephesians 6:16

1. Paul was a prisoner under constant guard. We can imagine how his conversations with the soldiers might have turned to their armor. He would know, of course, that such armor had its place in carnal war. But under the guidance of the Spirit his mind turned to the kind of warfare in which we are engaged and how that the tools of carnal warfare are metaphors for the weapons for saving souls. “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds” (II Corinthians 10:4). It is “not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6). There is a tendency for us to think we are sufficient in ourselves. That is why we are cautioned, “Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall” (I Corinthians 10:12). We need the “whole armor of God” “that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (I Corinthians 2:5).
2. We need to wrap ourselves with the belt of truth, and to wear the breastplate of righteousness to protect our hearts, and to go forth with the shoes of the gospel, wearing the helmet of salvation, and grip firmly the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. All are essential, but we are noticing especially verse 16. “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”
  - I. A shield is the metaphor for faith because it is that which covers all the rest.
    - A. “Above all” (KJV); “withal” (ASV). This was not to say that faith was the most important thing. Rather that it was needed with all the rest.
    - B. The shield was not the round target shaped type often seen in pictures. The word comes from the same root as does the word *door* because its shape and size was comparable to a door. It was rectangular in shape and large enough to protect from head to foot. It was made of wood and covered in heavy skins, which they sometimes soaked in water in order to extinguish flames. Roman soldiers were trained to hold their shields in close order so as to virtually create a wall which would protect them from the enemies’ swords, spears, and arrows. The point to be made about faith as a shield is that it is needed to cover everything else.
    - C. We know that faith is necessary for everything else, because “without faith it is impossible to please him” (Hebrews 11:6). “The just shall live by faith” (Romans

1:17). “[T]herefore being justified by faith . . . (Romans 5:1). “[T]his is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (I John 5:4).

- D. You know that many places in the Bible emphasize the importance of faith. In fact, many texts speak of the necessity of faith without even mentioning other requirements. This fact has been used by some to argue that believing is all that matters (“faith only”). One preacher was so boldly ignorant that he said, “John 3:16 is all the Bible anybody needs.” But the New Testament emphasis is not on faith as the only thing, but rather on faith as the thing that is the foundation for all other obedience.

(But now we need to look at why faith is so important and so effective.)

- II. Faith is effective as a shield because Faith means trusting God and trusting his word.
  - A. One of the most famous battles of the ancient world took place at a Greek mountain pass called Thermopylae where 300 Spartans soldiers stood against a Persian army of tens of thousands. These brave Greeks have been a symbol of bravery down through history. Several movies have been made which supposedly depict the battle. One version has the Persians saying that their arrows would be so numerous that they would “blot out the sun.” And so thousands and thousands of arrows rained down on the Spartans. But they suffered no hurt because they hid themselves under their shields.
  - B. Faith is our shield because it is faith in God and his word. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (I John 5:4). But just exactly what is faith and why is it such a shield?
    - 1. We are familiar with Hebrews 11:1, but that is not so much a definition as it is a description of what faith does for us.
    - 2. The simplest definition for faith, as used in our text, is “trust,” or “godly trust”; that is, trust in God and in the absolute reliance on the trustworthiness of his word.
      - a. God told Abraham, “Fear not, I am thy shield” (Genesis 15:1).

Our faith is not faith in *faith*, but faith in *God*. Proverbs 30:5 says, “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.” Faith means embracing as truth what God has spoken.

- b. This is why “faith comes by hearing” (Romans 10:17), why the gospel is “the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth” (Romans 1:16). Paul said he preached the gospel “that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (I Corinthians 2:5).
- C. So it comes down to whether we believe what God says. We ought to have absolute faith/trust because we are convinced that “God cannot lie” (Titus 1:2); that it is “impossible for him to lie” (Heb. 6:18). “He faileth not” (Zephaniah 3:5). “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES AND ALWAYS CARRIES OUT HIS THREATS! In every temptation, therefore, in every trial, in all the upheavals of life, faith is our shield because we truly believe:
- 1. That there is a God who sees our every move and knows every thought of our hearts (Revelation 2:23; Hebrews 4:13).
  - 2. He will never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).
  - 3. That God will bring every work into judgment (Ecclesiastes 12:14).
  - 4. That we will be judged by the word of the Lord (John 12:48).
  - 5. That there will be eternity in either heaven or hell (Matthew 25:46).

(The text tells us to take, to hold up, our faith as a shield because:)

- III. Such a shield of faith is needed to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one.
  - A. Fiery darts were arrows or spears with combustible tips that not only could penetrate the body, but also ignite the flesh. This meant terror for unprotected soldiers. But the Romans and Greeks had learned to cover their shields with leather, even layers of



leather, which sometimes they soaked in water, so that they stopped the dart and quenched the flame.

- B. The devil is “the wicked one” (NKJV). Verse 11 speaks of “the wiles of the devil”—Satan’s strategies. Verse 12 describes our battle as “not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” We are apt to think that our difficulties will be just with people (“flesh and blood”) and that we can take them on “man to man.” We don’t know how to explain all the things named, i.e., what is meant by principalities and powers, the rulers of darkness, spiritual wickedness in heavenly places. But the point to be impressed upon us is that there are invisible and evil spiritual forces at work in the world and all of it has its origins in “the wicked one.” (Cf. I Peter 5:8.)
- C. He shoots his fiery darts in secret places, to seduce into secret sin. His darts may be invisible until buried in a man’s heart. They come suddenly. He shoots them openly from the opposition. They come when least expected. They come in the company of enemies. They come in the company of friends. They come when we are weakest, but will as readily be shot at the strong. They come at night and they come in the daytime. We marvel over Christians who endure bitter persecutions, but sometimes the darts of temptations have more fire in them than do the flames of persecution. Don’t you know that giving in can seem the easiest way out? Don’t you know that going along with the crowd will make you popular? Don’t you know that to get along you have to go along?
- D. The Bible gives us some memorable examples:
1. How was it that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego could walk so bravely into that furnace? Do you want a picture of their faith shield? Here it is: “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up” (Daniel 3:17f).
  2. We think about Joseph and the hardship of enslavement in Egypt. Then

came Potiphar's promiscuous wife. She offered him the pleasures of sin and had the power to slander him if he refused. Proverbs 1:10 says, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." In the New Testament, "Flee youthful lusts" (II Tim. 2:22). That's easy to accept when we are encamped in safety and the sirens of temptation are far away, but Joseph was in the heat of battle, on the front lines of fleshly lusts. What saved him? His shield of faith said, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9).

3. They told the prophet Micaiah that four hundred prophets {whole "Ministerial Association") had already said what King Ahab wanted to hear and that he better do the same. The clergy and the king expected him to conform. But Micaiah knew their doctrine was false. So he held up the shield of faith and said, "What the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak" (I Kings 22).
4. Have we ever had as much reason to be discouraged as did Jeremiah? They fought him, they slandered him, they falsely accused him, they threatened him, and they imprisoned him. But when he was just about ready to quit, to give up, he held up the shield of faith to say the word of God was still a burning fire in his bones (Jeremiah 20:9).
5. Paul had the shield of faith at his trial in Rome. He said, "At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me. . . . Nevertheless the Lord stood with me and strengthened me" (II Timothy 4:16f).
6. Was not Daniel holding the shield of faith when he faced the lions? Didn't Elijah have his shield in place at Mt. Carmel when he singlehandedly took on four hundred and fifty of the prophets of Baal? John the Baptist had the shield when he denounced Herod's adultery. Stephen had no physical shield to keep them from beating him to death with rocks, but his shield of faith protected his soul and Jesus received his spirit.
7. Now, to give another side to it, David should have taken up the shield of

faith when the fiery dart of lust was shot at him from Bathsheeba's house (II Samuel 11). Do you remember a church member by the name of Demas? Paul said, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (II Timothy 4:10). Demas left his shield at home! What about that morning when Peter was so scared in front of women and bystanders that he shamefully denied his Lord? Where was his shield of faith? He thought he had it at Gethsemene, but where he needed it most was at the devil's fireside in the courtyard of the high priest.

Conclusion:

Paul says, "taking the shield of faith." It has to be picked up and held in place. There's not anything mysterious about it. Just believe that God always keeps His promises and always carries out His threats. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11).

[1506 Springsteen Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29730. drpharr@msn.com]

The Helmet of Salvation  
Isaiah 59:17  
*Prepared by: Tommy Johnson*

Introduction:

IV. What is a hat? What is its function?

- A. A hat is used for decoration.
- B. A hat is used for recognition.
- C. A hat is also used for protection.
- D. Finally, a hat is also used to give honor and recognition.

V. As a Child of God we are called to wear a hat.

- A. When we put on Christ in Baptism, he outfits us with the Helmet of Salvation.
- B. Its purpose is very similar to the purpose of a hat that we would wear today.

VI. The Helmet of Salvation. In Ephesians 6:17 Paul quotes from Isaiah 59:17.

VII. There are 3 separate functions of the Helmet of Salvation.

I. The Helmet of Salvation represents who we are...it identifies us!

A. As the hat of a baseball player or the helmet of a football player identifies them to their team. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10

- 1. This helmet of salvation Paul speaks about here is part of the spiritual armor that sets the Christian apart from the world.
- 2. In this passage, Paul uses the illustration of day and night to describe the 2 sides of the struggle all believers have and experience!
  - a) The dark represents the evil and broken nature of this world.
  - b) Paul also speaks about the side of light.
- 3. As Christians, we are clothed 'in Christ' and we are battle dressed with the armor of God. Part of that armor is the Helmet of Salvation!

B. That helmet identifies us with our Savior. It also identifies us and how we should be acting and living!

- 1. Have you seen the way some people wear their hats today?
- 2. Christians are called by God to wear our helmet of salvation a certain way!

C. How should the one that is wearing the Helmet of Salvation act? 1 Thessalonians 5:11-ff.

1. These are the evidences in your life that you are wearing the Helmet of Salvation.
  2. We are to wear this Helmet boldly.
- II. The Helmet of Salvation is for our spiritual protection! 1 Thessalonians 5:8
- A. The Helmet of Salvation is for the spiritual protection of the Child of God.
1. In our world here we know that a helmet is used for protection.
  2. Here Paul is using an illustration of the breastplate and the helmet.
    - a) The breastplate was used by soldiers to protect the heart and all the vital organs.
    - b) The helmet was used for protection of the head, brain, vision, hearing and speech!
- B. How important is a helmet?
1. It is for our spiritual protection.
  2. Satan may be able to hurt us physically and the world and its evil can surely do damage to us physically.
  3. We can have security.
- III. The Helmet of Salvation brings honor to whom it represents 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10
- A. The helmet of salvation proclaims proudly and loudly who God is to his children.
1. It says to the world that God has brought salvation by delivering you from the darkness of sin and from the wrath of God's judgment.
  2. Christ died so that you might live!
  3. We should proudly go out into the world revealing WHO we are, WHO we serve and WHAT He has done!
- B. Do you want to show the world who you serve?
1. Good deeds are a result of our salvation. Matthew 5:16.
  2. We want them seen NOT for our glory or credit but that it brings glory, honor and praise to Christ.

Conclusion:

1. 1st the helmet of salvation's function is to identify us with Christ.
2. 2nd the helmet of salvation's function is the spiritual protection.
3. 3rd the helmet of salvation's function is to give honor and respect to the Savior we serve.

## WORD OF GOD

*Jeff Trotter*

**Introduction** – This wonderful lectureship has a very distinguished history. I appreciate the honor of being a part of this the 30<sup>th</sup> year edition, and appreciate the opportunity to share with you concerning something that I am passionate about.

**(Eph 6:11-17) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. {12} For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. {13} Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. {14} Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, {15} and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; {16} above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. {17} And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;**

Each one of these aspects are important and every one critical to the great task at hand.

However, up to now this week, the image has been one of what we wear; tonight we discuss what we wield.

If we are not careful, we will be all dressed up with nowhere to go.

We dress like a soldier, our armor gleaming in the sun, our sword by our side in its sheath, but we never engage the enemy, we never cross swords with the foe, we look really really good...but we never go to war.

Victory will only be achieved through our willingness to skillfully thrust and swing the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Tonight, I would like us to consider that the word of God slashes, slices, stitches, sutures, and saves.

### **1) The word of God slashes – it slashes our evil enemy**

A skilled swordsman is formidable for any battle.

No one wielded the sword as did Jesus.

In Matthew 4, we find him under attack, but with each challenge he thrusts the sword of “It is written”, vs. 4, 7, and 10.

What is from God has been written, it is written, and it always will be written.

The unbelieving Jews trusted in the sword, but failed in their ability to use it properly (John 5:38-40).

It is not just being in possession of the word, but the word being in possession of you.

This requires great preparation...

**(2 Tim 2:15) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

*National Geographic* ran an article about the Alaskan bull moose. The males of the species battle for dominance during the fall breeding season, literally going head-to-head with antlers crunching together as they collide. Often the antlers, their only weapon are broken. That ensures defeat. The heftiest moose, with the largest and strongest antlers, triumphs. Therefore, the battle fought in the fall is really won during the summer, when the moose eat continually. The one that consumes the best diet for growing antlers and gaining weight will be the heavyweight in the fight. Those that eat inadequately sport weaker antlers and less bulk.

The groundwork for victory is laid before the battle ever begins.

## **2) The word of God slices...it slices sin from our lives**

I don't know of anyone who looks forward to and enjoys surgery.

However, at times it is an absolute necessity if we are to continue to live and be healthy...so it is spiritually.

**(Heb 4:12) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

Those who were obedient on Pentecost in Acts 2 were “cut to the heart” by the message that they had heard (vs. 37).

The Philippian jailer of Acts 16 knew well the use of a sword and almost used one on himself when he thought the prisoners had escaped.

However, once his life was saved physically by Paul, his life was saved spiritually through the sword of the Spirit.

**(Acts 16:30-33) And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" {31} So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." {32} Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. {33} And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.**

He was raised to life from death and received freedom from two prisoners (Romans 6:4, Ephesians 2:1-2).

### **3) The word of God stitches...it stitches us together**

We are family, and with the same sharp instrument with which he cuts away our sin, he connects us as brothers and sisters in Christ.

**(James 1:17-18) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. {18} Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.**

Literally, he gave birth to us by the word of truth.

We are jointly born of incorruptible seed through the word of God (1 Peter 1:23).

We enjoy a relationship...as in all relationships, things would be better between us if you would always see things my way...but of course the importance is that we all see things God's way!

**(1 Cor 1:10) Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**

### **4 The word of God sutures...it sutures our broken hearts**

I don't know how many times I myself have said, and have heard others say as they were walking through hard valleys in life...what would I do without my faith?

**(Rom 10:17) ...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

**(2 Cor 5:7) For we walk by faith, not by sight.**

When you put those two very important concepts together, you are able to better understand what Paul discussed with the Corinthians just before that last verse mentioned.

**(2 Cor. 4:8-10) We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; {9} persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; {10}**



always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

**(2 Cor. 4:16) Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.**

Life is hard...we have challenges, sorrows, and a multitude of moments when we just get tired and weary of the journey...it is in these moments that we remember that our journey is not alone nor is it unequipped.

**(Psa 119:28) My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word.**

### **5) The word of God saves...it saves our souls**

**(James 1:21) Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.**

**(Psa 119:10-11) With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! {11} Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!**

We are saved to save...as we close, let's go back to a passage from shortly ago.

**(James 1:21-25) Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.**

**{22} But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. {23} For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; {24} for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. {25} But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.**

The word of God slashes our evil enemy, it slices sin from our lives, it stitches us together, it sutures our broken hearts, and it saves our souls.

As soldiers of God, we need to see ourselves as a MASH unit.

We are a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital to the world.

How mobile are you in doing the will of the Lord?

The sword awaits your use!

[Jeff Trotter/14425 Gadwall Ct./Charlotte, North Carolina 28273]



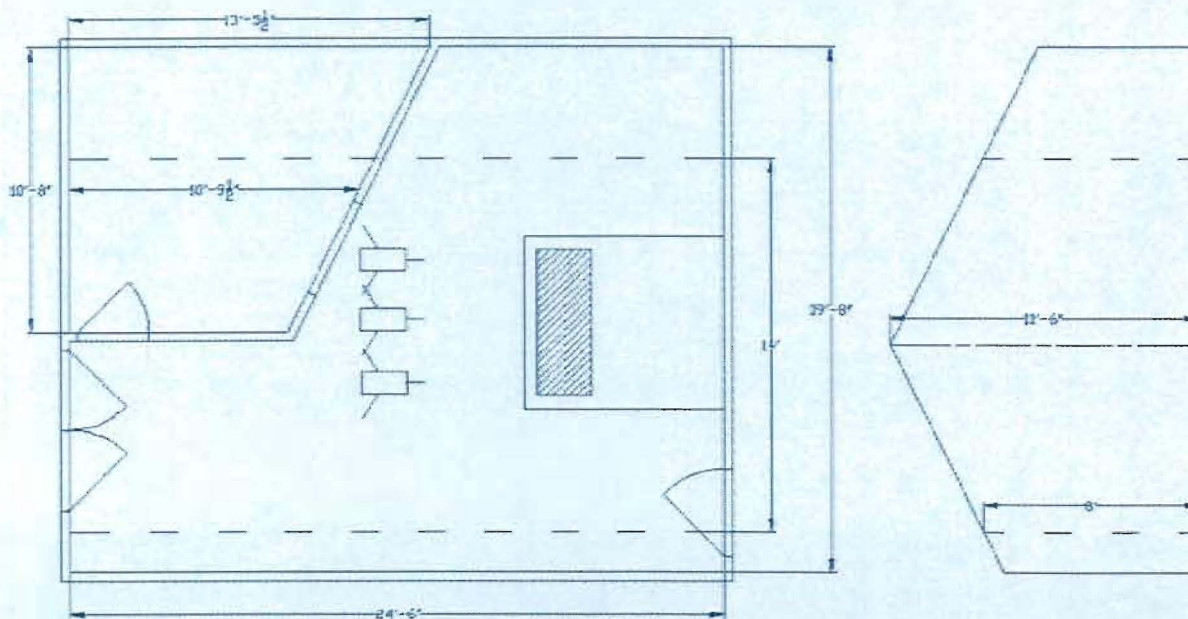
## Biblical Viewpoints Update: Exciting News!

*Roby Ellis*

### Bringing You Up to Speed

Last year we informed you of plans to expand our recording facilities by adding a new control room adjacent to the existing studio. For a long time we have wanted to create a variety of new scenes that could remain in position while still affording us some flexibility. Our aim was to be able to move from one set to another without having to shift furniture around in the limited space in the studio. As we began to draft up plans for this proposed renovation, however, one very serious problem became apparent: while we would be able to add a considerable amount of square footage to the studio by relocating the control room, the larger space would not be very conducive to filming because of the low ceiling height. As we continued to think of possible solutions to this dilemma, we began to reconsider an idea from years past.

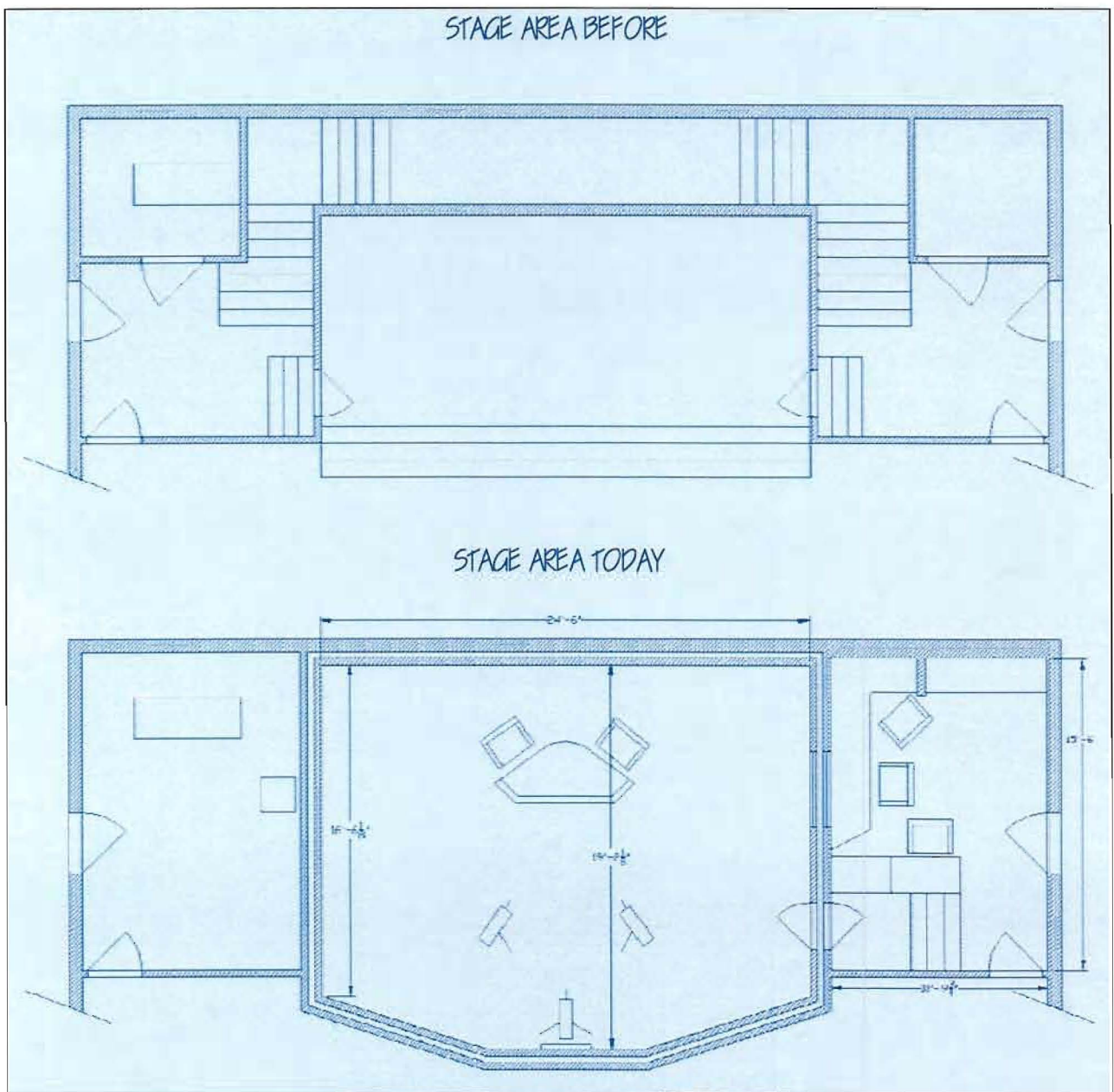
This drawing shows the studio in which we have been operating since 2002. The hatched area shows the position of the desk. At the upper left you can see the size and shape of the control room. The profile drawing on the right shows the height of the ceiling. As you can see, the points at which the ceiling reaches 8 feet are only 14 feet apart.



The original proposition was to increase the studio's square footage by building a new control room to the left of the existing one, but as you can see, the walls at the top and bottom are too short to shoot against, and the only other wall, which is already interrupted by double doors, would have to contain a window as well (for purposes of visual communication).



When the congregation here began worshipping in the new auditorium in August of 2000, the old auditorium became a meeting place for larger classes. The stage area and baptistery, on the other hand, were rendered entirely obsolete. As we considered how to expand the existing studio, we began to entertain an old idea of building a completely new studio and control room in the old stage area. On January 13, both options were presented to our elders, and the decision was made to build the new studio on the old stage. Not only would this put an unused part of our facility to use and allow us to build a larger studio to meet our growing needs, but it would also allow us to build without ever suspending operation in our existing studio.





## Getting Started

Demolition began at noon on Monday, February 15. Most of the construction was done by Ken Shepard (one of the Elizabethton elders) and George Adkins (one of our deacons). Within a few days, the wall that had separated the stage from the baptistery was gone, and the baptistery was transported to West Jefferson, North Carolina, where it remains in storage awaiting the construction of a new facility in which it will someday be put to use again.

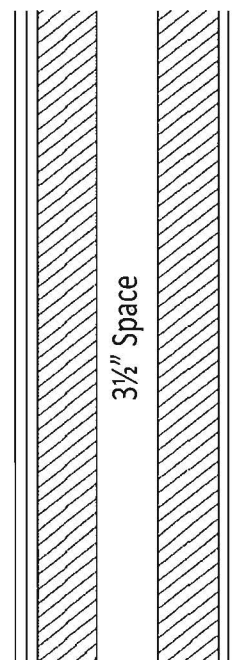


*Baptistery exposed after demolition of old wall behind stage.  
Photo taken 2/15/10.*

Construction continued through the spring and summer months, and some final touches are still being applied as this article is being written. Very soon, however, we expect to see the rewards for the time and expense that have been invested in this venture.

## Details about the Project

As with any project, several decisions had to be made along the way. In an effort to optimize the quality of the programs recorded in the new studio, two walls were erected all the way around the room, separated by a gap  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Both walls were then insulated and covered on the outside with two layers of  $\frac{5}{8}$ " drywall (as pictured on the right). These seemingly extreme measures help to keep unwelcome sounds (traffic on Broad Street, conversation in the control room, etc.) out of the studio during recording sessions. We also took sound into consideration when shopping for our heating and cooling system. If you look at the ceiling in the studio, you will notice something that looks like a long black bag that runs nearly the full length of the room. This is a canvas duct designed to circulate the air more quietly. The sound should also be enhanced by higher ceilings. Whereas the ceilings in the old studio were barely six feet high in some places, the new studio features 13-foot ceilings throughout. This extra head room also allows us ample space to install overhead lighting.



You may recall that the old stage was elevated above the front of the auditorium by about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Instead of demolishing the stage floor and dropping down to the concrete pad beneath it, we chose to leave the stage at this height so that ducts, cables, and electrical could be run and accessed underneath the floor. When you enter the studio, you will notice that nearly all of the





cables are hidden from sight. This not only improves the aesthetic quality of the studio itself, but it also facilitates the moving and changing of cables when this becomes necessary in the future. The space beneath the stage can now be entered through two access points located on either side of the new heat pump in the utility room.

## Other Improvements

The new studio is equipped to support at least four different sets. The main set features a hand-made news desk built by Wesley Skelton (a member at Elizabethton). This is the set that will be used for the presentation of the lesson each week. Another set features two chairs in front of a green and beige tapestry. This set was designed primarily for interviews with local church leaders.



*The new cherry desk will be the centerpiece of the main set.*

In the brief interviews that we will conduct on this set, preachers and elders from various congregations around the viewing area will be able to tell viewers where they are located, what times they meet, etc. A third set features a pulpit built by Clayton Winters. This pulpit has been in the original studio for several years, but because of the limited ceiling height, we have never been able to use it until now. There is also a space for a fourth set that can be used in the future. Each of these sets is equipped with its own microphone jacks, and each has ready access to electrical outlets.

Another improvement to the studio was made out of necessity when the studio computer crashed on August 26. Any hope of repairing the system was abandoned when we learned that replacement parts are no longer available for it. The new system that we purchased (a Dell Studio 8100) is equipped with more memory, a better graphics card, and more processing power than the old computer had. This system is equipped to handle full HD video, which will certainly be useful to us in the future. Best of all, it cost only about 25% of what we paid for the old computer in April 2007.



*Dell Studio 8100*

Speaking of high definition, the new studio is also equipped with a 32" Full HD television mounted on the west wall. This television, which is connected to all three cameras via a remote-controlled switcher hidden beneath the studio floor, will be used to set up the cameras before each recording session and to monitor the program as it is being recorded. Two other 23" HD monitors stationed beneath the cameras will display the speakers' notes as well as a count-down timer. All of these new features will help us to produce a more professional video program.



## The Road Ahead

The future for Biblical Viewpoints is looking bright indeed. In the last few years we have seen the advent of high-definition (HD) television. As this technology improves and ages, the prices on HD televisions, monitors, and cameras continue to decline. By the time that local stations like WJHL become capable of broadcasting commercial programs in HD, these products should be even more affordable. With the acquisition of our new computer and monitors, we have the ability to view and edit HD footage; all we lack is the ability to capture it. Within the next few years, you just might be able to see BV in HD!

## Special Thanks

There are several individuals who have made significant contributions to make this dream a reality. We have already mentioned Ken Shepard and George Adkins, who have put countless hours of hard work into this project. We could not have purchased a finer desk for the main set than the one Wesley Skelton built for us. Robert Jeter soldered the microphone jacks, developed the lighting concepts and the countdown timer, and advised us on sound from day one. Mike Heaton helped us to get the materials for the desk and made shelves for it. Lois Durham and her sister, Christine Barwick, were a tremendous help in selecting the furniture for the studio and decorating it. Christine also made the drapes that will be used as the backdrop for the interview set. Dan and Patrick Mohler (twin brothers and close friends of Roger Shepard) volunteered to hang the drywall (their occupation)—a demanding job that took two days to finish. When the Mount Zion church (London, KY) heard about our plans to build, they quickly called and asked if they could help us financially, and, since the beginning of this project alone, they have given \$6,000 to assist us (cf. Philippians 4:15-17).

There are several others who have contributed in different ways, but none as much as Clayton Winters. Although Clayton has not been well enough to take part in the actual construction of the new studio, none of this would ever have been realized without his vision and dedication. I would also like to thank our elders for their willingness to bear this expense so that the gospel message might be presented in this way. Please keep Biblical Viewpoints in your prayers as we move into the future. To God be the glory!



In the past, speakers have relied on cue cards to know how much time was left in the program. Cards would appear at 7 minutes, 5 minutes, 3 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minute, 30 seconds, and 15 seconds.

Now the speakers will have the time remaining on the screen in front of them throughout the program.





