2 CORINTHIANS

A Verse-by-Verse Study

2 Corinthians 10: 4 (NIV)

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Turn to: Ephesians 6: 10

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Stand firm then, <mark>with the belt of truth buckled around your waist</mark>,







What is Truth?

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Where do we find Truth?

Turn to: John 8: 31-32

John 8: 31-32 (NIV)

To the Jews who had believed him, <mark>Jesus said</mark>, "If you hold to my teaching</mark>, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Turn to: John 14: 6

John 14: 6 (NIV)

Jesus answered, "<mark>I am</mark> the way and <mark>the truth</mark> and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Turn to: John 17: 17

John 17: 17 (NIV)

Sanctify them by the truth; <mark>your word is truth</mark>.



What does sanctify mean?

Greek: hagiazó

Sanctify

To make holy To set apart as holy To purify



How does the Word make us Holy?



What is the purpose of the belt?

Turn to: Hebrews 12: 1

Hebrews 12: 1 (NIV)

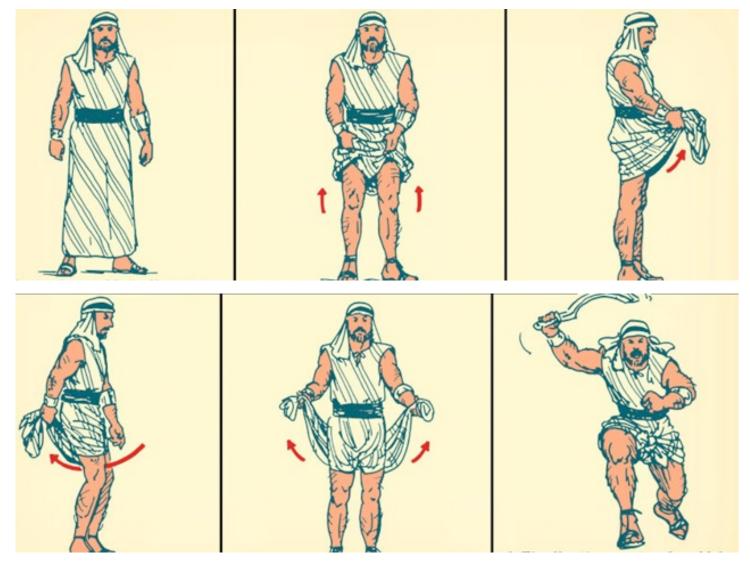
Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Turn to: 1 Peter 1: 13

1 Peter 1: 13 (NKJV)

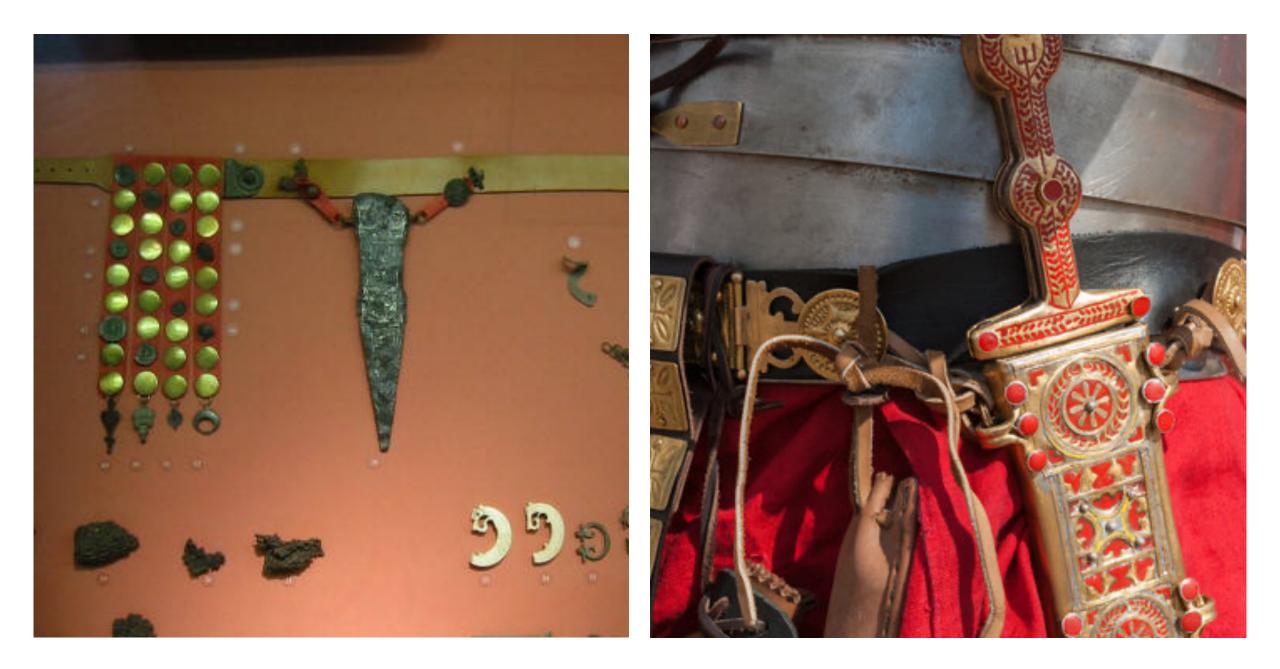
Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

How to Gird up your Loins





What weapon does a belt hold?





What is the Purpose of the Belt?

1. The Belt helps us advance 2. The Belt holds our weapons 3. The belt holds our bullets 4. The belt holds everything together



How does the Truth hold everything together?



Does Truth change with each generation?



What is society's view of truth?

As Christians we must insist on the objective Truth of God's Word. It is not about our desires, feelings, perspectives or perceptions. We have no voice when it comes to Truth. Truth is not a democracy. We can discover Truth, but we cannot create it. Truth does not change.



How does this conflict with society's view of truth?

The world's view of truth is truth and morals change with the times.

What was wrong yesterday is right today because of the changing times.



Can you think of examples where society says that truth has changed?

Watch the Following Video





What are your thoughts on this video?



Deceit is one of Satan's biggest battle offenses. How to you spot deceit?

Federal agents don't learn to identify counterfeit money by studying the counterfeits. They study genuine bills until they master the look and feel of the real thing. Then when they see the false currency, they can quickly recognize it.



What is confirmation bias?

Confirmation bias (or confirmatory bias) is a tendency to search for or interpret information in a way that confirms one's preconceptions, leading to errors.

Turn to: Psalm 139: 23-24



Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.



Where do most of Satan's Battles Occur?

2 Corinthians 10: 4 (NIV)

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10: 5 (NIV)

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.



How do we protect our mind?

Turn to: Romans 12:2

Romans 12: 2 (NIV)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the <mark>renewing of your mind</mark>. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Turn to: Philippians 4:8

Philippians 4: 8 (NIV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Ephesians 6: 14 (NIV)

tand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, <mark>with the breastplate of righteousness in place</mark>,



The Breastplate of Righteousness



What is Righteousness?

Turn to: 1 Corinthians 1: 30

1 Corinthians 1: 30 (NIV)

It is because of him that you are <mark>in Christ Jesus</mark>, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our sighteousness, holiness and redemption.

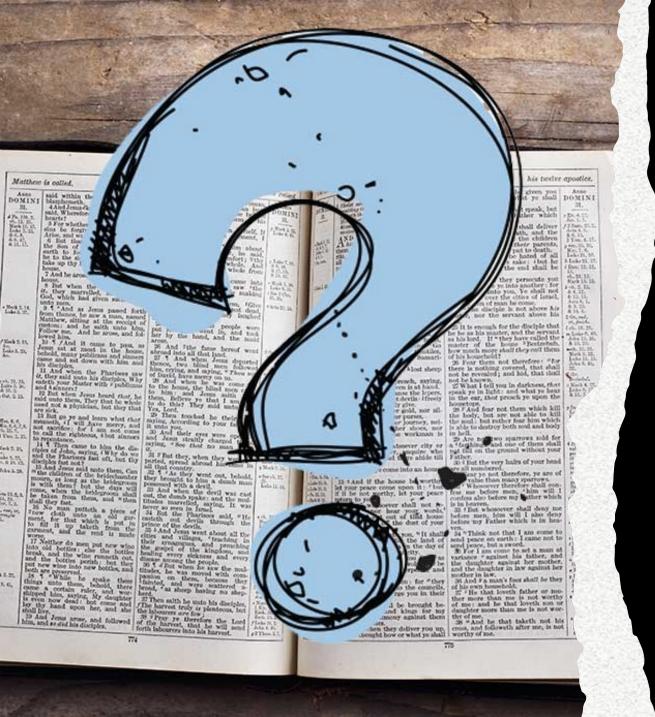
Turn to: <u>2 Co</u>rinthians 5: 21

2 Corinthians 5: 21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that <mark>in him we might become the righteousness of God</mark>.

When we become Christians, we are immediately given the righteousness of Christ who took upon Himself all our sin on the cross and for those who believe in Him and make Him Lord, He imparts to us His righteousness.

Jesus is our righteousness; Jesus is the reason God no longer holds our sin against us but views us as His righteous, redeemed children.



When you put on the breastplate of righteousness, you are protected by the righteousness of Christ. Protected from what?

Turn to: Revelation 12: 10

Revelation 12: 10 (NIV)

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

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Who speaks in our defense?

Turn to: 1 John 2: 1

1 John 2: 1 (NIV)

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Our Christian walk and maturity is becoming in practice what we already are in position because of the righteousness of Christ!

Because we have been given Christ's righteousness, He is able, as our Advocate, to defend us before the Father, to defend us from the attacks of Satan. When God looks at us He doesn't see our sin. Instead, He sees the righteousness of Christ imparted to us, and our sin having been paid for by Christ.



As a Christian what is your position with God?



As a Christian what are we to practice?

Turn to: 1 John 3: 10

1 John 3: 10 (NASB)

By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother and sister.



What are we to pursue?

Turn to: 1 Timothy 6: 11

1 Timothy 6: 11 (NIV)

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and <mark>pursue righteousness</mark>, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

One who knows they are right can withstand attack. If you are attacked and condemned by those who oppose Christ and His Gospel, a breastplate of righteousness will give you the protection to stand firm when attacked by the society around you.

Ephesians 6: 15 (NASB)

and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace;

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace



Roman soldiers wore thick soled sandals with spikes made of metal which Paul refers to as the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Satan is the destroyer of peace. Satan wants to bring about separation of man from God and division between man and man.

Roman Soldier's Shoes





As Christians, who are we at peace with?



Where do we find peace with God?

Turn to: Romans 5: 1

Romans 5: 1 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, <mark>we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ</mark>,

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Who is not at peace with God?

As we put our armor on in order, it all fits together. We start with Truth which brings about righteousness and results in peace with God!



As Christians, are we at peace with everyone?

Turn to: John 16: 33



These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."



What does peace with God guard?

Turn to: Philippians 4: 7

Philippians 4: 7 (NIV)

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, <mark>will guard your hearts</mark> and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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How does the peace of God do this?



What is required to have peace with God?

Turn to: Philippians 4: 9

Philippians 4: 9 (NIV)

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Ephesians 6: 16 (NIV)

In addition to all this, <mark>take up the shield of faith</mark>, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

The Shield of Faith



What do we live by?

Turn to: Galatians 2: 20

Galatians 2: 20 (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.



Who is our shield?

Turn to: Psalm 18: 30

Psalm 18: 30 (NIV)

As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; <mark>he shields all who take</mark> <mark>refuge in him</mark>.



What is needed to use our shield?

Turn to: Psalm 28: 7

Psalm 28: 7 (NASB)

The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart <mark>trusts in Him</mark>, and I am helped; Therefore my heart triumphs, And with my song I shall thank Him.

Psalm 18: 30 (NIV)

As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; <mark>he shields all who take</mark> <mark>refuge in him</mark>.

The Shield of Faith's purpose is to ward off the attacks on our faith. To effectively use the shield, we must recognize the arrows or fiery darts used against us. The arrows of the enemy are many. He has many weapons in his arsenal, as many as there are temptations.



How do you recognize satan's attacks?

Turn to: Genesis 3: 1-5

Genesis 3: 1-5 (NIV)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

First Arrow: Doubt



Genesis 3: 1-5 (NIV)

The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or <mark>touch it</mark>, or you will die.'"

Second Arrow: Biblical Illiteracy



Genesis 3: 1-5 (NIV)

The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Third Arrow: Deceit



Genesis 3: 1-5 (NIV)

The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Fourth Arrow: Pride



Genesis 3: 6 (NIV)

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Fifth Arrow: Desire



Genesis 3: 6 (NIV)

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Sixth Arrow: Peer Pressure



Turn to: James 2: 17



In the same way, <mark>faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead</mark>.

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Why is faith without actions dead?

Reinforcing your Shield of Faith requires learning the Word, focusing on Who your faith is in and exercising your faith by acting on it. James tells us that our faith without works is useless.

The more you step out on faith using the promises found in the Word of God as your inspiration...the stronger your shield of faith becomes.