

EPHESIANS - Ephesians 6

Message 99

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INTRO: We are looking at the Christian soldier as Paul has described him in Ephesians 6:10-20. Every believer must be enabled in the power of God's might in order that he might stand against the wiles of the devil. Paul has warned us that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenlies.

The devil has many varieties of means by which he can take the Christian out of the battle or render him useless. If he can distort truth or minimize it or eliminate it, he wins. Take the belt off a Roman soldier, and he is doomed. That which holds things together is gone.

Truth is under attack today as never before. Even the un-believing Greek philosophers would be shocked at our modern thinking. What would Plato or Socrates have thought if they saw our universities and then they found teachers there who said if you are a man and you think you got the wrong body and you claim you are a woman, then you are a woman?

Have you wondered how countries can promote open borders, such things as BLM, present gender issues, drag queens reading to kids and a host of other things? Have you wondered why they think the way they do? Well, I want to seek to help us see where we are today and why. We are today where we are largely because of how we view truth.

If the believer will put on the belt of truth he will never go where the world and much of so called Christianity is going today. But if the believer will put on the belt of truth he must prepare for opposition from the world and from much of so called Christianity.

We often hear the verse, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." My wife has mentioned to me several times that Ravi Zacharias pointed out that the verse before it gives the context. So John 8:32-33 says:

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

It is most crucial that one abides in the Word of truth, in order for the truth to set one free.

a) The belt

So, in this message I want to discuss a few other areas with regard to truth as related to our time. Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" Well, today society is asking, "Does truth even matter?" We may say things like, "That is your truth," or "This is my truth." And what that means is your truth may not be my truth." In such a case at least one is wrong and maybe both.

Furthermore, we might say that truth is not relevant. But we are selective when we say that. For example, when a woman says she's a man, that is her truth though every iota of information says that is false. But if you buy a used car from her, now your version of truth has to match hers. You can't say, "Well, my truth is that \$50,000.00 to you means \$5,000.00 to me. Here is your \$50,000.00 and please hand over the keys. All of a sudden both our truths have to be determined by the same objective laws.

In the last message I mentioned the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. This encyclopedia starts the subject of truth like this:

Truth is one of the central subjects in philosophy. It is also one of the largest. Truth has been a topic of discussion in its own right for thousands of years. Moreover, a huge variety of issues in philosophy relate to truth, either by

relying on theses about truth, or implying theses about truth.

Let me ask you, have you wondered why modern liberal thinking people in the church or in government think the way they do? Or do you wonder if they even think? Well, they do think. Here is the problem. Over the years they have been indoctrinated by our schools and slowly their thinking has changed.

Today one has to think through such issues as open borders; black lives matter; covid; critical race theory; gender issues etc...

I was given a book called, "The War on Truth." The writer bases his thinking on the attributes of God. He says the liberals on the left stress God's grace, mercy, kindness and forgiveness. The writer calls these the soft left. Those who stress this to the exclusion of the attributes on the other side become liberal in their thinking. This mindset bases its reasoning on the emotions.

On the other side is truth, justice, holiness and righteousness. He calls this the hard right. Those who stress these to the exclusion of the others become the conservatives. They base their thinking on logic and reason.

He calls those that base their thinking on only the left or only the right, the left pit or the right pit. In the left pit are the liberals and in the right pit are the conservatives. I would say if they fall into the right pit they are not conservatives but have become legalists.

Now let me quote him. He says: "A singular pursuit of the Soft Virtues will not only cause a Liberal to deny righteousness, but truth too. This is perhaps most clearly seen today in the

transgender issue. After all, when a Liberal is willing to look at a mutilated man in a dress and a wig and insist, despite all the biological facts, that he has genuinely become a woman, we begin to understand there is no reality they won't deny for the sake of peace, equality and spared feelings. If they cannot accept one of the most easily verifiable truths of life - that human beings are immutably male and female - on the basis that it might hurt someone's feelings to say so, then there is literally no fact they would not be willing to deny on the same basis" (The War on Truth, pg. 73). End Quote.

Now a Christian should not be hard right or soft left. I would call those all the way on the left, liberals; and those all the way on the right, legalists; not conservatives. One does not have to, nor should one fall into either extreme.

Always one must balance out all of God's attributes. One should keep in mind grace, love, mercy, and kindness; and one should keep in mind truth, justice, righteousness, and holiness. And if you balance those out, you will likely be viewed as a legalist by the liberals, and a liberal by the legalists. A.W. Tozer in his writings points out the dangers of not God's attributes in balance.

JOHN 14

But I want you to go to a most important passage on truth in John 14. Let me begin with Jesus' statement that He is the truth. The time of this chapter is just before the crucifixion. We begin in verse 1:

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

The disciples are sad because Jesus has told them He is going away. And Jesus encourages them to continue to believe in Him, even if He is going away.

Verse 2:

2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Here we have the wonderful assurance that Jesus will return.

Verse 4:

4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

Thomas is troubled. Jesus said they knew where He was going but Thomas said, "We don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way?"

Verse 6:

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Now when Jesus said He was the truth, this raises a very difficult question. How can a Person, even God Himself, be the truth? I hold that truth is the

accurate communication about something, not the thing itself. I have heard explanations of this difficulty like this: Jesus Christ is truth personified. But the question then is, what is truth personified? I can't get anything practical out of that. It could be that I just do not know something others know.

Some years ago as I studied this, I came to this conclusion. Here is what Jesus is saying: "I am the way to the Father; I am the truth about the Father; and I am the life from the Father."

When Jesus said, "I am the way," this very verse shows it means He is the way to the Father because He said, "No one comes to the Father but by Me." I am the way to the father. I think that is easy enough.

When Jesus said He was the life, I believe it means He is the life from the Father. Listen to these verses:

John 5:26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

John 6:33 "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

He is the life which comes from the Father, and He can give it to those who believe. This is how we get eternal life. It comes from the Father to Him, and He gives it to us.

John 6:48 "I am the bread of life.

John 10:28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of

My hand.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

So He is the way to the Father and He is the life which comes from the Father. What does it mean then when He says, "I am the truth?" I believe that means He is the truth about the Father. Let me show you that in this very context.

Jesus said this in verse 7:

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

Everything that can be known is learned and it can be expressed in propositions. And everything one can learn about Jesus Christ from the life He lived is an accurate display of God the Father. We know from the Bible that no one can see God and live. But Christ is the filter through which we can see God. If you have seen Jesus Christ, you have seen what God is like. If we get to know Jesus from prophecy and the Gospels you have come to know God. He is the true picture of God the Father. When we read what is written about Christ, from that we can know the Father because Jesus Christ is an accurate picture of God the Father.

We learn truth like mathematical truth and scientific truth in the natural world. All of this truth reveals God the Father to us too. But in Jesus Christ we learn spiritual truth about the Person of God the Father. He is the truth about the Father.

Verse 8 of John 14 now:

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Philip said, "Well, we just want to see God the Father. Show Him to us and that will be enough for us." And Jesus said, "I have walked with you for some years. You have seen Me. I am the truth about the Father. He who has seen Me has seen the Father. That is He has seen the truth about the Father. He who knows Me, knows the Father."

And when you take the Bible from cover to cover, everything is wrapped up in Jesus Christ. If one has Jesus Christ, one is on the way to the Father. If one has Jesus Christ, one has the truth about the Father. If one has Jesus Christ, one has the life that comes from God through Him. He said He gives eternal life to all who come to Him.

And when one has Jesus Christ, one has the truth about the Father. The whole Bible is centered in Jesus Christ. Go to 2 Peter. We begin in verse 2:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Peter desires that grace and peace might be multiplied to these believers in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ. The knowledge of God and Jesus Christ is things we know about God and Jesus Christ. To know things one must learn propositional truths and store them. And when we have such truths stored in our minds, through this knowledge His divine power gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge we get from Him.

By this knowledge exceeding great and precious promises are given to us. And through these promises we become partakers of the divine nature because through these we have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

So let me say a thing about knowledge. This is another troublesome area for philosophy and so you have what is called epistemology. And in epistemology you get lost in a maze that has no exit. But let me say this about knowledge: You cannot store something as knowledge that is not true. Let me explain. Let us say you are told, as the Mormons do, that the North American Indians are from the lost tribes of Israel. And let us say you are a Mormon. And someone says, "Did you know that the North American Indians are decedents of the lost tribes of Israel?" And you answer, "Yes, I know that." Can he know that? No. He can say, "I believe that" but he cannot say, "I know that."

That view was put to rest by modern DNA.

So the knowledge, the truth that we can have about God and Jesus Christ comes from the Bible and in the message I recommended in the last message, "Is The Bible The Word of God?", we give the evidence for the truth of the Bible.

You see, everything is wrapped up in Jesus Christ. Through Him we get to know God. Through Him we come to God. Through Him we get that eternal life that comes from God.

Romans 13:14, using the picture of the tunic around which the belt goes says:

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Here the believer is pictured as dressed with the Lord Jesus Christ. When we do this, it is to allow no room for the flesh to live.

And now to all of us, when we put on the belt of truth, here, central and key to all truth is Jesus Christ! He who knows Him, that is has the truth about Him in his mind, knows God the Father! It is all wrapped up in Jesus Christ. He is the truth about the Father!

So one should be honest with the truths of God's grace and mercy and kindness and love, and one should be honest with His truth and justice and holiness as well!

And I propose that if one puts on the belt of truth, and one holds to all those attributes of God, those on the left will accuse one of being all the way over on the right, and those on the right will

conclude one is all the way over on the left. One will get shot from both sides.

PUT TOGETHER POSTMODERNISM AND PUT HERE?

From that, let me now show us where we are today. When you listen to today's liberals, which is what our political liberals and the democrats in the US are, can you understand their thinking? Do you wonder if they even think? Open borders, defund the police, allow stealing without dealing with it? Do you understand that thinking?

Well, something slowly happened in the schools of our land that has caused people to begin to think differently. In the earlier scientific age from the 1700's on, thinking was largely based on objective truth. Today, America has a whole new way of thinking. That is why we cannot understand them. Today's thinking is called post-modernism. Over the years our schools and the direction of the morality of the past has changed.

To understand where we are today one needs to know something of what is called postmodernism. Truth is a very central part to this way of thinking. It is a new way of thinking. It is a way of thinking that is divorced from being concerned about absolute or objective truth. And we look at the political world of the left and we shake our heads and we say, "How can you even think like that?" Well, it is a whole new way of thinking and the central issue is truth.

Here is what John MacArthur says of postmodernism:

"If you have been paying attention to the world around us, you have probably heard that expression a lot recently. The term

postmodernism has been used increasingly since the 1980s to describe several popular trends in architecture, art, literature, history, culture, and religion. It is not an easy term to explain because it describes a way of thinking that defies (and even rejects) any clear definition.

"Postmodernism in general is marked by a *tendency to dismiss the possibility of any sure and settled knowledge of the truth*. Postmodernism suggests that if objective truth exists, it cannot be known objectively or with any degree of certainty. That is because (according to postmodernists) the subjectivity of the human mind makes knowledge of objective truth impossible. So it is useless to think of truth in objective terms.

"Objectivity is an illusion. Nothing is certain, and the thoughtful person will never speak with too much conviction about anything. Strong convictions about any point of truth are judged supremely arrogant and hopelessly naive. Everyone is entitled to his own truth.

"Postmodernism therefore has no positive agenda to assert anything as true or good. Perhaps you have noticed that only the most heinous crimes are still seen as evil.... That is because the notion of evil itself does not fit in the postmodern scheme of things. If we can't really know anything for certain, how can we judge anything evil?

"Therefore postmodernism's one goal and singular activity is the systematic deconstruction of every other truth claim. The chief tools being employed to accomplish this are relativism, subjectivism, the denial of every dogma,

the dissection and annihilation of every clear definition, the relentless questioning of every axiom, the undue exaltation of mystery and paradox, the deliberate exaggeration of every ambiguity, and above all the cultivation of uncertainty about *everything*.

"If you were to challenge me to boil down postmodern thought into its pure essence and identify the gist of it in one single, simple, central characteristic, I would say **it is the rejection of every expression of certainty** (emphasis mine). In the postmodern perspective, certainty is regarded as inherently arrogant, elitist, intolerant, oppressive—and therefore always wrong." End quote.

<https://www.gty.org/library/blog/B170918/modernity-to-postmodernity-from-bad-to-worse>

I observed when this kind of thinking began to make inroads into the Church. There were statements like this: All truth is God's truth. How can you argue with that? But this was used to put a stamp of approval on such issues as modern psychology. Great efforts were made to Christianize secular psychology and teach it in Christian schools. The argument is that since all truth is God's truth, if the secular world discovers it, then it is OK to use it in Christian education. It is no different than math or any such subjects. They can be taught in secular and Christian schools because all truth is God's truth.

Is all truth God's truth? Is anything that is actually true in line with God? Yes. So what is wrong with teaching psychology in Christian schools? Let me ask you, if modern psychology is true,

why is it an ever changing field? Does truth change? But modern Christianity says: if it works, it must be true. So we entered pragmatism and it changed the modern church. But through such thinking inroads were made into higher Christian education and it has now infected almost every Bible school.

Our subject is the belt of truth. The Christian who is girded with truth has to have the conviction that the Bible has everything man needs for life and godliness. He must believe that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. Those who will maintain this will most likely experience persecution for it not too long from now even in those countries we call free countries.

What is the problem with the world? It does not know God. In the time when so-called scientific truth was discovered, this is truth in general revelation, such a discovery of objective truth in the physical realm had a great impact on every part of physical life. I believe it impacted the spiritual world as well. The laws of learning and teaching and the laws of Bible interpretation received a lot of new attention. This led to many wonderful things.

Today, because the Church is seeking to be relevant to a post-modern world, we are also losing our hunger for objective truth in the spiritual realm. This led us to the seeker sensitive church which gave way to the emergent church.

Roger Oakland has said this: "...the modern era was characterized by a time of rational thinking based on factual observation. Many claim the modern era

ended in the mid - 1900s. The postmodern mindset moves beyond the rational and the factual to the experiential and the mystical. In other words, in the past it was possible to know right from wrong and good from evil. In the postmodern era, all things are relative to the beholder. What may be right for you may be wrong for someone else. There is no such thing as absolute truth, they say. The only thing absolute is that there are no absolutes." (The Good Shepherd Calls, pg. 203.)

Well, our subject is the belt of truth, and the attack on truth in our day is unprecedented. We can expect more and more attacks, both outside and inside the Church.

ROBERT KNIGHT

Robert Knight, a guest Columnist for One News Now writes:

"With Biden/Harris ensconced in the White House, we're being instructed to cheer the return of "science" as a guide to public policy.

"The inference is that all important decisions during the Trump years were made by reading tea leaves or conferring with the Amazing Kreskin.

"So, back to 'science.' If only.

"Like anything else of consequence, much of science has been hijacked and repurposed to suit progressive agendas. As such, it's no longer real science but selectively publicized "studies," enforced by guilds like the American Psychological Association or the climate Chicken Littles.

"How else to explain the ruling elites' insistence that "men" can have babies and that "women" who shave, have male musculature and male DNA are objectively female? And that this is "scientific?" The people most often appalled by this blatant dishonesty are religious conservatives - observant Jews, conservative Catholics and evangelical Christians. Like the little boy in "The Emperor's New Clothes," they're baffled that so many people can ignore their own eyes and common sense.

"For the most part, with some notable exceptions, Muslims are staying out of this. Even though they support sharply defined gender roles, they know they have to take a pass if they want to be part of the governing Democrat coalition of radicalized identity groups. Same for black Democrats, who must have winced when Joe Biden declared, "Transgender equality is the civil rights issue of our time."

"The war on science is a war on truth and conscience. For too long, religious folks have struck a defensive posture, that is, slow surrender. Underneath the repeated assaults by the LGBTQ lobby on norms of any kind is the assumption that the Bible is invalid, nature is what you make of it and truth is irrelevant.

"When cultures no longer believe that truth is important or even attainable, they devolve into 'might makes right' authoritarianism. That's what the Church, and anyone of sound mind, is facing now.

"Resorting only to abstract claims of civil rights instead of battling

dangerous, meritless assumptions paves the way for marginalization at best, and persecution at worst.

"The Big Lie now is that people with traditional beliefs about sex, gender, marriage or even American exceptionalism are bigots. That is, they're haters who need to be legally suppressed." End quote.

<https://onenewsnetwork.com/perspectives/robert-knight/2021/02/09/mad-science-and-the-fight-for-truth>

If one puts on the belt of truth, one will be in trouble with a large part of the Church. In the secular world, jail is on the horizon if one will wear the belt of truth. Truth, is under attack, and I suspect the greatest fault of the spiritual state of America lies in the pulpits of American churches beginning in the early 1900's.

ISAIAH 59

Now in light of our present world situation, it makes one wonder if we might will ever experience a revival to deliver us from this present departure from truth. Turn to Isaiah 59. In the days of Isaiah, there was a time like this for the nation of Israel. We want to consider this passage before we close on the subject of truth. Israel, at that time, had taken off the belt of truth and it spelled disaster.

Isaiah 59:1:

1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

Even now, God's hand is not shortened. But there is a problem about which God

cannot do anything. It is now up to man to do something about it. Verse 2:

2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

That is precisely our problem today. Unless a revival takes place among God's people, it looks like our present day might usher in the rapture of the Church and then the tribulation.

Verse 3:

3 For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity.

4 No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.

Could you describe our day any more accurately than that? We see society slipping into this decadence almost as a whole. It has had a disastrous affect on the Church!

Verse 5:

5 They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out.

Gill says these eggs were poisonous and the significance of the spider's web may be, not that it traps, but that it is so thin. When the eggs hatch, a viper comes out.

*6 Their webs will not become garments,
Nor will they cover themselves with their
works; Their works are works of iniquity,
And the act of violence is in their
hands.*

*7 Their feet run to evil, And they make
haste to shed innocent blood; Their
thoughts are thoughts of iniquity;
Wasting and destruction are in their
paths.*

When truth and justice are forsaken, this is the result. When truth is forsaken, prosperity turns into destruction.

Verse 8:

*8 The way of peace they have not known,
And there is no justice in their ways;
They have made themselves crooked paths;
Whoever takes that way shall not know
peace.*

If you follow today's post-modern thinking, there will not be peace and justice will be gone. Modern thinking makes crooked paths. Anyone who walks those paths will not know peace.

Verse 9:

*9 Therefore justice is far from us, Nor
does righteousness overtake us; We look
for light, but there is darkness! For
brightness, but we walk in blackness!*

Here is a description of today. Justice is far off and righteousness cannot enter. We look for light. We look for hope, but there is darkness and blackness!

Verse 10:

*10 We grope for the wall like the blind,
And we grope as if we had no eyes; We
stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are
as dead men in desolate places.*

We look for things to hang onto like blind people. We can see but can't see. What we reach for to hang onto, moves. We are like dead people in desolate places!

Verse 11:

*11 We all growl like bears, And moan
sadly like doves; We look for justice,
but there is none; For salvation, but it
is far from us.*

Why is it like this? Why is it like this in our day? Salvation from our present dilemma is far from us. Why is it like this? Verse 12:

*12 For our transgressions are multiplied
before You, And our sins testify against
us; For our transgressions are with us,
And as for our iniquities, we know them:*

*13 In transgressing and lying against
the LORD, And departing from our God,
Speaking oppression and revolt,
Conceiving and uttering from the heart
words of falsehood.*

One could hardly describe America in more accurate words. Lies are as common as dust, and truth as uncommon as diamonds. Listen to our politicians.

Verses 14:

*14 Justice is turned back, And
righteousness stands afar off; For truth
is fallen in the street, And equity
cannot enter.*

Justice is fleeing America and righteousness stands far off with no avenue to enter in. And why is it like that? Truth has fallen in the street and equity cannot enter. So what is meant by truth is fallen in the street? The word translated "street" can mean a public plaza or square, or a street. So interpreters differ on what is meant here. The question is, has truth fallen in the law courts, or has it become so common that it is trampled underfoot in the streets?

Vine's commentary takes the word translated as "street" to mean the market place. He comments like this on verse 15: "Truth had fallen in the market place. Where righteous dealing should have been in evidence, not only was truth lacking, but anyone who departed from evil rendered himself the subject of plunder (the verb is usually rendered 'to spoil')" (pg 193).

Either way, ultimately it affects the common man. And equity, or that which is right has to stand aside and let untruth rule. Righteousness cannot enter. Wrong thinking bars it from entrance.

And in our text, the believer is to put on the belt of truth. When you enter a time like we are in now, often all you can do is stand aside. Truth has no path of entrance. I see and hear of professing Christians that will not listen to some things. For example, alcohol or divorce and remarriage. Try to have an honest discussion with many and there is no ear for it. Equity cannot enter.

Verse 15:

15 *So truth fails, And he who departs*

from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.

So truth fails. That is where we are in our country. Now when you live in a time like that, and if anyone decides to turn from evil, and if anyone decides to live right and decides to walk with God, that person will make himself a prey.

Now here is my word for anyone who is considering becoming a Christian or those who are young Christians. Put on the belt of truth. And if you do, as our culture is now, you will be making yourselves a prey. In Bible times, when one people conquered another, they took the booty of that other country. If one departs from evil and truth becomes one's belt, one will set himself up to become booty for the wicked. They will cut you down and seek to rob you of all you have.

And here is the thing about what Isaiah says in this chapter. To choose to put on the belt of truth in such a time, will cause what you have earned to come into their possession. The penalty for living by truth is to lose what you have rightfully gained. You have made the choice to have it done to you. It is the price you decide you are willing to pay if you stand on truth and depart from evil. You can't reason with them. This is par for the course of those who depart from evil and follow truth.

So before one puts on this belt of truth, one needs to count the cost.

CONCL: We conclude. Truth is the benchmark of life! Just before Jesus was crucified He prayed His High priestly prayer in John 17, and He said this in verses 12-17:

12 "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

13 "But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

16 "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

And our text verse says, "having girded your waist with truth." Here is a foundational principle for all of one's Christian life. As soon as one errs on truth, one is set up for defeat in that area of life. One will never be sanctified to the extent God wants to sanctify one if one does not live by truth in any area.

Then let me add this: Do I accept the Bible as the sole authority for all that pertains to life and godliness? Am I convinced it is the entire Word of God? Am I sold out to the Word of God as the truth above all other things that vie for our attention? It is most crucial that the Bible remains one's benchmark for truth. Buy the truth and sell it not.