

***“The Belt of Truth:
Part III”***

Ephesians 6:10-20

May 3, 2009

A Summary of Key Lessons:

- God is greater than all, including our enemies, and therefore if we'll be made strong in him we'll have the victory.
- The enemies we're fighting are fierce and deadly and they're out to destroy us.
- In this battle, God himself is the armor we wear.
- We're meant to fight this battle together with our brothers and sisters in Christ—we're not designed to do battle alone.

A Summary of Key Lessons:

- To put on the belt of truth is to seek to know truth, to strive to stand for truth, and to commit ourselves to telling the truth.
- Because being committed to the truth is being committed to Christ, being committed to the truth is fundamentally about love.

Satan seeks to oppose us in that...

- Whereas we Christians seek to know the truth, Satan implants false teachers in the world and in the church and so seeks to deceive us away from Christ.
- Whereas we Christians seek to stand for the truth, Satan intimidates and persecutes Christians in an attempt to silence them or persuade them to renounce Christ.
- Whereas we Christians are committed to telling the truth, Satan tempts us to lie, and so forsake our commitment to the truth.

The Tactic of Intimidation/Persecution

- Satan has been employing this tactic not just from the beginning of Christianity but from the beginning of life on earth: Abel, the prophets of Israel, Jesus, the apostles, Stephen, Paul, the early Christians...
- Ignatius, Justin, Polycarp, Origen, Wycliffe, Tyndale, Puritans, countless others...
- Some modern examples from www.persecution.com.

A Word to a Couple of Friends...

- Cling to Christ and love him more than your life.
- Revelation 2:8-11.
- Soak your mind in the Word and learn to think God's thoughts after him.
- If you must pay the ultimate price, pray for grace to pray with Jesus, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

The Tactic of Deceit

- To be the people of God is to be a people of the Truth, and to be a people of the Truth is to be a people who are committed to telling the truth.
 - God is light and in him there is no darkness at all, and therefore the Kingdom of Light does not spread by the same means as the kingdom of darkness.
 - Jesus Christ is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and therefore he is the Lord of all things—he can make a way not to lie.
 - Although Christians do face difficult situations like this from time to time, the truth is that the majority of situations in which we're tempted to lie are nothing like this.

The Belt of Truth...

To be a Christian is to be a person of truth. It is to seek to know the truth, to strive to stand for truth, and to be committed with the help of the Holy Spirit to telling the truth at all times, and in all circumstances. If we're to stand against the schemes of the devil, if we're to wrestle successfully with the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places, if we're to remain faithful to Christ all the way to the end of our lives, then we must put on the whole armor of God which begins by clothing ourselves with Christ who is Truth and so being utterly committed to the truth.