

## **FULLY EQUIPPED BY GOD**

(2 Tim. 3:14-17)

### **Introduction:**

1. Beautiful words, encouraging words, informative words. The inspired words of Paul to Timothy ought to make all mankind pause and consider.
2. Let us this morning pause and consider some things about this wonderful gift of life from God and all the great truths He has revealed to us about it: how we are special, loved, entrusted with a noble purpose, and looking forward to an eternal reward.

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. We are special.**

- A. Stand in awe of the creation, and especially the fact that it is all for us (Ps. 8; Jas. 1:17, 18).
- B. Remember that we of all creation are of God's nature, truly His children partaking of His nature (Gen. 1:26; 2 Pet. 1:4).
- C. From the beginning God knew that you would need a Savior, and from the beginning God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all "pleased" to provide the One (Is. 53:10; Rev. 13:8; cf. John 17:4, 5, 24).

#### **II. We are loved.**

- A. God has made all provision for us (Matt. 5:45; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:3).
- B. God will never leave us alone.
  1. A thread throughout all scripture (Gen. 3:8; 4:7; 15:1; 17:1; Ex. 3:16; Deut. 31:6-8; Josh. 1:5-9; Is. 41:10; Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).
  2. A special promise to Christians (John 14:15-23; Rom. 8:9-11).
- C. Always thought of/communicated with.
  1. From the beginning God desired fellowship with His children, but sin separated us from God. Thus all of the systems, the ways, which would allow man reconciliation with God.
  2. But we must all know, even those who are separated from God by sin (that is, have not had their sins forgiven in Christ) are always in the thoughts of God (Matt. 6:25-34). This is especially true for those in Christ (Matt. 10:27-33).
  3. Why the constant admonition to pray? Because God desires greatly to speak with His children, to regain somewhat the relationship lost to sin. The day is coming when we will have it in full, if we will (Rev. 22:1-5).

#### **III. We have a noble purpose.**

- A. To glorify God (Matt. 5:3-16; Rom. 12:1, 2; Eph. 1:23; 2 Thess. 1:10).
- B. Defeat God's adversary. The devil would have us deny God's love and not return it. The devil declares that God is not worthy of love and we are not worthy of salvation. Prove him wrong and glorify our God even more!
- C. Help God's children. God desires that ALL men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). If a person you truly love has children, how do you feel/think towards them? Remember, all heaven rejoices when 1 sinner repents (Luke 15:7, 10).

#### **IV. We have an eternal reward.**

- A. As true children of God in Christ we share in His inheritance (Rom. 8:14-17).
- B. There is a joy we enter into (Matt. 25:21), a kingdom prepared for us from the beginning of the world (Matt. 25:34), and an eternal life in heaven (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 21, 22).

### **Conclusion:**

1. We are very special creations of God, His very children. We are so dearly loved (Rom. 5:8). We have been entrusted with a noble, divine purpose (Eph. 3:11). And, we have laid up for us in heaven an inheritance, reward, beyond imagination (1 Pet. 1:4). Eph. 6:10-17
2. We have also been fully equipped for all: salvation and good works (2 Tim. 3:15-17).
3. The question from the beginning remains today; will you accept the truth of your existence and live accordingly? Invitation.

## MORE ON “FULLY EQUIPPED BY GOD”

1. 2 Tim. 3:14-17 in its fullness:

- Chapter One = Stir up the gift of God! Don't be ashamed! Follow my example! Hold fast! Don't follow bad examples!
- Chapter Two = Remember what you were taught and teach others, to teach others! Remember who you are! Remind others who they are! Act who you are!
- Chapter Three = Falling away is coming and will come, do not be surprised or defeated by it! Remember and continue in the things you have been given by God that has made you wise unto salvation! Do not doubt scripture it is from God to work God's will! Scripture is able to full equip a person in all aspects of life and godliness (cp. 2 Pet. 1:3)!

Chapter Four = I charge you not to stop! I may be near death but I have overcome! You do likewise!

2. Let us consider the equipping we have from God as detailed by Paul in Eph. 6:10-17.

- First of all we have been equipped with the fact that we are engaged in a spiritual war (vv 11, 12; 2 Cor. 10:1-6; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:11, 12; 2 Tim. 4:7; Rev. 11:7; 12:17).
- **Girded our waist with truth** = The belt serves in many ways = it holds other pieces of armor in its right place, it allows for freedom of movement, and it is the cover of man's strength (meekness).
- **Put on the breastplate of righteousness** = the righteousness of God is equal to all of His commandments. They protect our heart from the lies of the devil. Remember, our heart hungers for righteousness and thus seeks after God's word.
- **Having shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace** = as a soldier trains for combat so to must Christians with the word of God. And, just as a soldier is not ready to go out without his footwear, so too Christians are not ready to “go out” without preparation in the word of God.
- **Bearing the shield of faith** = our faith protects us from head to toe against the lies of the devil and evil men. False teaching bounces harmlessly off of strong faith.
- **Wearing the helmet of salvation** = it is our knowledge of God which can guarantee our salvation (2 Pet. 1:3-11; 1 John 5:13).
- **Armed with the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God** = our warfare is not simply defensive. We are to be on offense all the time but while trying not to be offensive. Consider the Spirit's sword (John 16:13-15; Heb. 4:12; Rev. 1:16; 2:12).