

“The Armor of God” (Part 2)

“...the belt of truth”

Eph. 6:14

INTRO: In vv. 14ff Paul describes our armor for warfare against Satan. The *COMPLETENESS* of it – it is the whole (full) armor of God, i.e. it is all we need in the battle. See Rom. 13:11-14

1. The *ORDER* of it – each piece is distinct and important – to omit any piece is to leave a hole in one’s defense. Paul lists them in the order a soldier would adorn them: belt, breastplate, shoes – shield, helmet, sword
2. The *GROUPING* of it – Two (2) groups:
 - 1) “HAVING” belt, breastplate, shoes-affixed to body
 - 2) “TAKE UP” shield, helmet, sword --

Each piece is crucial. We must understand it, but more so we must put it on – live it! Prayer to Put On ... So many get hung-up on how (wiles) Satan with attack them (eg: persecution, fear, defeat, ...), but the major issue is are you prepared and ready? If you have the armor on, then you will be able to stand Regardless of HOW HE ATTACKS!

Let’s look at the first piece mentioned in v. 14, “*having fastened on the belt of truth.*” (PIC) This first piece is really simple, yet so very important – it is what holds everything else together. Look at v. 14,

- “*having fastened on*” implies a state-of personal readiness or preparedness. The very opposite of sloth, ease, indifference. Aorist Participle verb “I must put it on!”
- “*your loins*” speaks metaphorically of the mind or spirit (1 Pet. 1:13) – real place of strength.

Paul says, “Listen child of God you must get your mind, spirit, attitude life prepared to do battle!

- “*with (the belt or girdle) of truth*” (PIC)...

What is so important about a soldier’s belt ... The belt stands for readiness and preparedness to do battle. It provided the soldier with greater support, mobility, and flexibility. How to be ready and prepared? 2 things:

- “WITH TRUTH OR TRUTHFULNESS” – *ALETHEIA*” can have two meanings – both true to some extent here:
 - 1) KNOW the TRUTH – the truth in contrast to lies – as revealed in the Word of God. When Satan attacks me, I must first have on the belt of truth. Why? Because Satan is a liar and is the Father of lies (Jn. 8:44). He will come at me with his “wiles” (v. 11) [cp. 4:14 “cunning craftiness” is same word –

METHODEIA]. He brings false doctrines and teachings – the doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1). The only way to resist Satan’s lies is to know the truth.

- 2) LIVE the TRUTH is *main idea* here (content of truth covered more in sword of the Spirit). The idea here is one having an attitude of non-hypocrisy, sincerity, honesty, commitment – to enter the battle seriously. Paul says we need to have an attitude of commitment to battle – a preparedness, readiness, seriousness about the battle. 3 John 4 walk vs. know

So many Christians never put the belt on. They only flop through life blowing in the breeze, never becoming true committed. Many believers are defeated just because they do not care all that much...

Like those of Heb. 12:1-2 they run the Christian race encumbered from the flesh and world... It’s like racing in combat boots and a heavy overcoat – stupid! Professional runners wear so little it is embarrassing.

Many Christians only progress so far because they don’t have the belt on, they aren’t truly committed, prepared, ready to fight-just floating along.

Paul says, “Listen UP! Realize there’s a war going on and get serious about it – be ready, prepared, and committed to fight!”

Practically, what does that include?

• CRITICAL AREAS FOR COMMITMENT:

- 1) *To love the Lord Jesus Christ* (Matt. 22:34-40, desiring to please Him so much you won’t lose because won’t give up (2 Tim. 2:3-4) ... willing to suffer the cost ... Great *desire* to win (1 Cor. 9:24ff) to imperishable crown ... “desire is 90% of the battle.” “Gotta want it!” RUN TO WIN

IF an athlete runs to win a prize that perishes; should not Christians desire to win that much never perishes for the glory of God?

- 2) *To love the brethren* (1 Pet. 1:22; 4:8a)
- 3) *To be holy, pure ... unencumbered* (2 Tim. 2:20; 1 Thes. 4:3-6; Heb. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 1:15-16: See Phil 1:9-11...

CONC: There’s no way to stand firm, much less win, over Satan unless you have a commitment to fight a great desire to win and please Him – to be ready and prepared

This is 1st piece – the only place to begin – with a True commitment – attitude of readiness, preparedness, etc. This holds all else in place.

HYMN – “FIGHT the GOOD FIGHT”.

Are you ready, prepared, truly committed? Get off the fence and get in the fight!! Are you encumbered by sin? Is your belt on? The armor starts with COMMITMENT! How badly do you want to win?