

The Belt of Truth (Ephesians 6:14)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Illustration: Two battleships in the night
 - B. Summary of where we are in Ephesians
 1. A very real battle with a formidable enemy
 2. God's provision to stand in the battle:
The whole armor of God given in order that you may ***stand!***
 - C. Outline of today's sermon

- II. **The whole armor of God I – the Belt of Truth**
 - A. The imagery of the armor of a Roman soldier
 1. The soldier's belt and his readiness for battle
 2. Messiah's readiness for battle (Is 11:5 LXX)
 - B. The believer's call to *gird himself with truth*
 1. is related to *preparing the mind* (1 Pet 1:13, Philippians 4:8)
 - C. *Having girded* is in the middle voice
(something that you do for yourself)
 - D. The two aspects of truth in the Bible (Eph 1:13, 4:25-26)

- III. **Aspect 1: The importance of objective truth or doctrine**
 - A. Satan's two-pronged attack on truth
 1. False teaching
 - a. Satan's attempt to ungird your belt "*Did God really say?*"
 - b. *The Christian in Complete Armor* -William Gurnall
 - c. Beware of setting your affections on a falsehood
 - d. True worship is stimulated by truth (Ps 138:2)
 - e. Expository preaching guards against false teaching
 - f. The light of God's word produces heat
 - e. Hold fast to truth even more during apostasy (Heb 10:2-24)
 2. Persecution
 - B. Application: How can we better be immersed in truth?
 1. Avail yourself to corporate teaching of the Word
 - a. Pay careful attention to doctrinal teachings
 2. Study the Word for yourself – without aids of preaching or books
 3. Beware of spiritual novelties and embracing doctrinal packages
 4. As you discover truth, beware of pride in your 'discernment'
 - a. Do not rest until truth warms your heart

- IV. **Aspect 2: Truth in the inward part (Ps. 51:6)**
 - A. A sincere heart deals with the reality of its own sinfulness
 - B. A sincere heart will sooner accept blows to one's own body than it will blows to the truth

- V. **Truth in the life (Psalm 15:1-2, 3 John 1:4)**
 - A. The destiny of all liars (Rev 21:8)
 - B. Be truthful, genuine and sincere before God and others
 - C. Jesus died for liars and lived a perfectly truthful life