

Panoply of the Roman Foot Soldier Applied to the Christian Warrior: Equation of Honor, the FLOT Line, Fighting sans Armor, Fifth Columns, Worthless Believers

54. In order to be a good foot soldier we must put on our panoply. The Romans became lazy. They were only willing to train if they could do so without the breastplate and the helmet.
55. Believers are lazy when they have no interest in developing the intellectual capacity of divine thought but favor instead the titillation of feel-good emotions elicited by “contemporary” church services.
56. “Contemporary” services are sops to the masses to fill Disneyland churches. Outreach is designed to bring in more and more bodies (customers) in hopes of paying off debt.
57. Sixty-five percent of those that attend Protestant churches in this country believe Christ was sinful, 66 percent do not think the Bible is totally accurate, and 73 percent believe in salvation by works. These are blasphemous, heretical, and apostate respectively.
58. The full panoply must be picked up and worn by the believer. The basic item is the belt of truth. The believer must be able to distinguish between the truth and the lie – only a biblical worldview makes this possible.
59. To this foundation of absolute truth is fastened the breastplate of righteousness, the wisdom that comes from knowledge of truth cultivates standards that produce integrity, or experiential righteousness.¹
60. The boots speak of the believer’s walk in wheel-tracks of righteousness by which he serves the Lord. The emphasis is on evangelism but a believer’s entire spiritual life is one of service to God.
61. The shield of faith speaks of the believer’s confidence in the truth he has in his soul, from the promises of the faith-rest drill to the constellations of doctrines that make up the sophisticated believer’s inventory of ideas and with which he guards and defends his soul.²
62. The helmet refers to the eternal protection and preservation of the soul through salvation. The bronze of the helmet speaks of the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ, reminiscent of the bronze altar of the Tabernacle.
63. The cheek pieces refer to the stability of eternal security. The helmet did not shift or fall off but stayed firmly in place during the heat of the battle.

¹ See visual: “Equation of Honor.”

² See visual: “Outside Pressures of Adversity and Prosperity.”

64. The animal-hide skullcap references the work of Christ on the cross which made salvation possible: (1) redemption toward sin, (2) reconciliation toward man, and (3) propitiation toward God.
65. The sword of the Spirit is the offensive weapon by which the believer uses the power of the Word of God to address the challenges of the Invisible War. The sword of the Spirit refers to the deployment of the ten problem-solving devices out on the FLOT line of the soul.
66. Vegetius provides the Christian soldier with a dire warning with the opening paragraph of this excerpt from his *De Re Militari*:

Footsoldiers wore breastplates and helmets. But when, because of negligence and laziness, parade ground drills were abandoned, the customary armor began to seem heavy since the soldiers rarely ever wore it.”³

67. For the Christian soldier, “parade ground drills” occur in the local church. He must identify a prepared *gumnasiarchos* and submit to his teaching authority.
68. However, when either the pastor-teacher or the Christian soldiers who train under him become negligent or lazy, then they will never develop wheel-tracks of righteousness and will lose faith in their eternal security.
69. Pastors who should know better, who have allegedly had proper training in biblical hermeneutics and are alleged to have previously taught Scripture accurately, are now inventing doctrines that have no biblical basis. They have deviated from the standard and in doing so are casting their congregations adrift.
70. I know some personally and I know some by report and the number is growing – a shocking but nevertheless telltale warning of the catastrophe that awaits this country.
71. And when one searches for a clear harbinger of dark times ahead then there is no better place to look than the pulpit, for as goes the pulpit, so goes the client nation.
72. Just as the Roman army was overwhelmed by the Goths so the believer is overwhelmed by the forces of evil. They have nothing with which to defend their souls.⁴
73. Vegetius’s observation that “troops in battle, exposed to wounds because they have no armour, think about running and not about fighting”⁵ is applicable to churches where no doctrine is taught. Under pressure they inevitably return to solutions that in unbelief were paths of least resistance.

³ Arther Ferrell, *The Fall of the Roman Empire: The Military Explanation* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1986), 129.

⁴ See visual: “Intrinsic and Extrinsic Fifth Columns.”

⁵ Ibid.

74. Fear is a prominent sinful emotion during times of social upheaval, and when it emerges in the soul of a believer with no biblical defenses it always results in “running and not fighting.”
75. Believers with no truth in their souls are worthless in both the visible and invisible wars. However, those who know how to fight the good fight, how to finish the race, and keep the faith will receive awards and decorations.

Until the institution of a formal and lengthy binding oath in 216 BC, legionaries had sworn two voluntary oaths. The first was to obey the consul; the second they swore to one another within the maniple [centuries]: never to desert comrades in order to save yourself, never to abandon your place in the battle line unless to recover a weapon, attack an enemy, or to save a comrade (Livy, 22:38). Caesar emphasizes that the centurions Pullo and Vorenus, bitter rivals for rank and honours, ‘dispite their enmity each helped to save the other [in battle]’ (Caesar, *Gallic War*, 5.44).⁶

⁶ Ross Cowan, *Roman Legionary: 58 BC–AD 69* (New York: Osprey Publishing, 2003), 20.