

## ***The Belt of Truth***

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

### ***Ephesians 6:11-14***

Four times in this passage Christians are directed to take their “stand” against the enemy!

“...able to stand...” (verse 11)

“...that you may be able to withstand...” (verse 13)

“...having done all, to stand firm.” (verse 13)

“Stand therefore...” (verse 14)

God has given us spiritual armor to stand victoriously in battle!

Like Shammah, one of the mighty warriors of King David, who took his stand in the lentil field against the Philistines, we will not lose ground to our adversary!  
*2 Samuel 23:11-12 “And next to him was Shammah, the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the Philistines. But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the Lord worked a great victory.”*

### ***Ephesians 6:14 “Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, ...”***

The first piece of armor to put on is the “Belt of Truth.”

❖ The Romans soldier’s “belt” was wide and heavy. It was essential to protect his abdomen, to hold his sword and tuck in his robe. The belt was the first part of the armor that enabled the soldier to be ready to move into battle!

❖ The Christian soldier’s belt is truth.

*Truth:* “Conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is, or has been, or shall be. ... purity from falsehood; ...”<sup>1</sup>

♦ Jesus came to tell us the truth!

*John 18:37-38 “Then Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.’ Pilate said to him, ‘What is truth?’”*

“Truth does not matter to those who, like Pilate, are motivated by *expediency* [to promote or advance by any means]. Likewise truth does not matter to skeptics who have despaired of knowing it.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Truth**

❖ Truth builds trust.

↳ Trust in God! *John 17:8,17; Isaiah 45:18-19; Psalm 119:169*

↳ Trust with others! *Ephesians 4:15,25*

❖ Truth is essential for a civilized and thriving society.

*Deuteronomy 25:16 “For all who do such things, all who act dishonestly, are an abomination to the Lord your God.”*

❖ Truth is necessary for loving, healthy relationships.

*1 Corinthians 13:6 “[Love] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.”*

❖ Truth treats people with dignity and indicates integrity.

*Genesis 29:25 “And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’”*

## **Satan hates the truth!**

### ❖ Satan is “the father of lies”

*John 8:44 “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

### ❖ Lying is part of our sin nature!

*Ephesians 2:1-2 “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—”*

### ❖ Surveys indicate that over 90% of people lie!

- ↳ Out-right lies to avoid consequences.
- ↳ Half-truths to pacify a situation.
- ↳ Exaggerations to make ourselves look better.
- ↳ Cheating, plagiarism, falsifying information for advancement.

### ❖ Lying will ensure defeat in our spiritual warfare!

“The person who is involved in spiritual warfare, but is weighed down with his own sinfulness, is like someone trying to run through a battlefield with a robe around his ankles.”<sup>3</sup>

### ❖ God does not lie!

*Hebrews 6:18 “so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.”*

## **Jesus is the truth!**

*John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”*

We fasten on the belt of truth...

... by standing on the Word of God!

*Proverbs 30:5 “Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.”*

↳ Jesus came full of grace and truth.

*John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

... as we continue abiding in God’s Word!

*John 8:32 “and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

... by listening to God’s Holy Spirit as he guides into all truth!

*John 16:13 “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.”*

... as we speak the truth to one another!

*Zechariah 8:16-17 “These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord.”*

... as we teach God’s Word!

*2 Timothy 2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of Truth.”*

... as we confront Satan’s temptations with God’s written Word! *Luke 4:1-12*

*2 Corinthians 2:15*

*“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere.”*

Endnotes:

- <sup>1</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.
- <sup>2</sup> Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.
- <sup>3</sup> Sproul, R. C. *The Purpose of God: Ephesians*. Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 1994. Print.
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