

Ephesian 6:14 *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

1. Introduction:

- a. History of early church at Ephesus
  - i. Paul wrote letter to church at Ephesus, city in today's Turkey
  - ii. Paul in prison in Rome when writing his letter to Ephesus
  - iii. Paul began church during 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary (Acts 18:19-21, 19:1-10)
  - iv. Paul revisited during 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey (Acts 20:17-38)
  - v. Later Timothy was pastor at Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3)
  - vi. Last John the Apostle mentioned as elder in church at Ephesus by early church father Irenaeus of Lyons
- b. Structure of Ephesians
  - i. First half of Ephesians instruction in doctrine
  - ii. Second half is practical Christian living
- c. All Christians involved in spiritual warfare – not an option

2. Command to Stand

- a. In Roman battle
  - Opposite of standing (Not sitting nor laying down)
- ii. Opposite of standing
  - Dying in battle
  - Or fleeing from the battlefield
- b. Standing requires courageous heart
  - i. Action of the mind - decision time
  - ii. Call of the heart – faith, courage,
  - iii. Courage is action when facing fear
- c. Standing requires well-armed soldier
  - i. Call to preparation for spiritual battle
  - ii. Put on spiritual armor for spiritual battle

### 3. Belt of Truth

#### a. Controversy over truth

- i. "What is truth?"
  - Great debate in philosophy over centuries of human learning
  - Involved in debates of ethics & morality
- ii. Giving accurate description of reality

#### b. Linked to sincerity

- i. Idea of truthfulness verses lying
- ii. Idea of integrity is life full of truth, authentic, genuine

*1 John 1:5, 8 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

*1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

- iii. Opposite of truth is fraud, or lies, or hypocrisy

*1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

#### c. Gird up your loins

- i. Similar to modern expression
  - "roll up your sleeves"
  - "get ready"
- ii. Belt fastens equipment to midline of body
  - Tie down loose ends
  - Holds different types of equipment

### 4. Breastplate of Righteousness

#### a. Several kinds of breastplates to protect chest area in Roman army

- i. Leather – cheapest & least protection
- ii. Shaped piece of metal strapped to chest area – good protection
- iii. Chain mail of metal loops – like vest sitting on shoulders – most expensive & best protection

#### b. Kind of righteousness – Imputed righteousness (not my own)

- i. Meaning: to give credit or responsibility to another person
  - Example: parent responsible for actions of child
  - Example: supervisor receives management credit for good work of all his employees

ii. Jesus is truthful & righteous Savior (without sin)

*2 Corinthian 5:21 For He [God the Father] hath made him [God the Son] to be sin for us, [Jesus] who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him [Jesus].*

- God forgives Christian sins by covering Christian with coat of Jesus' righteousness
- Christian righteousness also called "positional righteousness" (wearing Jesus' righteousness")

c. Kind of righteousness – Practical righteousness (Christian living)

*Romans 13:11-14 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

i. Former life described as taking off "old man" of evil lusts

*Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

*Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like:*

ii. New Christian life described putting on "new man"

*Ephesians 4:23-24 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

*Ephesians 4:28-29, 32 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands.... Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying,. ... And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

5. Conclusion

- a. How is your relationship with truth?
- b. Can anyone describe your life as righteous?