

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth (Ephesians 6:14 ESV)**Big Idea: Standing strong in the Lord begins with truth.****Review**

- We are called to be strengthened by God by putting on the armour of God
- The armour of God is necessary because we are in a war with evil.
- The strengthening from God that comes with putting on God's armour is for the battle so that we might stand.

Armour Intro

- These are metaphors, not actual mystical armour
 - Metaphors – a comparison of dissimilar things
 - The picture is not the important part, what they represent are
 - They are not exhaustive in their representation
 - They are not overly specific
- Format
 - Explain the metaphor
 - Anchor it in the character of God
 - Knowing – How we should think, doctrines
 - Doing – How we should act, practices

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth (Ephesians 6:14 ESV)Girding with truth

Metaphor explained

Girding one's loins is what it really says – "Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth" (ASV)

Long flowing robes – tucked into a girdle, unencumbered, free to move

Leather apron underneath the breastplate

Demeanor – ready for action

Posture – braced and protected

Foundational piece of armour – order is important

Other things attach to girdle

The other pieces of armour depended on it

Fastening on the belt of truth (having girded your loins with truth) is to be braced and ready for action because of God's truth.

God's character – we want to anchor these pieces of armour in God's character because they are, after all, his armour. (Is 11:5)

God is true in several senses. He is:

the true God - (Jeremiah 10:10)

always truthful - (Proverbs 30:5)

the standard of truth – “If we think the same thing God thinks about anything in the universe, we are thinking truthfully about it.” Wayne Grudem

His truthfulness is in opposition to the enemy

Truthful trinity - (1 John 5:20 ESV) (John 16:13 ESV)

Lying Enemy (John 8:44 ESV)

Unlike our enemy the father of lies, the one true God is always truthful and is the very standard of truth.

Knowing the truth – What doctrine does Paul think is essential for us to know so we can stand strong in the battle?

What is the truth Paul is talking about?

Not subjective truth – this is no foundation

Objective truth – truthful truth – revealed truth – God’s truth

God’s revelation

Creation - (Romans 1:20 ESV)

Humanity – the image of God

Providence – (Acts 14:17 ESV)

Words - (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV)

WLA Statement of faith: They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.

Only rule – sole authority; Faith – what we believe; Practice – how we behave

Authority – We have fastened on the belt of truth when we understand that God’s truth, particularly in the Bible, is the authoritative foundation for our lives. God’s truth, mainly revealed to us in Scripture, braces and supports us for war. It prepares us for battle.

Knowing the truth is to understand that the Bible is our ultimate authority.

Doing the truth – What action does Paul think is like girding our loins in readiness for war?

Will God’s truth be our ultimate authority? Will we submit to his truth?

Or human reason?

~ Charles Hodge: “As the girdle gives strength and freedom of action, and therefore confidence, so does the truth when spiritually apprehended and believed. Let not anyone imagine that he is prepared to withstand the assaults of the powers of darkness, if his mind is stored with his own theories or the speculations of other men. Nothing but the truth of God clearly understood and cordially embraced will enable him to keep his feet for a moment ... Reason, tradition, speculative conviction, dead orthodoxy, are a girdle of spiderwebs. They give way at the first onset. Truth alone, as abiding in the mind in the form of divine knowledge, can give strength or confidence even in the ordinary conflicts of the Christian life ...

~ The virgin birth. It doesn’t make sense. Scientist explain that conception requires a man and a woman. A human being can’t be made without the participation of a man. Matthew 1:20

Or human feelings?

I don’t feel like offering forgiveness. I feel hurt. I feel angry. I feel like it is not fair. Will you submit to the authority of the word of God or will you submit to your feelings? Matthew 18:21-22

Doing the truth is submitting to God’s truth, especially his written Word, and being obedient to it.

All in on one truth – the gospel

We are staking our very lives on one truth; the truth of the gospel, the good news of the life, death, and resurrection of God’s only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ESV)

(1 Corinthians 2:2 ESV)

(1 Corinthians 15:19 ESV)

NEXT SUNDAY: JULY 28

Strong In The Lord: Ephesians 6:14

(Nate Wright)

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All Scripture references: HOLY BIBLE, **English Standard Version**, © 2001, CROSSWAY PUBLICATIONS