

# The Terre Haute

# SPEAKER

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

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## THE CHRISTIAN’S PPE

*John Edwards*

We have heard a lot lately about PPE (Personal Protective Equipment used by healthcare personnel to protect themselves, patients, and others when providing care).

The President has referred to the Coronavirus as the invisible enemy. Did you know we face an enemy far more dangerous and deadly than Covid-19? Our most dangerous enemy, as identified in the parable of the tares, is *“the devil”* (Mt. 13:25, 39). Do you think he is practicing social distancing right now? Have *“his ministers”* (2 Cor. 11:15) been furloughed or are they staying at home? Peter said, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Pet. 5:8).

We are at war! Paul appealed to Timothy to *“war a good warfare”* (1 Tim. 1:18) and *“Fight the good fight of faith”* (1 Tim. 6:12). Thus, we are soldiers of Christ (2 Tim. 2:3-4). Peter admonished, *“... abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul”* (1 Pet. 2:11). The devil is the tempter (Mt. 4:1-3) and has three powerful weapons in his arsenal: *“the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the*

*pride of life”* (1 Jn. 2:16). These wage war against the soul!

We need some Personal Protective Equipment in this battle! I’m calling attention to The Christian’s PPE as outlined in Ephesians 6:10-18. This PPE fully protects the Christian from head to toe:

**LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH (v. 14).** The Scriptures often speak of *“girt loins”*. Elijah was identified as *“girt with a girdle of leather about his loins”* (2 Ki. 1:8). *“Girt loins”* is expressive of action as men were sent on urgent errands (2 Ki. 4:29; 9:1). Such is also a symbol of strength and maturity, of readiness and preparation. The Lord said to Job, *“Gird up now thy loins like a man for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me”* (Job 38:3). The Lord commissioned Jeremiah, *“gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak...all that I command thee...”* (Jer. 1:17-19). Our loins must be girt with truth! (Jn. 8:32; 17:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:12; Eph. 4:15).

**THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (v. 14).** The breastplate was a piece of armor that covered the chest and shoulders, affording protection from spears, missiles and swords. 2 Corinthians 6:7 speaks of *“the armour of righteousness”*. Righteousness is an attribute of God (Rom.

3:5). The commandments of God are righteousness (Ps. 119:172). Righteousness is the state of him who is such as he ought to be: integrity, virtue, purity of life, uprightness, correctness in thinking, feeling, and acting. The Lord taught, *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness”* (Mt. 5:6). We are to yield our members as instruments of righteousness (Rom. 6:13-18), *“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness”* (Phil. 1:11). 1 Thessalonians 5:8 says, *“putting on the breastplate of faith and love”*.

**FEET SHOD WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE (v. 15).** Our spiritual shoes are the readiness given by the gospel of *“The Prince of Peace”* (Is. 9:6). Paul is a splendid example (Rom. 1). He was *“separated unto the gospel”* (v. 1), served with his spirit in the gospel (v. 9), and said, *“So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”* (vv. 15-16). He was *“set for the defence of the gospel”* (Phil. 1:17). *“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace...”* (Rom. 10:15), a quote from Isaiah 52:7.

**THE SHIELD OF FAITH (v. 16).** The shield was large and oblong, protecting every part of the soldier. The importance of the spiritual shield is seen in the words: *“wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”* In ancient times, darts or arrows were often covered with burning material. The enemy is hurling at us darts filled with inflammable substances and set on fire. This marks them as particularly destructive. The word *“faith”* is used of the gospel (Gal. 1:23; 2:2) and our personal faith which comes by hearing the gospel (Rom. 10:17). To maintain a strong shield: be *“full of faith”* (Acts 6:5), *“continue in the faith”* (Acts 14:22), be *“strong in faith”* (Rom. 4:20), *“stand fast in the faith”* (1 Cor. 16:13), *“abound in faith”* (2 Cor. 8:7), have a *“faith”* that is *“steadfast”* (Col. 2:5), *“hold fast faith”* (1 Tim. 1:19), *“continue in faith”* (1 Tim. 2:15), be *“nourished up in the words of faith”* (1 Tim. 4:6), *“follow faith”* (1 Tim. 6:11), *“keep the faith”* (2 Tim. 4:7), be *“sound in faith”* (Titus 2:2) and *“hold fast the profession of faith”* (Heb. 10:23). 1 Peter 5:9 says of the Devil, *“Whom resist stedfast in*

*the faith...”*

**THE HELMET OF SALVATION (v. 17).** The helmet protects the head. When Saul armed David with his armour in going up against Goliath, he put an helmet of brass upon his head (1 Sam. 17:38). The devil will try to get in one’s head. Satan *“entered into Judas”* (Lk. 22:3). *“Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost...?”* (Acts 5:3). We must guard our minds by keeping our thoughts in the right places (Phil. 4:8). The helmet of salvation is the protection of soul which consists in the hope of salvation. *“...and for an helmet, the hope of salvation”* (1 Th. 5:8).

**THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (v. 17).** The sword of the Spirit is identified as the word of God. Hebrews 4:12, *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* This is both a defensive and offensive piece of equipment. We must know how to handle the spiritual sword! “...

*nor handling the word of God deceitfully”* (2 Cor. 4:2), but *“skillfully”* (Heb. 5:13).

**PRAYING ALWAYS (v. 18).** The song, *“Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus”* says, *“Put on the gospel armor, Each piece put on with pray’r.”* Jesus said, *“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer; believing, ye shall receive”* (Mt. 21:22). Paul urged: *“continuing instant in prayer”* (Rom. 12:12), *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God”* (Phil. 4:6), *“Continue in prayer”* (Col. 4:2), and *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 Th. 5:17).

The Lord has fully supplied all the personal protective equipment we need within His word. We just need to put it on and make good use of it!

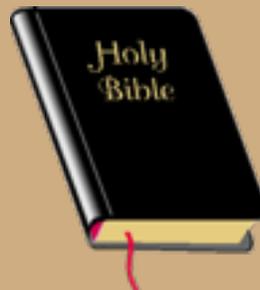
*Our Illinois friends will be required to cover their faces in public spaces, beginning in May, as part of an amended statewide stay-at-home order. Remember to put on your Spiritual PPE!*

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**Assembling Times:**  
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**We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.**

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**We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.**

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