

June 27, 2010
"Truth"
Ephesians 6:14

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth ... (Ephesians 6:14 NKJ)

In our battles with the Devil, TRUTH is of utmost importance! Why? Because lying is the first and most deadly weapon of our adversary!

I. Truth is the way of Christ –

1. He calls Himself "True" "Amen" means "Truth" –

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: (Revelation 3:14 NKJ)

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

2. In His preaching Jesus regularly used the formula "Truly, truly" or "Verily, verily" – "Amen, Amen" to emphasize the TRUTH of what He was saying –

And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you shall see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (John 1:51 NAS)

Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NAS)

See this same formula in all these verses –

John 3:5; 3:11; 5:19; 5:24; 5:25; 6:26; 6:32; 6:47; 6:53; 8:34; 8:51; 8:58; 10:1; 10:7; 12:24; 13:16; 13:20; 13:21; 13:38; 14:12; 16:20; 16:23; 21:18

3. Christ's TRUTH is in dread contrast with the ways of the Devil –

"You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.⁴⁵" But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. (John 8:44-45 NAS)

A. What kind of "truth" did Jesus preach in John 8 that turned people against Him?

Truth about their sin –

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. (John 8:34 NAS)

When preachers avoid talking about sin, they are not being Christ-like, they are not preaching the truth. They may fill their churches by telling people "you are all wonderful!" "You have no need to be SAVED!" Yet, they would be preaching the lies of the Devil!

"Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely.¹⁴ They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When *there is* no peace. (Jeremiah 6:13-14 NKJ)

Christ is painfully honest / true in His message to us –

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.¹⁶ "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.¹⁷ "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--¹⁸ "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.¹⁹ "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. (Revelation 3:14-19 NKJ)

II. Truth is compared to a belt in Ephesians 6:14 because it holds everything together –

1. In view here is DOCTRINAL TRUTH ---

I have often heard professing Christians, sometimes even preachers say – "We do not need doctrine, we only need Jesus!"

I would ask such a person, what do you mean by "JESUS?" There is a

mushroom cult that believes in Jesus! Ask them what they believe about Jesus ... they say "Jesus is a Mushroom!" Is that a saving faith in Jesus Christ or is doctrine, teaching, truth about "Jesus" important?

Jesus is the eternal Son of the Living God. He is the 2nd Person in the Godhead, co-equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit! He was born of the Virgin Mary, conceived by the Holy Spirit, He died for our sins, He resurrected from the dead! He is alive today! He sits on His throne in Heaven and intercedes for us with the Father! These are all doctrinal truths about Jesus Christ!

2. *This doctrinal truth is opposed to falsehood –*
 - A. *Jehoveh's witnesses believe in Jesus (yet not that He is God)*
 - B. *Mormons believe in Jesus --- but according to them he is the brother of Satan and no more a son of God than you or I.*
 - C. *According to evolutionists he is just another evolved piece of dust!*
 - D. *To the feminist theologian He (as the Son of God) is an example of distorted male left brained thinking!*

These and many other "LIES" "pro-choice that's a lie, babies don't choose to die" ... rip our faith, our "Christianity" apart --- TRUTH holds things together!

3. *In view here also though is Gospel Truth as opposed to the pictures and types of the OT –*
For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17 NKJ)

Pictures are true to an extent, yet they do not tell the entire truth ---

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29 NKJ)

And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." (John 1:51 NKJ)

Old testament animal sacrifices, types of Christ gave us pictures, even true pictures of Christ, yet Christ is the REALITY, the TRUTH –

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

4. *In view here too is the TRUTH about reality, much that is spiritual, eternal, is hidden from our natural eyes –*
For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJ)

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory,¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NKJ)

III. Such "TRUTHS" are absolutely essential for our Christian walks / battles in this lost world –
"Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. (Daniel 11:32 NKJ)

Biblical truth stabilizes us for our battles against Satan's wiles ---

A Roman soldiers belt held the rest of his armor in place – It held his tunic in place and when "girded" kept it out of his way! It was a carrying place for his sword so he would not be without his primary weapon!

The stability a belt provides is similar to the stability spoken of before by Paul, needed for spiritual growth maturity –

speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-- Christ--¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16 NKJ)