

AV Morning Program 2018 Summary

Ephesians 6:10-20 “The Armor of God”

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 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 the 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. Stand therefore, having **girded your waist with truth**, having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, and having **shod your feet** with the preparation of **the gospel of peace**; above all, taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

This summer our campers will be learning about the Armor of God as found in St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Over the course of two weeks they will discover, through **fun activities** and **lively discussions**, about each of the pieces of spiritual which God has given us in order that we might better be able to face whatever the world might throw at us!

What is this armor? After all we weren't all issued kevlar at baptism or chrismation. Or were we. . . ?

First we are called to take up the **Belt of Truth**. This is the truth of *Christ*: his incarnation, his teachings, his crucifixion and his resurrection. This is the foundation of our lives as Christians.

Then we put on the **Breastplate of Righteousness**. When we walk with God, we are surrounded and protected by his righteousness, his truth and love. Such as close relationship with God, like that of Noah, Esther, or Job, allows us to weather many a storm.

When we put on the **Sandals of the Gospel of Peace & Helmet of Salvation** we arm ourselves with the good news of the Gospels-- Christ has Risen! “O Death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory? . . . Christ is risen, and life reigns!” With our Pascha boots and helmet anything is possible!

Taking up the **Shield of Faith** gets takes practice. The Christian Faith is not something you keep in a closet and pull out once a week, but rather something to keep with us at all times. The more you use it the more familiar it will become.

And lastly, ought of its scabbard we take the **Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**. Words are powerful things--a word created the world and a Word saved it. God gives nothing less than this awesome power as our offense.

So where do we find this armor? What happened to that baptismal issued kevlar? The answer is as close as your parish Church and the Bible on your shelf. A soldier does not go into a battle alone, and neither do we. The campers will be encouraged to use every resource at their disposal whether it be the Scripture, holy icons, saints, sacraments and the services of the Church as well as their parish priest, priest wife, youth directors, parents, fellow Christians, to aid them in the use of their God-given armor.

God has given us the tools that we need to navigate the Christian life.

Let's use them!