

THE ARMOUR OF GOD - PART I

The Belt of Truth

Text: Ephesians 6:14

Key Word: Truth

Key Thought: Truth Builds Healthy Relationships

Truth has a potential of overcoming the greatest forces in this world. The apostle Paul lists 6 weapons of warfare which are seldom spoke about in any military training of any army. Yet these are absolutely essential for every Christian soldier. The first 3 parts of the armour are firmly attached to the body.

The order of the pieces of armour is of utmost importance. Therefore, we should not approach them in haphazard manner.

1. Belt of Truth
2. Breastplate of Righteousness
3. Feet Fitted with the Readiness of the Gospel of Peace
4. Shield of Faith
5. Helmet of Salvation
6. Sword of the Spirit/Word of God

Truth is what spiritual warfare must begin with. God has made it very clear that habitual liars will be judged with extreme severity.

"There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: . . .

17. haughty eyes, a lying tongue. . . .

19. a false witness who pours out lies. . . ."

Proverbs 6:16,17,19

"The LORD detests lying lips, but delights in men who are truthful."

Proverbs 12:22

"The righteous hate what is false."

Proverbs 13:5

"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practise magic arts, the idolators and all liars - their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Revelation 21:8

The belt of truth that is to be buckled around our waste is OUR duty to put on. No one else can put this belt on us. **The belt was never placed merely for the sake of decoration.** It was never to become an ornament. It had a much more useful purpose.

In the apostle Paul's day men wore long, and loose garments. The purpose of the belt (or girdle) was to bind these garments together. **When a man was sitting down relaxing he would take off his belt; but the moment he stood up and was about to become active he would gather his garments together and secure them under the belt.** Otherwise, these flowing garments would become a hindrance to him.

A soldier would never hold up his shield or handle his sword without first placing his belt on. A soldier that was encumbered in battle was a target for the enemy to strike at.

The belt also gave a sense of security. A soldier was alert, and prepared for battle knowing that everything was secured by the belt. Jesus told his disciples,

"Be dressed (let your loins be girded -KJV) ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36. like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door to him."

Luke 12:35,36

The Psalmist said,

"Surely you desire truth in my inner parts; you teach me wisdom in my inmost place."

Psalm 51:6

God is looking for truthfulness, sincerity, openness, honesty, and candour because without it we are helpless and hopeless in this world. The greatest source of truth for the believer is the Bible.

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

John 17:17

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

32. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31,32

There are at least two ways of expressing a lie. One is by **telling** something that is not true while the other is **living** a lie. Paul warned Timothy to be aware of people who have the form of godliness (II Timothy 3:5).

Why must Truth Be Such an Important Aspect of Christian Warfare?

I. TRUTH BUILDS UNITY

II. TRUTH BUILDS TRUST

III. TRUTH BUILDS SECURITY

I. TRUTH BUILDS UNITY

** Standing there in the river, the newly baptised man immediately began to shiver violently and turn a little blue. Concerned, his pastor said to him,

"Did you find the water too cold?"

"N-n-no," said the man.

"N-n-not a-t-t-tall."

Whereupon the next man to be baptized, also standing with them in the river, said, *"Dip him again, pastor, he's still lying."*

**

*Dr. Douglas Mantz
"Let There be Laughter"
p. 25*

One of the greatest weapons used against the Church is deceitfulness, lying, half-truths, & falseness. Anyone of us have the capability within us to fall into this trap. It can and does destroy a person's reputation in a moment of time. People find it hard to trust someone who has lied to them. **LYING DESTROYS THE VERY FABRIC THAT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS WOVEN BY.**

I. TRUTH BUILDS UNITY (Contd.)

"I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus name."

Christian leaders came together many centuries ago because heresy and false teaching was creeping into the Church and bringing confusion and destruction. These councils adopted statements of truth to lead the Church in its doctrine. We have the **Apostle's Creed, Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed** because truth had to be established. After the Reformation many Protestant Churches drew up their **Confessions - Augsburg, Belgic, Helvetic**, as well as the **Heidelberg Catechism. The Church of England drew up 39 Articles** while the **Westminster Assembly drew up its famous Confession of Faith.**

Truth is essential for ongoing victory to be obtained and sustained.

"Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character."

I Corinthians 15:33

Error in truth is eventually fatal, both in our life and in the health of any church. Those who don't hold on to the faith in a good conscience will end up shipwrecking their faith (I Timothy 1:19). Lies and deceit must be confronted and dealt with swiftly and surely.

God has placed the 5-fold leadership into the church to deal with this matter.

"to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body may be built up

13. until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14. Then we will no longer be infants tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

15. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."

Ephesians 4:12-15

II. TRUTH BUILDS TRUST

A person who does not walk in truth cannot be trusted. It is one of the largest destroyer of healthy relationships. If we do not accept the truth we will walk in a lie. Don't believe it when people say that atheists, drug pushers, pimps, prostitutes, drunkards, adulterers, fornicators and liars will be in heaven if they don't change. Trust the Word of God which never lies.

Never fully trust someone simply because their past has been built upon truth. We can all stumble and fall at any time.

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone into the world."

I John 4:1

One Bible College teacher warned me that it is not **how good you start** that counts but rather **how well you end**. God determines whether He accepts you or not once you reach the finish line. The most saintly of minds have been trapped by the devil; the best of men have gone astray.

** A young lad was about to get a job working on the oil rigs, provided he could pass the physical. But he didn't want the job because of the risks involved. He was concerned about how he could explain it to his parents.

So when the company doctor asked him to read the wall chart in the eye test, he said, "*What chart?*"

"Sit down on this chair and I'll bring the chart closer," replied the doctor.

"What chair?" asked the lad.

He didn't get the job. To ease their disappointment, the whole family went to the movies. When the lights came up after the show, who should be sitting next to them but the company doctor!

Leaning over to the doctor, the young lad whispered: "*Can you tell me, quiet like, is this the bus to the Church of the Blind Saints.*" **

III. TRUTH BUILDS SECURITY

No soldier would enter battle without his belt in place. It would be dangerous to enter battle without their belt in place. **Truth builds security.**

People feel much more at ease knowing that they are being told the truth. Just think how you would feel if you couldn't trust your doctor when he gives you a prescription?

The recent uprising by the I.S.I.S. as well as Bashar al-Assad has proven that their word cannot be trusted. It has caused a great deal of insecurity for the Syrians.

Truth like love protects us from further danger

"may your love and your truth always protect me."

Psalm 40:11b

****** Visiting Ontario, a pastor was trying to be unusually careful in his driving. As he was travelling south on Highway 115 toward Peterborough, a police car appeared out of nowhere, with his siren blaring and his lights flashing. He pulled the pastor over.

"Did you know how fast you were going?" asked the policeman.

"Certainly, officer," said the pastor.

"I was very careful. I was going exactly what the sign on the highway said: 115."

"It's a good thing I stopped you," said the officer, *"before you got on the 401!"* ******

Any Church that walks in truth will keep itself from oncoming danger. Any pastor who chooses to sidestep this principle will lead his flock into danger. They will be overtaken by the assaults of the enemy. You have been given a belt of truth. Place it around your waste every day. Keep it snug.

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Date: Feb 19/17

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Change my Heart O God - Bb, C

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*Proverbs 6:16,17,19; Proverbs 12:22; Proverbs 13:5; Revelation 21:8; Luke 12:35,36
Psalm 51:6; John 17:17; John 8:31,32; II Timothy 3:5*

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I. TRUTH BUILDS UNITY - *I Corinthians 15:33; Ephesians 4:12-15*

II. TRUTH BUILDS TRUST - *I John 4:1*

III. TRUTH BUILDS SECURITY - *Psalm 40:11b*