

EPHESIANS 6:14 TRUTH & RIGHTEOUSNESS

REVIEW:

INTRO:

- When we look and consider these verses in Eph. 6, Paul creates in our minds eye detail of the fully equipped Roman soldier, the warrior.
- We see the soldier with three distinct types of fighting equipment.
- Accessories armor, weapons,. (belt, shoes, breastplate, shield, helmet, and sword.
- All under the heading, "the armor of God."
- And all held together and made effective by prayer. VS 18

Read Eph. 6...

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

- This verse begins with "STANDING." One sees a soldier on the battlefield Holding his position, holding the line.
- He is not cowering, he is not retreating, and he is not fainting.
- His mind is made up, he is resolute, unmovable, he is purposed and committed to this warfare and the outcome of final victory under his Sovereign Commander.
- Whatever else is happening around him, he is standing regardless of the cost to himself!
- Will this be, is this my attitude toward the world the flesh, the devil,
- My attitude in the Christian life?
 - 1 Cor. 15:58; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- There can be no triumphant standing without the taking up of armor.

We now look at two pieces of the armor, the equipping for successful warfare. Each has two branches to explore.

1) GIRD YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH.

- **To gird about:** To gird around, to fasten firm to wrap, with a belt.
- the tense is continuous, having girded and still girded.
- I must gird myself.
- **TRUTH:** That which is true. What is true in things appertaining to God and the duties of man.
- Truth is that which is true, eternally true.
- Personal knowledge of truth binds and upholds our resolve and commitment and our convictions, especially in battle and crisis.

- See how important truth is, coming first.
- What does this verse say about “truth?”
- Will I stand on what God has says, on what I know the character of God to be.
- Will I weigh things in the light of scripture and eternity?
- That which hinders the Christian and the work of the Lord is gathered up and tucked in, controlled, harnessed in this belt of truth.
- This belt holds in place and harnesses anything that may hinder my ability to fight the good fight. Any hindrance that may cause me to fail, to stumble.
- As a runner or wrestler just before the contest readies himself so as not to be hindered by anything.
- A Roman soldier always readied himself for battle by synching up his clothing into this belt.

WHAT IS THIS BELT THAT PREPARES ME FOR BATTLE?

BRANCH 1

a. Objective or absolute Truth:

- We must know truth so as not to be carried away by every wind of doctrine. Eph. 4:14
- 1 Tim. 4:1; Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,
- The Christian warrior must know truth. What is true about God, (Eden)
- What is true about man,
- What is true about himself,
- What is true about the enemy.
- what is true about life,
 - 1 Tim. 3:14, 15, These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. ¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.
- 1 Peter 3:15; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

BRANCH 2

b. Personal, practical Truth:

- One who forsakes hypocrisy and sham. What you see and what I say is what you get.
- To be without hypocrisy, to live in truth, make it yours by obedience. Live truth, be truth.
- 3 JN. 3, 4; ³ For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is* in you, just as you walk in the truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.
- We must embody what we preach, what we say we believe.
- This is what made the words of Christ so powerful to the devil in His temptations in the wilderness and throughout His whole earthly life.
 - Mt.4; 4But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'
 - Mt. 4:7, Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not ^[a]tempt the LORD your God.'
 - Mt. 4: 10, away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'
- The devil knows a phony. The seven sons of Sceva. Acts 19 11-20..
- This is a picture of self-discipline. A task we comfortable Americans hate.
- It is the ordered life.
 - **1 Col. 9:24-27**, 2 Tim. 2:3, Mt. 16:24
- What use would the rest of the armor be if we are undisciplined?
- Without training the athlete would soon lose and be a failure.
- This belt symbolizes the same resolve and commitment as that of "standing."
 - Lk. 12:35; "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning;