

## THE BELT OF TRUTH AND BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

### Ephesians 6:14

Many, like Pilate, still ask today, “What is truth?” Many deny there is such a thing as absolute truth. They think people choose their own truth among many options. But the Bible is absolute truth and it points us to Truth Himself, Jesus Christ our Lord. Truth is the foundation of God’s armor for our lives. Through the truth of the Bible, we know how to be declared right with God.

#### **1. GOD’S ARMOR BEGINS WITH FASTENING ON DAILY THE BELT OF TRUTH**

- We are commanded to stand against the devil and his forces – verse 14. As Paul is writing Ephesians he is under arrest, imprisoned, and chained to a Roman soldier – Ephesians 4:1; 6:20. He is looking at a soldier’s armor and using it as illustrating God’s Armor. He is also drawing from the Old Testament and Jesus the Messiah wearing God’s armor. *“He (Christ) warred against Satan in order to gain the victory. Through the Cross He carried the warfare to the very threshold of Hell itself, to lead forth then his captivity captive. Today we war against Satan only to maintain and consolidate the victory which Christ has already gained. By the resurrection God proclaimed His Son victor over the whole realm of darkness, and the ground Christ won He has given to us. We do not need to fight to obtain it. We only need to hold it against all challengers...We do not try to gain ground; we merely stand on the ground which the Lord Jesus has gained for us, and resolutely refuse to be moved from it.”* – Watchman Nee.
- Standing against Satan and his evil hordes begins with putting on the belt of Truth. Truth is foundational and holds everything else together just like the soldier’s belt. To fasten on the belt meant getting ready for action. Truth matters. Doctrine matters. Paul had previously warned the Ephesian elders about false doctrine – Acts 20:27-30. *“Wobbly Christians who have no firm foothold in Christ are an easy prey for the devil.”* – John Stott, Ephesians. The devil is assaulting doctrine and twisting it – 1 Timothy 4:1,2; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-4. It is not just all about “love.” It is loving to speak the truth – Ephesians 4:13-15. Without a commitment to the Bible as Truth, and a knowledge of essential truth, we will be unable to stand against the deceptions of the devil. Essential truths include the Bible as God’s only inspired Word, the Trinity, the Deity and Humanity of Christ, the Substitutionary Blood Atonement of Jesus, His bodily resurrection, Christ’s return, and eternal Heaven and Hell. The Bible is God’s absolute Truth. To disobey the Bible is to disobey God. Who are you going to trust in the midst of battle? It needs to be God’s Truth for your own good. Above the din of battle, listen to the Voice of your Commander!
- Why is God’s Truth so important? Because it is essential for life. God’s Word is our map, our GPS, our guide for all of life – Psalm 119:9-11, 105. Without the Bible we would be lost on the battlefield of life. Without the Bible we would not know who we are or how this all ends. The Word of God is life-giving and refreshes our weary tired souls – Psalm 19:7-10.
- Let us seek to prevent truth decay. Be in the Word yourself. Get to know Christ through His Word. Be a doer of the Word – James 1:21,22. *“Without truth, without the doctrines, without the knowledge of who God is, who we are, what we have become in Christ, and what we have been called to do...without this we really do not know what kind of activity in which to engage, and we will be vulnerable to Satan’s onslaughts and wiles.”* – James Boice, Ephesians.

#### **2. GOD’S ARMOR MEANS DAILY PUTTING ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

- This righteousness is for our defense and firmly guards our heart like a soldier's armored breastplate. – Isaiah 59:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:8. This righteousness is not our own godly lives, it is the righteousness given to us by God in the gospel. *Paul is not writing about armor forged by Christian achievement, but armor that is the gift of God.* – Leon Morris. We are declared righteous before God only through Christ and grace alone – Romans 3:21-24; Philippians 3:9. Don't try to substitute your righteousness for Christ's righteousness. We don't have any righteousness of our own to stand securely in – Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10-12. Satan is accusing us constantly, and only Christ's perfect righteousness will defend us – Revelation 12:10. We stand fast in the purity and holiness of Christ because it is ours by grace through and in Christ!
- Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness means "preaching the gospel to yourself every day". Remind yourself: I am a child of God by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Salvation is God's work in me. I did not earn or deserve salvation. I am righteous and accepted before God by grace alone – Ephesians 2:8,9. All of my sins are forgiven by the blood of Jesus. I am holy because Jesus is holy. I am delivered from the enemy's domain and now in Christ's kingdom – Colossians 1:13. I am bought with the blood of the Lamb. I am sealed with the Holy Spirit – Ephesians 1:13,14. His power and strength now are mine. God is my Father and will never let me go. He will hold me fast and bring me all the way home – Romans 8:30, 31-39. VICTORY IS SURE. Don't despair or listen to the lies of the enemy. Now let us hold the fort, for He is coming! *"Hold the fort for I am coming, Jesus signals still. Wave the answer back to Heaven, by Thy grace we will."*
- Those who are declared righteous will live for the glory and honor of God. We will grow in living out our faith in practical ways – Ephesians 2:10.

#### Concluding Applications:

- Are you trusting in Jesus as God's Living Truth? Do you truly know you are righteous in Christ alone?
- Do you accept the Bible as absolute truth? Do you seek to do what it says first in your own life?
- How are you getting to know the Bible and the essential truths of the Bible?
- Will you preach the gospel to yourself as you stand righteous in Christ?