

Hurst Green
26th Aug 2018
Eph 6 14
The Belt of Truth

Now before we start the belt of truth we have a little matter of a memory verse. Firstly which verse was it?

Answer v11

Who remembers it?

Ephesians 6:11 (ANIV)

¹¹ Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

And it was important because it seems from last week that the whole aim of the armour of God was so that we could stand – stand firm.

Now we have all heard that this whole passage is modelled on the armour of a roman soldier that Paul would have been shackled in his prison but actually the analogy of the armour is true of any soldier even today we could make the same cross references although the sword has changed not much else has.

And has starts with the belt – important to the middle eastern soldier who tended to wear a long robe – we have all seen images of Christ in his full length robe.

Now that was not much good for fighting in or even for doing anything in a hurry.

Elijah running ahead of Ahab after Carmel tucked his cloak into his belt so that he could run.

Way back in the instruction for the Passover God tells the Israelites.

Exodus 12:11 (ANIV)

¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD'S Passover.

What became a leisurely family meal was meant to be eaten in haste ready to escape the land and to do so at speed.

And the quality of your belt said something about your status. In the bible we go from plain leather belts through warrior belts to belts of Gold and silver.

So the belt is the bit of kit that holds everything together and this is described as the belt of **truth** – what does that mean?

Christianity isn't true because I believe it – I believe in Christianity because it is true.

Christianity tells me what life is all about, who God is, what the good life is, and what lies after death. It gives rational answers to ultimate questions and to many other questions. We must never stop telling people that the Christian faith is true. Its truthfulness is the belt which

holds together everything else. It tempers our zeal and fuels it. It is the foundation for our joy and peace; it tells us what our response should be and motivates us in all our activities

But what is truth?

In Jesus Christ Super Star Pilate says “We both have truths are mine the same as yours?” based on John 18:38

Yet all who believe in a god claim that they have truths and their God is the true God.

You will also get the argument that while those who wrote scripture wrote for their time we now know so much more and so scripture is not relevant.

We know so much less if we want to write scripture off like this!

There is a step of faith in believing the bible is true but it is a step of faith that gets proved correct as we know our bibles.

I have often said that nothing archaeology has ever found has disproved anything in the bible

God’s revelation is truth. That is another truism. If God himself is truth, then his revelation has to be truth.

God has carefully supervised the whole process of the composition of the Bible so that the writers, prepared over many years, came to write in prophecies and psalms, gospels and letters and histories exactly what God intended them to write. That is a statement of faith but it is based on experience

So the word is true. Jesus said it could not be broken; its words will endure longer than the heavens and the earth. He and his truth are inseparable. Christ is infallible and so is his word. By the phrase ‘the word of God’ we mean both the Bible, and the personal Word, Jesus Christ. Both are truth. Said Jesus: “Your Word is truth,” and “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

But we must address the differences different denominations find in the same bible.

Firstly a statement - Not all truth is contained in the bible. The whole bible is true but there is much truth the bible does not contain.

The bible does not tell us that we won the battle of Britain – but we did

The whole issue of denominations is not what is written in the bible but in how we interpret it but all Christians can join in the apostolic creed “I believe in God the father maker of heaven and earth etc”

Churches that reject the core teaching, the trinity, the divinity of Christ and so on step outside of the definition of Christian whatever they may call themselves – this is down to you recognising false teachers and not seeking teachers after your own liking.

But if you want to be pre or post millennial help yourself; if you want to baptise as babies or as adults help yourself. If you want to believe that the bread and the wine literally become the body and blood help yourself. These are not things that are stated in the bible and from what the bible says can be inferred either way. We should not argue about such things but let each hold to his own beliefs without condemning others.

But the belt of truth is the word of God and we need to put in on – we need to know what the word of God says to us.

And God has given each one of us the Spirit of God to act as our conscience and to remind us of all we have been taught so that the belt of truth may be a reality in our lives.

And a lot goes on that this belt of truth may be a reality.

We come together this morning but we can only focus on the message and this belt because of so much work that has gone on in the background. The building has been kept clean, the hedges trimmed, the chairs laid out, the fire extinguishers checked and various other legal requirements and all of this has been done by people with the belt of truth on so that we may receive more of the word of God rather than worrying about the cobwebs or the wasps.

Then as a congregation we have ways of doing things that show our unity and our love one for another and that is all part of wearing the belt of truth.

In meeting with other churches and sharing with them we are demonstrating that we all wear the belt of the same truth.

And do you put on the belt of truth - do you believe the bible is true?

If you believe it is true is it important to you. Do you want to know what it says and so do you read it? Do you seek to understand it more and more?

That is all part of the belt of truth that is going to be so important over the next few weeks as we put on the armour of God. Without the belt everything will be loose and we are in danger of losing equipment and we might lose it at a key moment when we are trying to stand firm.

Prepare now – know the belt of truth and put it on daily

And the memory verse is of course verse 14!!