

“The Belt of Truth”

Ephesians 6:10-20

March 29, 2009

Four Lessons...

1. God Almighty is greater than all, including our enemies, and therefore if we're made strong in him we will have the victory.
2. Our enemies are fierce and they're out to destroy us every day.
3. The armor of God is in fact God himself and therefore to put it on is to draw near to him and be covered in his presence.
4. We were designed to fight this battle together as one body in Christ.

The Belt of Truth

- Some commentators make much of why Paul labeled each part as he did but I don't think we should push this too far (see 1 Thes 5:8).
- Rather I think Paul is simply saying that these six elements are absolutely necessary for us to stand in the day of battle.
- In this light, Truth is the first element Paul mentions.

2 John 1:1-4

*“¹ The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love **in truth**, and not only I, but also all who know **the truth**, ² because of **the truth** that abides in us and will be with us forever: ³ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son, **in truth** and love. ⁴ I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking **in the truth**, just as we were commanded by the Father.”*

The Belt of Truth

- In our day the very idea of absolute truth has fallen into disrepute.
- This is due, mainly, to the convergence of postmodernism and global communications.
- Postmodernism is the move from the objective to the subjective (see David Wells, *The Courage to be Protestant*).
- Global communications have exposed us to so many ways of thinking and living that many have become confused about the very possibility of absolute truth.

Is there such a thing as absolute truth?

- There are some truths that apply only to individuals or groups of individuals. For instance, “I was born on February 16, 1967 to Robert Malcom and Harriet Allene Handren.”
- However, there are some truths that apply to every human being at all times. For instance, “Every human being is born.”

Is there such a thing as absolute truth?

- Think with me about the statement, “There is no absolute truth.”
 - If this statement is true, then absolute truth exists and the statement is false.
 - If this statement is false, then absolute truth exists and the statement is false.
- Either way, the statement is false and absolute truth exists.

Do multiple claims to truth invalidate all of those claims?

- What if three different people gave three different descriptions of my father—does this mean that they're all wrong or that they're all partially right?
- What if we expand this example to 10,000 people—does it change the principle?

What is truth?

- Webster's dictionary defines the word "truth" as "a judgment, proposition, or idea that is in accord with fact or reality."
- John 8:31-38 & John 14:6 move us closer toward a biblical conception of truth: Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

What does it mean to say that Jesus Christ is the Truth?

- That he is ultimate reality.
- That he is God, the Holy One from and in whom truth has its beginning and end and significance.
- That truth is a Person to whom we must account and not a collection of concepts to which we must comply.