

THE NEW HUMANITY OF JESUS THE CHRIST:
MEDITATIONS IN THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN FAITHFUL

THE HOLY WARRIORS OF GOD, I: TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS
(EPHESIANS 6:13-14)

I. *Ecclesia Militans*

II. **The Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph 6:13-14)**

- A. There are two things to note when we consider the armor:
1. We must not be too inflexible about the armor's parts—*they are interchangeable.*
 2. Paul means to communicate something about a particular virtue when he associates it with a piece of armor.
- B. So, take up the whole armor of God (6:13).
1. Paul is going back to his main point—the main idea of 6:10.
 2. But he still gives us reasons why we need to put on the armor.—*It's so that we can stand firm in the evil day.*
 3. 6:13-18 is God's way of teaching us how to stay believers in Christ.—*this is the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints!*
- C. We take up the belt of truth (6:14a).
1. The belt protects the soldier's lower abdomen.
 2. What is truth? It includes...
 - a. The truth of God—*which the Christian holds as part of his new identity in Christ.*
 - b. The Christian's own truthfulness—*which the Christian develops under his new identity in Christ.*
 3. To put on truth as a belt is to be a fundamentally truthful/faithful person.
 - a. The Christian's speech must be truth (Eph 4:25).
 - b. The Christian must be a person of faithfulness and stability (Isa 11:4-5).

4. To put on truth as a belt is also to be a person of *God's* truth.
 - a. God's word is the most important truth.
 - b. The Christian must hide God's word in the depths of his heart.
5. **The belt of truth protects the Christian from the lies of the evil one.**

- D. We take up the breastplate of righteousness (6:14b).
1. The breastplate is the armor that covers the soldier from between the shoulders to the loins.
 2. What is righteousness? It includes...
 - a. The Christian's own (God-created) righteousness.
 - b. The righteousness of Christ imputed to the Christian.
 3. The righteousness of Christ is most important for our victory.
 4. **The breastplate of righteousness protects us from the accusations of the evil one.**

III. **Truth-Based, Righteousness-Covered Warriors**

*Our heavenly Father is teaching us that
the armored Christian is basically
the Christian who lives in union with Christ.
But Christ-united living
—truth-based and righteousness-clothed living—
also has a militant purpose.
It's God's weapon against the cosmic powers of evil.
So we stand firm in our Lord Jesus,
with the truth of God firmly secured around our loins,
with the righteousness of God fixed across our chests!*