



OUR STRUGGLE

Eph. 6:10-19 – “The Schemes of the Devil”
 The Letter to the Ephesians
 God’s eternal purpose is to establish and complete His body—His Church!
 The Position of believers: **Eph. 1:3-3:21** (Why are we out here?)
 The Practice of Believers: **Eph. 4:1-6:9** (How do we keep from bumping into others?)
 The Protection of Believers: **Eph. 6:10-19** (How do we keep from sinking?)



OUR STRUGGLE




“And now Edgar’s gone....
 Something’s going on around here.” **Hebrews 2:1**



THE TRUTH IS FOUND IN JESUS

Eph. 6:10-12 – “The Schemes of the Devil”

- Whenever we feel discouraged, defeated, uncertain, confused, depressed, indifferent or apathetic we are under attack.
- How do we fight back?

Ephesians 6:13 – By taking up the full armor of God.

- What is the *armor*?
- The *armor* is Christ – it is nothing more than a symbolic description of the Lord Jesus himself.



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Ephesians 6:14-17 – six pieces of armor.

1. The armor is divided into two parts as indicated by the verb tenses:
 - The first three are past tense (having)
 - This is something we *did* when we accept Christ as Lord and God
 - As we will see, it is very important to remind ourselves of these three on a constant basis.
 - The last three are active tense (taking and take)
 - These are what we are *to be doing* constantly.
2. The order in which the armor is given to us is important.
 - One cannot have peace without righteousness and one cannot understand righteousness without Jesus as Truth.



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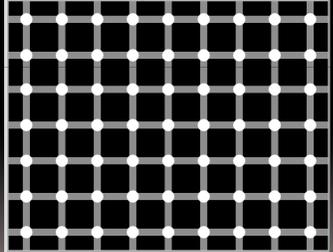
v. 14 – “having girded your loins with truth”

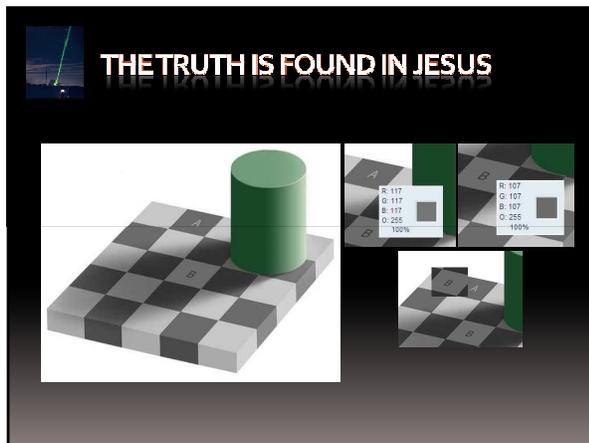
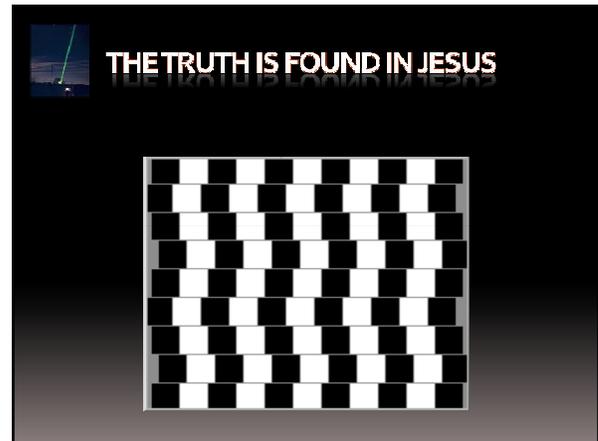
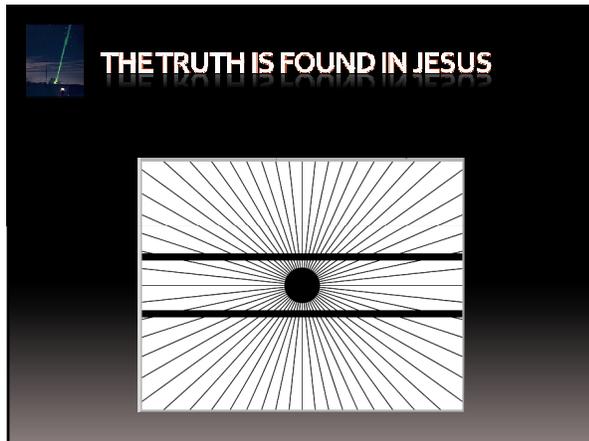
- Girding ones loins is a metaphor for being in a readied position to fight.

1. Truth – why start here?



THE TRUTH IS FOUND IN JESUS





THE TRUTH IS FOUND IN JESUS

Having girded your loins with Truth.

- Girding ones loins is a metaphor for being in a readied position to fight.

- Truth – why start here?
 - Because if there is no such thing as truth, then all is relative and unknowable.
 - If there is truth, then my search for it will lead to an accurate understanding of reality and my reasoning will have grounds on which to validate various truth claims.

THE TRUTH IS FOUND IN JESUS

Having girded your loins with Truth.

- Girding ones loins is a metaphor for being in a readied position to fight.

- Truth – what is it?
 - Conformity to fact or actuality; fidelity to an original or standard; reality; actuality; a statement proven to be or accepted as true; sincerity; integrity; God.
 - Truth by its very nature is:
 - Noncontradictory – it does not violate the basic laws of logic (LID, LNC, LEM, etc...)

THE TRUTH IS FOUND IN JESUS

- Truth by its very nature is:
 - Absolute – it does not depend upon time, place, or conditions.
 - Claims against absolute truth are self defeating (violate the LNC): *there is absolutely no absolute truth.*
 - Kant's hard agnosticism (although we know *that* reality exists, *what* reality is in itself (its essence) cannot be known by human reason) is also self defeating: he claimed to have knowledge of what he declared to be unknowable – "I know that reality is *unknowable*."
 - Discovered, not determined
 - It exists independently of our minds (like the Law of Gravity)
 - We do not create it (it is not relative in nature, but absolute)

THE TRUTH IS FOUND IN JESUS

- Truth by its very nature is:
- 4. Descriptive
 - It is the agreement of the mind with reality.
 - It corresponds with the way things really are.
- 5. Unchanging
 - It is the firm standard by which philosophical claims are measured.
 - If a philosophy is inconsistent with reality (truth), it fails.
 - Example: people are really good at the core, it's just their environment, education, or government that causes them to behave the way they do.

THE TRUTH IS FOUND IN JESUS

3. Truth – what has happened to it?

- “Truth is so obscured nowadays and lies [are] so well established that unless we love the truth we shall never recognize it.” Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)
- *Seven Men Who Rule the World From the Grave* (David Breese, Moody Press, 1990):
 1. Charles Darwin – man and societies evolve; **everything changes**
 2. Carl Marx – working class with help from big government can overthrow their oppressors
 3. Julius Wellhausen – **higher criticism and religious liberalism**
 4. Sigmund Freud – **truth is found by looking within man**
 5. John Dewey – **man needs to be educated, not regenerated**
 6. John Maynard Keynes – **the government is God**
 7. Soren Kierkegaard – confusion is everywhere; **truth is subjective**

THE TRUTH IS FOUND IN JESUS

3. Truth – what has happened to it?

- Julius Wellhausen – higher criticism and religious liberalism.
 - In the past, the Bible was held to be God’s revelation of His will for mankind.
 - Human reason was admitted to be fallible, the Bible was held to be infallible.
 - Enter, religious liberalism – reason over revelation.
 - Man’s reasoning ability was not affected by the fall and thus man, using his reason, could answer the philosophical questions of life without help from revelation (
 - The Bible was reduced to more of a product of the original authors, with helpful information concerning salvation, but not direct words from the Divine.

Absolute Truth	
General Truth <i>(Rom 1:18-20)</i>	Revealed Truth <i>(John 17:19-21)</i>

THE TRUTH IS FOUND IN JESUS

4. Truth – the importance of it.

- Truth enables the construction of an objective, concrete, unchanging foundation.
 - John 14:6 – Truth and God never change.
 - Malachi 3:6 – “For I, the Lord, do not change”
 - Hebrews 13:7-9a – “Jesus Christ is the same”
 - James 1:17 – “with whom there is no variation”
- Because He never changes, He is knowable.
- Because He never changes, I can rest my life on Him.
- Because He never changes, my reason can be grounded in reality and I can be set free from the myopia that plagues humanity (*John 8:31,32*)