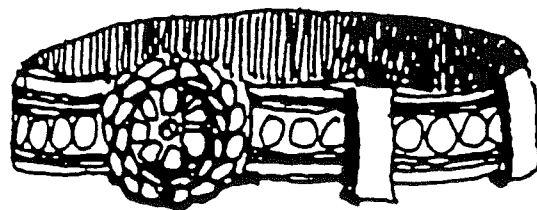


THE GIRDLE OF TRUTH

(How Integrity and Truthfulness Will Protect You)



The Girdle That Will Keep You

- A Clear Conscience
- A Transparent Spirit
- A Sincere Attitude

"The integrity of the upright shall guide them; but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them." (Proverbs 11:3)

Bill Kirk

“STANDING VICTORIOUSLY AGAINST THE ENEMY”

(Message #3)

Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

Subject: “The Power Of The Girdle Of Truth”

(v. 14) “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth”

Thus Far We’ve Covered:

- #1. “The Shield Of Faith” (How faith overcomes discouragement and enables you to embrace God when your feelings, senses and reasonings breakdown).
- #2. “The Breastplate Of Righteousness” (How Christ has freed us from all accusation and condemnation from the evil one).
- #3. “The Power Of The Girdle Of Truth”

Question: What is the Girdle of Truth?

Question: Why is it so important?

Question: How do I put it on (and keep it on)?

Question: And, what difference does it make in my life tonight?

Introduction

1. In Paul’s day, the girdle (or belt) about the loins, held all the other parts of the soldiers uniform in tact.
2. This girdle (or leather belt) served to bind the loose flowing garments tight to the body.
3. This girdle had to be tight and in place to allow freedom of movement.
4. To Tighten the belt meant a soldier was ready for battle (to loosen it meant he was off duty).

What’s The Big Deal to Us?

Fact: The “loins” in Scripture were used to signify strength.

Fact: “Girded loins” meant the opposite of carelessness and looseness.

Fact: So, “loins girt about with truth” reveal an awesome truth to us:

- ◆ The word “Truth” here doesn’t refer to the Word of God (that’s the armor in (v. 17) called the “Sword of The Spirit”) which is the Word of God”.

(“Truth” In (v. 14) Means:)

- #1. An attitude of truthfulness
- #2. Transparency of heart
- #3. Sincerity of spirit
- #4. Integrity of character
- #5. The opposite of all sham, pretense and hypocrisy.

(The Girdle Of Truth Is Simply:)

- ◆ Truthfulness In The Inward Parts Of A Man Or A Woman. (Repeat)

(For You And Me, The Girdle Of Truth Is:)

- #1. The opposite of everything phony,
- #2. The power of a clear conscience,
- #3. The joy of a pure heart, and
- #4. Living void of anything that would contaminate your spirit.

Question: Why is it that important, to be girt about with truthfulness?

Answer: It's more important than I realize:

(For 2 Main Reasons)

#1. In Paul's day, if the girdle fell down, the loose garments would fly open and the pants would fall down.

- ◆ This meant the soldier would be hindered.
- ◆ This meant trouble and death in the battle.
- ◆ This meant interference in a time when agility was needed the most (fiery darts of the enemy would win).

#2. In Paul's day, the girdle also held the sword. (which means to us)

- ◆ Unless I put on the girdle of truthfulness (integrity, purity, and transparency) then I cannot use the sword of the Word in battle. (Repeat)

(In Other Words)

- ◆ As the tightened girdle of the Roman soldier held all of the others garments in place,
- ◆ So, if we become loose with our girdle of honesty and truthfulness - everything else begins to fall apart.

(Since The Girdle Held The Sword)

(I Discover:)

#1. That if my girdle of truthfulness is loose (then my sword won't readily help me in battle).

(I Discover:)

#2. That the effectiveness of the Word to get to my root problems will only be equal to my willingness to live transparent before God.

(I Discover:)

#3. That I can know all the Word of God (or have my sword) and yet still fall in battle if my girdle of integrity is loose or careless.

(In Simple Terms)

- ◆ As the girdle held everything together for the soldier in Rome,
- ◆ So, the girdle of truthfulness holds everything together for the soldier in _____
your city

Question: What are the rewards for wearing: "The Belt Of Truthfulness"?

- #1. You will be able to discern the voice of God: (Proverbs 4:23)
"Guard your heart for that is the place God speaks to you and that is where you get direction from Him".
- #2. You will experience Gods leading and guidance: (Matthew 5:8)
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God day by day in the journey".
- #3. You will enjoy sweet communion with Jesus: (Amos 3:3)
"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"
- #4. You will have peace beyond description: (Psalm 37:37)
"Mark the perfect man and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace".
- #5. You will possess greater joy: (Psalm 97:11)
"Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart".
- #6. You will discover new strength and power: (Job 17:9)
"He that has clean hands shall be stronger and stronger".
- #7. You will prepare yourself for a miracle: (Joshua 3:5)
"Sanctify yourselves (today) for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you".

The Big Question Tonight Is:

- Ask:** How do I put on the Girdle of Truth?
Ask: How do I keep it on to win in battle?
Ask: How do I cooperate with God to live with truth and character in my inward parts?

(Psalm 51:6 Records)

"God desires truth in the inward parts"

- Ask:** So how can I "be strong in the Lord" by wearing the armor of "loins girt about with truth?"

(5 Practical Ways)

- #1. Abstain from all appearance of evil: (I Thessalonians 5:22)
(Jude 23) "Hate even the garments spotted by the flesh"
(Romans 16:19) "Be simple (or avoid) all that is concerning evil"
(I Corinthians 15:33) "Bad company corrupts good morals"
- #2. Conquer sin in your mind when evil seeds are sown:
(I Peter 1:13) "Wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind".

(Why So Important)?

- ◆ Because the devil will take you further than you want to go,
- ◆ Keep you longer than you want to stay, and
- ◆ Make you pay more than you want to pay.

#3. Understand that all temptation is a lie from satan:

(Promising pleasure now but hiding from view the long term consequences).

(Hebrews 11:25) "Moses chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season".

Illustration: Genesis 25:29-34 Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup.

#4. Remind yourself of where you are soon going:

(I Peter 2:11) "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul".

Question: Why abstain from fleshly lusts?

#1. "We are strangers" (or, we don't belong).

#2. "We are pilgrims" (or, we are only passing through).

#5. Believe in God's Power" for deliverance from "Sin's Power"

(Romans 6:2) "How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

Conclusion: Genesis 14:17-23

Fact: The King of Sodom offered goods to Abraham. (v. 21)

Fact: Abraham said, I live for a higher purpose - God Most High. (v. 22)

Fact: Abraham then concluded in (v. 23):

"I'll not even accept a shoestring from you, lest you get the glory".

Ask: "Pastor, is it worth living with the girdle of Truth?"

(Ch. 15:1)

"After these things the Word of the Lord came unto Abraham in a vision saying, **Fear not, I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward.**

(And in v. 4)

God Promised him a son!!!

What Is God Saying To Us?

#1. That a bride 95% faithful is not faithful at all .

#2. Separation from rubbish is preparation for revival.

#3. God has in waiting and in store more than we know tonight (If we'll reject all shoestring substitutes that get in the way!!!)

(Proverbs 23:23)

"Buy The Truth And Sell It Not"

AMEN!

Pastor Bill Kirk