

The Belt of Truth
Series: The Armor of God
Ephesians 6:13-14a
January 23, 2022

Thanks for being part of worship today. We have just begun a message series on “The Armor of God.” Many probably think this is a series for children so that they can dress up as a Roman soldier and play make-believe. But I think we are going to be shocked how relevant this series is going to be as we face the days ahead.

I want to invite you to turn to page 5 in your bulletin, or if you are worshipping online, grab your spiritual journal and your Bible and turn to Ephesians 6. We are going to be reading verses 13 through 14a:

*Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth...*¹

Last week, we talked about imperatives. Imperatives are commands.

Today, we have 2 imperatives:

First, and this is a repeat from last Sunday: Put on.

This is the Greek word *en-doo’-o*.²

Paul used it in Ephesians 4:

*Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.*³

En-doo’-o means clothe, endue, have, put, wear.⁴ It is in the putting on that we are different.

We are to put on every piece of God’s armor so we will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil, and folks, you may be thinking I’m sounding like some Baptist or End Times preacher here, but I believe with all my heart that we are approaching the End Times. We are living in evil days. Therefore, Paul commands us to put on the armor of God, so that we might resist Satan in these days ahead.

The second imperative is Stand your ground.

Verse 14a:

*Stand your ground...*⁵

The Greek word is *his’-tay-mee*⁶. Sounds like that thing that causes your nose to run and eyes to water when you are around something you’re allergic to. Then, you need an antihistamine.

No, this *his’-tay-mee* is what a soldier does. He or she prepares themselves for combat, for battle. You are getting ready to go in there and fight.

Many Christians are just letting themselves be pushed around.

Last night during the Bengals’ game, we saw Derrick Henry, the Titan’s running back. While he didn’t do what I’m about to show you last night, he is known for his brutal stiff arm.

¹ Ephesians 6:13-14a (NLT2)

² ἐνδύω

³ Ephesians 4:24 (NLT2)

⁴ Strong’s Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary #1746

⁵ Ephesians 6:14a (NLT2)

⁶ ἵστημι

DERRICK HENRY VIDEO

A lot of Christians are just standing there, not ready for battle, and the devil bulls them over.

Paul says, "Stand your ground!" Be ready for battle.

In the King James, it says:

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...⁷

Oh, I'm not sure I want my loins girt. Ouch.

Instead, today's armament is The Belt of Truth.

For most of us, a belt is simply for holding our pants up, a very important thing for middle aged men like me. Gravity, and my tummy, are trying to push the waistline of my pants past my backside and to my ankles, especially with all the stuff we guys put in our pockets.

Paul looked at his guard's attire while he was in prison writing this letter, and called his belt "the belt of truth." Now, why is this an armament? Why is truth so important when we are resisting Satan in the time of evil and standing firm or preparing for battle.

I want to talk about 4 types of truth that we see today.

First, there is Relative Truth.

This is the kind of truth that is relative to the moment or the mood. It is wrong to commit adultery... unless it's a really pretty woman and she's coming on to me. It is wrong to steal from a store, unless they are not going to do anything about it. We have an epidemic of Relative Truth today.

Second, we have what I am calling Authoritarian Truth.

This is the kind of truth that the government or groups say is true. You must accept their version of truth, no questions asked. It can be a host of things. Some think the government is pushing a narrative regarding COVID and vaccines. We should just stop calling them vaccines. The shots are not vaccines. When you get the Polio vaccine, you don't get polio. Give your child all those baby vaccines to keep them from all sorts of diseases. But the COVID vaccines are clearly not stopping people from getting COVID, but that's not the truth the government wants you to believe.

There are others who spout Authoritarian Truth. You must believe what they believe, else you are cancelled. Folks, men should not be permitted to compete in women's sports or go into women's bathrooms, but that's not what Woke Culture says. Their truth is Authoritarian Truth – forcing you to believe what they tell you.

Now, there are those who counter the Authoritarian Truth people and say there is Absolute Truth.

They say there is Absolute Truth in the universe. Gravity is an Absolute Truth. The sun coming up in the East is an Absolute Truth. Of course, Absolute Truthers also say their perspective of the truth is absolute.

But here's the thing. There is another truth, and that is God's Truth.

And God's Truth trumps all the other truths, even Absolute Truth.

Gravity is an Absolute Truth. Not so fast. Jesus rose and ascended into the sky, and He wasn't the first. Elijah climbed aboard a fiery chariot and flew. They defied the absolute truth of gravity.

⁷ Ephesians 6:14 (KJV)

The sun coming up in the East is an Absolute Truth. Not so fast. Joshua prayed for more time to fight a battle, and God stopped the sun in the sky.⁸

A person is brain dead after 4 to 6 minutes without oxygen. That's Absolute Truth. God's Truth says, "I can wait 3 days, even years, before I raise someone from the dead." God's Truth.

Remember Jesus' words:

*With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*⁹

God's Truth always supersedes all other truth. And that's what our belt should be: truth. God's truth. The kind that holds onto the precepts of the Bible, no matter what society has to say. The kind that loves your enemies. The kind that sacrifices. The kind that declares the truth. Others may guess and grope; the Christian moves freely and quickly because he or she knows the truth.

Truth is important in the Book of Ephesians. It is revealed in the gospel¹⁰, and believers must be truth-speaking people.¹¹ The belt of truth is essential in our spiritual battles. Dishonesty, cheating, injustice do not overcome evil. As we buckle on this piece of the Messiah's armor, we live in His truth and speak His truth, displaying the characteristics of our victorious King. Do not give the devil a foothold by neglecting to be a person of truth in your language, behavior, and attitude.¹²

Now, the belt was not for cosmetics. It had the important work of holding together all the armor. For one, without the belt the soldier could not move effectively. It kept his tunic in place, or for us, kept his pants up. And for most of us, that's all a belt does: keeps my pants up.

But if you are of my generation, you think about Batman's Utility Belt. He had all that stuff in there.

But, in modern day, think about a police officer's belt. They have all kinds of things connected to it: sidearm, taser, mace, handcuffs, flashlight, radio. It can weigh 30 pounds. But a police officer would never think of going out on the streets without it.

And for Paul's guard in that cell, the belt of truth was intimately connected to another armament, one that we will discuss in a few weeks, and that is **the Sword of the Spirit**. It was the belt from which the soldiers' sword hung.

And truth and the Spirit are always connected.

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman by the well:

*But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.*¹³

The thing is this: The truth is in Jesus.

Paul summarizes the source of truth in Ephesians 4:21:

*Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him,*¹⁴

⁸ See Joshua 10:12-13

⁹ Matthew 19:26 (ESV)

¹⁰ See Ephesians 1:13; 4:15

¹¹ See Ephesians 4:24-25; 5:9

¹² Christ-Centered Exposition - Exalting Jesus In Ephesians: Christ-Centered Exposition, Ephesians 6:14

¹³ John 4:23-24 (NLT2)

¹⁴ Ephesians 4:21 (NLT2)

The truth is in Jesus. Coming to Jesus, believing in Jesus, resting in Jesus is coming to the truth. Put the truth of Christ on every day. Preach the truth of the gospel to yourself, and live in that truth throughout the day. That's standing firm with the Belt of Truth.

Jesus said:

*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.*¹⁵

He is our truth, the only truth you will ever need. And He is the truth you need to believe. For He said after He was resurrected:

*Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.*¹⁶

It is an either/or situation with Jesus. Only one truth. Either believe and act on that belief (that is, to identify with Him through baptism) or don't. One leads to salvation; the other to condemnation.

Is He the truth you are holding onto? Any other truth is shifting sand, and you will be unable to resist the devil in the evil times. Accept Christ as your truth, the whole truth, and nothing but His truth, and you will be saved.

¹⁵ John 14:6 (NLT2)

¹⁶ Mark 16:16 (NLT2)