

June 2015

From the Pastor



Belted with the Truth

If you remember, for the next few months I will be writing about the armor of God. The reason to put on that armor is because we are in a battle. Here is a reminder of that battle from the book of Ephesians.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 ESV)

I begin with the first piece of armor; the belt of truth. In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes,

*¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth...
(Ephesians 6:14 ESV)*

First we are told to stand. God does not want us to be defeated in this spiritual battle. There will be hard times; times when we feel pretty beat up. However, we need to stand when we put on this armor.

Put on this belt of truth. I could encourage you to put on God's truth and talk about the importance of the truths of faith, but as I look at this



Belt of Truth

(over)

passage, I think this is talking about our character. Then, by putting on the belt of truth, we are living as people who are truthful.

There are two words we use that would fit for the Greek word for truth in this passage. The Greek word is *alētheia*, which means either faithfulness or truth.

In order for us to wear the belt of truth, we are called to be faithful people. Just as James wrote in his letter when he said,

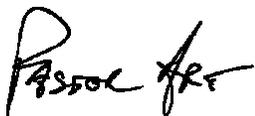
But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. (James 5:12 ESV)

When we say we are going to do something, we should simply do it. We are to be people of our word. We are to be known as people whose words can be considered as good as a contract. People should be able to trust us.

That Greek word also means being truthful. When people lie, they can get caught up in the lie and get into all kinds of trouble. Many of us have read news stories of famous people who got caught lying on their resumes and lose very important jobs. Truth protects us. We don't have to fear about getting caught when we live truthful lives.

Let us all begin putting on our spiritual armor by committing to being faithful and true. It's a strong way to live.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Joe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.