

USING THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

Part 1 – The Belt and the Sword

Ephesians 6:14-17

Introduction:

- A. Paul wrote this letter while under h_____ arrest (Acts 28:30,31)
 - 1. Paul's preaching and teaching was un_____
 - 2. Paul was c_____ to Roman guards (Eph 6:20)
- B. The Roman guards were called the Praetorian guard
 - 1. These were basically the Emperor's b_____ guards
 - 2. The amount of these guards numbered 9,000 under Augustus
 - 3. They received t_____ the pay of an ordinary soldier and given retirement benefits after 16 years of service.
 - 4. They would spread unpleasant tasks over the whole guard such as being c_____ to a prisoner.
 - 5. The whole guard heard Paul preach and teach in his two years of imprisonment (Phil 1:13).
- C. Paul uses the dress of the guards to illustrate the armor of God
 - 1. We have to put on the w_____ armor to position ourselves to receive God's power (Eph 6:10)
 - 2. We have to take up (i.e. u_____) the whole armor to experience God's power (Eph 6:13).
 - 3. Today lesson will deal with two pieces of the armor

The Belt – Be Ready to Fight in the Realm of Truth (14a)

- A. The belt was used for the action of girding the l_____
 - 1. Translations of this action:
 - a. The NASB and KJV use the above language
 - b. Other versions simply say f_____, buckle, or put the belt on which all miss the point.
 - 2. The meaning is readily seen in Lk 12:35 where the same Greek word is used.
 - a. The KJV has the literal translation – *let your loins be girded about.*
 - b. Other versions translate the sense of being dressed, r_____ for service or action.
 - 3. The belt was used for t_____ in the clothing that was hanging down so one could run without being restricted (try running with a long dress on)

- B. Paul noted that the guard chained to him DID NOT have anything tucked into the belt and uses this to teach that believers must ALWAYS be r_____ for battle against Satan
1. The battle will be in the realm of t_____ (gird your loins with it; be ready to combat Satan with it)
 2. Satan is a d_____ of the whole world (Rev 12:9; 2Cor 11:3)
 3. Satan's strategy is to get us to deny or c_____ the truth.
 - a. Satan came to Eve in disguise – look at the truths of God that Satan challenged (Gen 3)
 - b. Satan works in unbelievers to d_____ believers (Eph 2:2)
- C. Satanic attacks of deception by shifting the focus OFF the truth; He is a l_____ and a m_____ (Jn 8:44)
1. Abortion – Satan has successfully made people believe that it is a matter of c_____
 2. Cheating or lying – Satan has successfully gotten believers to make it a matter of saving m_____, saving face.
 3. But how can we really know the truth?

The sword – use God's word as the standard of truth (17b)

- A. The sword was used for the action of controlling crowds and e_____ people.
1. This is not the broad, long sword (a different Greek word)
 2. This was the shorter sword carried in a s_____
 3. Paul noted that the guard chained to him DID NOT have his sword and uses that to teach Christians to ALWAYS have it drawn
- B. The sword of the Spirit is called the w_____ of God.
1. This refers to all that God has s_____ through the apostles and prophets.
 - a. These were not words w_____ by human beings
 - b. These apostles and prophets were overcome by the Holy Spirit's will and m_____ to speak or write (see 2Pet1:21).
 2. The word of God is called holy s_____
 - a. 2Tim 3:16 - It is inspired by God (literally God-s_____)
 - b. 2Pet 3:15,16; Jn 14:26 -It is the body of writings called the B_____
 - c. God's word, the Bible, is our standard of truth.

- C. The war over abortion is the war over the truth
 - 1. Life in the womb is h_____ from conception and so is not part of the mother's body (Lk 1:41)
 - a. My body, my choice is an argument that holds no weight.
 - b. Science actually supports biblical truth because of the advances in D_____ technology.
 - 2. Taking a human life is playing God – we are not to decide who dies.
 - a. Jesus possesses the k_____ of death and we must leave death in His hands (Rev 1:18)
 - b. God declares the d_____ penalty for taking human life because humans were created in His image (Gen 9:6)
- D. The war over acceptance is a war over truth
 - 1. If you want to be part of our group take this drug (Eph 5:18)
 - 2. If you really love me, you will have sex with me (Heb 13:4)
- E. A crafty strategy by Satan to get us to sin – Go ahead and sin because God will forgive you anyway.
 - 1. Truth #1 – you are never better off by sinning (Rom 6:16)
 - 2. Truth #2- God's forgiveness is a motivator to not sin (Rom 6:9-13)

Conclusion:

- A. Gird your loins with the belt of truth – p_____ yourself with the truth
 - 1. Read God's word
 - 2. Study God's word
 - 3. Discuss God's word
 - 4. Think on God's word
- B. Take up the sword of the Spirit – L_____ according to God's word