

Armor of God— Belt of Truth

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of July 31, 2021.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—One of the most encouraging sections of Scripture is found in the book of Ephesians. In that letter, the apostle Paul described a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:10-13) and the spiritual weapons (verses 14-17) available for the children of God to use.

In this article, we will discuss the first weapon—called the belt of truth (verse 14).

What is truth?

For the sake of this article, we will define truth in the following two ways.

- A way of life
- That which is true

More than a set of doctrines

Some among the Church of God congregations make the mistake of viewing “the truth” as a specific set of church doctrines. However, truth is more than a specific set of church doctrines.

Most of the religious people in my circle of life believe that we are saved by grace and therefore our Heavenly Father has expectations of us. One of the best illustrations of that is the giving of the Ten Commandments.

- Exodus 20:2 reminded the children of Israel that they were delivered from bondage.
- Exodus 20:3-17 listed basic expectations that the Father had given to them.

Way of life

One of the best examples of the truth being a way of life is found in Matthew 19:16-21.

A young man asked the Son of God how he could have eternal life (verse 16). The Son of God told him to keep the Commandments (verse 17). The young man asked which ones and the Son of God mentioned Commandments five through nine (verses 18-19).

The young man replied that he had kept those from his youth (verse 20). At that point, the Son of God instructed him to overcome a particular weakness that he had (verses 21-22).

That which is true

I would like to leave you with some reminders.

- God cannot lie (Titus 1:2 and Hebrews 6:17-18).
- The devil is a persistent liar (John 8:44 and Revelation 12:10).
- The Son of God came to bear witness to what is true (John 18:37).
- Spiritual truth is a miracle (Ephesians 1:17-18).
- Accepting truth must be stronger than the pull of spectacular physical miracles (Deuteronomy 13:1-6, Matthew 24:24, Luke 16:31, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 and Revelation 13:13-15).
- Truth is stronger than illusion (Matthew 23:25-28, 2 Corinthians 4:2 and Ephesians 4:14).
- Truth is stronger than self-deception (1 Corinthians 3:18, Galatians 6:3, James 1:26 and Revelation 3:17-19).

They think they are Philadelphians

Do you want to hear something a little amusing? People who proudly boast that they have the label of the Philadelphia congregation (Revelation 3:7-13) actually have the behavior of the Laodicean congregation (Revelation 3:14-22).

Revelation 3:17-18—"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—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."

Sanctified by truth

John 17:17-19—"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth."