

Ephesians 6 Pt 2

Radically Vertical

II. Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to with**stand** in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand**. 14 **Stand** therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ch.'s 1- 3 Invited to Sit

Our Position In Christ Seated with Him in Heaven

Chapter 1: Spiritual Blessing In Christ: Chosen, Adopted, Redeemed, Forgiven, Predestined, Sealed

Chapter 2: Result of Blessings In Christ: Made alive, Saved by Grace, Made One family. Christ in us

Chapter 3: Riches Available In Christ. Power of His grace in Salvation/Ministry displayed for His Glory

Ch. 4-5 Called to Walk

Living for God in response to His Grace

▪ Chapter 4

1. Unity through Humility
2. Strength in Unity
3. Walking as a New Man: Put off old. Put on the new manifested in...

▪ Chapter 5

1. Walking in **Love**
2. Walking in **Light**
3. Walking in **Wisdom**: Ch. 6 Application to Marriage/Family

Sit. Walk. **Ch. 6 Commanded to Stand** against the enemy

▪ 5 Weapons of Defense...1 Weapon of Offense

IOW's Learn to stand cause your gonna git hit

The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place, and I don't care how tough you are, it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward; how much you can take and keep

moving forward. That's how winning is done! Now if you know what you're worth, then go out and get what you're worth, but you gott'a be willing to take the hits, and not pointing fingers saying you ain't where you wanna be because of him, or her, or anybody. Cowards do that and that ain't you! You're better than that!" [Rocky Balboa]

We are more than mere men, women and youth as we stand In Christ

- Life is not the enemy but the Devil, principalities and powers
 1. Working supernaturally in our minds/hearts: Lies//doubts/deceptions
 2. Working naturally/supernaturally through people/in circumstances
 3. Pushes buttons/Know our weak points/Repeats/Draws out to break us

We are going to get hit. Count on it. Evil day v13. We can win
Accused, Slandered, Provoked, Tempted to Discouragement

- **We have all we need to stand**/Enjoy total victory over our enemy as we...
- **We stand [4x] in God's Strength** Equipped **with God's Armor**

God's Armor Enables Us to Stand Against the Wiles [*meth-od-i'-ah*] of the Devil
His Methods, Cunning Arts, Deceit, Craftiness, Trickery of Satan

Armor of God

Satan's Attack

Satan's Lie

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1. Breastplate of Righteousness | Our Standing before God | Not good enough |
| 2. Helmet of Salvation | Our Position in God | Not saved enough |
| 3. Shoes of Gospel/Witness | Our Service for God | Not doing enough |
| 4. Shield of Faith | Our Confidence in God | Not believing enough |
| 5. Sword of the Spirit | Our Offense against Satan | Closely tied to... |
| 6. Belt of Truth | Our Defense against the lie that truth is relative | |

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth...

Belt of Truth Our Defense Against Deception



- **Truth: 217X** OT/NT
 1. **OT:** heb. *eh'-meth* Firm. Faithful. Stable. Reliable. Established. rt. Foster father
 2. **NT:** gr. *al-ay'-thi-a* Reality. Certainty. Fact.
- **True: 89X** OT/NT
 1. **OT:** gr. *Kane*. Right, just, honest, correct. rt. Firm. Stable. Fixed
 2. **NT:** heb. *al-ay-thace*. Loving/Speaking Truth. rt. Not hidden. **Obvious.**

Thesis Statement

Living and Knowing Truth Protects us Against Deception

Belt of Truth AKA Roman Cingulum: A thick heavy leather and metal band with five protective leather pieces hanging down from the front [protecting area of procreation, IOWs next generation]. The belt held the soldier's sword and other weapons. The belt of truth of spiritual armor holds the sword of the Spirit, **linking Truth and the Word of God...our defense and offence against the deceptions of Satan...**

John 8:44b ... [Satan] was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Satan prowls like a lion looking for a chink in our armor to devour us

- **Belt of Truth:** Defense against the wiles of the devil two-fold
 1. **Living Truth** as a Defense
 2. **Knowing Truth** as a Defense

Living Truth as a Defense

A believer whose life is filled with truth will withstand the devil. The belt held the other parts of armor together, and **truth is the integrating force** in the life of the victorious Christian, A man/woman/youth of integrity and a clear conscience can face the enemy without fear. The belt also held the sword. Unless we practice the truth, we cannot use the Word of truth. Once a lie gets into the life of a believer [chink], everything begins to fall apart. [Wiersbe]

The belt held in place **every other part** of the uniform. It was essential. If the belt was lost you lost everything. The garments would fly open and the pants would fall down...what we need is to have our loins girt about with truth so that we can give a testimony that glorifies Christ. Christ is the Truth. Truth alone can meet error. [JV McGee]

Walking in Truth is the same as Walking in Light
No secret sins for Satan to hold over us...

1 John 1:5b ...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:7 ...if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Ephesians 4:25 [We are new creations] Therefore, put away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds...

Pretenders/Posers are defenseless against deception
Walking in Truth and Light renders Satan useless to deceive...

A dishonest Christian cannot hope to withstand Satan the father of lies. ...The truth referred to here is integrity, a **life of practical truthfulness and honesty**. [Nelson]

Living Truth as a Defense against Satan.

Be Real. Be Genuine. Be Vulnerable. Be True. The Truth will set us Free...

Matthew 5:25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. We are not all that but Jesus is.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is **faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make [God] a liar, and His word is not in us.

We are all sinners in desperate need of a Savior
Yet...We are more than conquerors In Christ as we Walk in the Truth

1. **Living Truth** as a Defense: The devil can't get at you in the Light
2. **Knowing Truth** as a Defense: The devil can't deceive you if you know Truth

Knowing Truth as a Defense

Knowing God **is** Knowing Truth

Deuteronomy 32:4 [God the **Father** is]... **A God of truth** and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

John 14:17 [God the **Spirit**] ...the **Spirit of truth...** dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:6 [God the **Son**] I am the way, **the truth**, and the life.

Satan's Attack

Truth is Adjustable/Adaptable/Flexible/Alterable/Malleable/Changing/Relative

God's Response

Truth is Unchanging/Fixed/Immutable/Inflexible/Established/**Absolute**

Truth is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory and being of God. Even more to the point: Truth is the self-expression of God. That is the Biblical meaning of truth. Because the definition of truth flows from God, truth is theological.

Truth cannot be separated from God: Even the most fundamental moral distinctions—good and evil, right, and wrong, beauty and ugliness or honor and dishonor—cannot possibly have any true or constant meaning *apart from God*. That is because truth and knowledge themselves simply have no coherent significance apart from a fixed source, namely, God.

Truth demands a Response: How each person responds to the truth God as revealed is an issue of eternal significance. To reject and rebel against the truth of God results in darkness, folly, sin, judgment, and the never-ending wrath of God. To accept and submit to the truth of God is to see clearly, **to know with certainty and to find life everlasting.** [MacArthur]

Knowing God is Knowing Truth

The Knowledge of God is found in God's **Written Word**

- Jesus refuted Satan with **God's Written Word**

Matthew 4:1 [Jesus baptized] Then Jesus was **led up by the Spirit** into the wilderness to be **tempted by the devil.** 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If [since] You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But 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.' "

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "**It is written again**, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For **it is written**, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

How would you have answered Satan's deception?

Psalms 119:10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! 11 **Your word I have hidden in my heart**, That I might not sin against You.

Matthew 12:34b ...out of the **abundance of the heart the mouth speaks**. Matthew 12:35 **A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things**, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

John 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water**.

How will you answer Satan's deceptive lies/challenges?

For such a time as this you gott'a be sure...

- Evolution is true...Only ignorant people deny it. **It is written...**

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ...**27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God **He created him**; male and female **He created them**.

Genesis 1:24 [Omniscient God anticipated Satan's deception] Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature **according to its kind**: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, **each according to its kind**"; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth **according to its kind**, cattle **according to its kind**, and everything that creeps on the earth **according to its kind**.

- Why do so many smart people believe it? **It is written...**

Romans 1:18 ...the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21

because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 **Professing to be wise, they became fools**, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? **Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?** [E.g. No fossil record]

- Why would science choose to suppress the truth ? **It is written...**

2 Corinthians 4:4 [Unbelievers] whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

- Homosexuality is not called sin in the Bible. **It is written...**

Leviticus 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

Deuteronomy 22:5 A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.

- That's the Old Testament things are different now. **It is written**

1 Corinthians 6:9b... Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **homosexuals, nor sodomites**, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 1:26 ...God gave them up to **vile passions**. For even their **women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature**. 27 Likewise also the **men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another**, men with men committing **what is shameful**, and **receiving in themselves the penalty** of their error which was due.

Ephesians 5:31 "... **man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife**, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning **Christ and the church**.

- All Religions are the same. **It is written...**

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

- Abortion is not a sin because a fetus is not a human. **It is written...**

Jeremiah 1:4 ...the word of the Lord came to [Jeremiah], saying: 5 "**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you**; Before you were born I sanctified you...

Job 10:9 ...You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again? 10 Did You not **pour me** out like milk, And **curdle me** like cheese [fetus] , 11 **Clothe me** with skin and flesh, And **knit me** together with bones and sinews?

Psalms 139:13 ...You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that

my soul knows very well. 15 **My frame [lit. bones] were not hidden from You**, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes **saw my substance, being yet unformed**. And **in Your book they all were written**, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

Truth is our defense against Satan's lies. Truth is found in God's Word
God's Word is Illuminated by...God's Spirit

John 16:13 ...when He, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, He will guide you into all truth

Belt of Truth

Sure victory over Deception is two-fold

- **Living Truth as a defense** Be real. Walk in Truth/Walk in Light
- **Knowing Truth as a defense:** Ability to respond "**It is written...**" to any lie

May we be able to pray as the Psalmist...
Your Word of Truth I have hidden in my heart