



John's Schedule

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- [Current Broadcast](#)
- [Previous Broadcasts](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Featured Series](#)
- [All Series](#)
- [This Week's Sermon](#)
- [All Sermons](#)

Sermons in this series
(click to see details):

- Part: 16 [The Results of Resisting the Devil](#)
- Part: 15 [Don't Give Place to the Devil](#)
- Part: 14 [Don't Ignore the Devil](#)
- Part: 13 [Our Unseen but DANGEROUS Enemy-- Sata1](#)
- Part: 13 [Satan Wants YOU to Doubt God's Word](#)
- Part: 12 [Resisting Satan's attacks](#)
- Part: 10 [What Is Satan Up To Right Now](#)
- Part: 9 [Where Did Satan Come From?](#)
- Part: 8 [Humility, Worship and our Adversary the Devil](#)
- Part: 7 [Humility, Worship and our Adversary the Devil](#)
- Part: 6 [Wearing His Word](#)
- Part: 5 [Wearing His Salvation](#)
- Part: 4 [Wearing His Faith](#)
- Part: 3 [Wearing His Peace](#)
- Part: 2 [Wearing His Righteousness](#)
- Part: 1 [Wearing His Truth](#)

Wearing His Truth



Part 1 (981227AM)

[Return to previous Page](#) | [Print](#)

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Are you aware that this morning Satan wants to poison your thoughts and emotions away from the purity of God's truth? His attacks center in two areas: your mind and your emotions.

The Father of lies wants to *snatch* the Word of God from you.

1. The Father of lies wants you to *think* that sin is not so bad.
2. The Father of lies wants *you to learn laugh* at sin on television or at the movies.
3. The Father of lies wants to *destroy* your conscience so it will no longer warn you.
4. The Father of lies wants to *entertain* you with sin so that you won't think it's as evil as sin really is.
5. The Father of lies wants to *drown* you in a sea of sin so that you become very tolerant of it.
6. He wants *fill* your mind with doubts, lies, immorality, and false doctrine.
7. He wants to *debilitate* your will and get you to do things you shouldn't do
8. He wants to *twist* your thinking by putting sinful ideas to appealing music.
9. He wants to *confuse* your emotions by corrupting your desires and drawing your affections to the wrong things.

To counter Satan's attack the Lord has told us we need to get dressed for war. In His Word He has told us just what will insure momentary and continued victory. In his letters to the First Century churches, Paul uses many pictures from the daily life to communicate truth about the Christian life. There are four areas prominent in Paul's inspired writings: building ("You are the temple of God"), farming ("Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap"), and athletics ("Run the race") and the military ("Put on the whole armor of God"). It is our purpose as a church over the next few weeks to examine whether we are fully dressed as soldiers of the Lord in our Armor of God.

Armor for Paul was more than pictures from daily life of the nearly omnipresent Roman Legionnaires. Very literally, the "whole armor of God" he describes is a picture of Jesus Christ. In verses 14-17 is a list of the combat equipment that the Holy Spirit issues to every believer at the moment of salvation. By faith and obedient experience we find Christ is:

1. We wear his Truth as the guide of all our ways. [John 14:6](#) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me. Christ, saturates us with the Word of God and it becomes part of our very life.
2. We wear his RIGHTEOUSNESS as the guardian of our souls. [1 Corinthians 1:30](#) But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, [2 Corinthians 5:21](#) He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. This armor is imputed righteousness. It is Jesus Christ, not ours but His righteousness.
3. We wear his Peace as the shoes to walk through life. [Ephesians 2:14](#) For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,
4. We wear his Faith, as our shield is battle. [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
5. We wear his Salvation as our helmet. [Philippians 4:7](#) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
6. We wear his Word as the sword of the Spirit when we are letting His Word dwell in us. [Colossians 3:16-17](#) Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual

songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

So in the truest way, when we trusted Christ, we received Him as our armor. Paul told the Romans "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 13:14). By faith, put on the armor and trust God for the victory. Once and for all, we have put on the armor at the moment of salvation. But there must be a daily renewal. When King David put off his armor and returned to his palace, he was in greater danger than when he was on the battlefield (2 Sam. 11). We are never out of reach of Satan's devices, so we must never be without the whole armor of God.

Here's the text: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;"

1. **Belt of Truth.** Vital to every soldier was this belt from which all tools of battle hung. This belt also held the soldier's robe together. To the Christian soldier a belt of truth means "honesty," "truthfulness," "integrity," and "sincerity" surrounds every part of our life.

Warning: *Dishonesty brings defeat!*

Then he said in verse 14, "having girded your loins with truth." So this guy is first of all, taking this long garment of Roman soldiers. To get the idea, imagine that you just took a big sheet and cut a hole for the head and pulled it over your head. Presto, that would be what a tunic would be in the ancient world. Can you imagine trying to do anything with this sheet flapping and flopping all around you? You'd look like a ghost - especially if you are going to battle, it would get all wrapped around you and fly up over your face and so they had to put a belt on to hold it and keep it from flapping up. But if you wanted to run and that was all the way down to the ground, you had to pull it up and tuck it in your belt. It would be kind of like taking your bedspread and cutting a hole in it and pulling it down and then trying to go running. You have to put a belt on and then tuck it in. And that's what he's talking about - having your loins girded with truth - putting on your belt.

2. **Breastplate of Righteousness.** The breastplate was a heavy piece of armor that completely surrounded the body. To the Christian soldier this means a pursuit of personal, daily righteousness. We learn confession and repentance of sin can only maintain this.

Warning: *Impurity will bring defeat!*

Again, the picture is one of the heat of battle. There are spears flying, arrows flashing toward their targets, projectiles from catapults whizzing with deadly penetrating power and even hand to hand combat with swords in hand. Who would ever venture out without the protection of the encasing armor over the vital organs of life?

3. **Shoes of Peace.** The sandal soles of the soldier were impregnated with heavy, spike-like hobnails, which gave him a good footing. To the Christian soldier this piece of armor is a call to both "readiness" and "peace of mind."

Warning: *Anxiety brings defeat!*

Now, you know, we live in a dump. I guess you have transfer stations here but when I grew up we used to take our trash to the dump. I guess that's not a popular description of it anymore, but it was really the dump. I mean it was smoldering, burning garbage, broken glass, and nails everywhere and every time you drive in there you were always worried that you would puncture your tires. And we would shovel off all that trash and rotted stuff and you just would look around - it would look terrible. Rusted tin cans - sharp edges - all types of pointed things and flies everywhere. That was the dump. That's what the world is like, spiritually speaking. Would you ever walk through a garbage dump barefooted in the dark? You wouldn't walk through it barefooted in the light. And that's what he's talking about right here with this third piece and we're going to have fun with that. How do you keep from puncturing your feet as we walk through the world? Its having our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

4. **Shield of Faith.** To a Roman soldier, his shield was a portable metal-banded door, which he hid behind in battle. This shield served as the deflector from the flaming darts of the enemy. To the Christian soldier faith extinguishes all the flaming missiles of the evil one.

Warning: *Doubt brings defeat!*

He said. There's stuff flying all the time - watch out! There are arrows, deadly sharp, some even burning with fire, all aimed your way. Take your mobile wall of protection. Stand behind this refuge and escape the missiles that are coming your way!

5. **Helmet of Salvation.** A soldier never was far from his helmet. Nearly any object on the battle field could immobilize a soldier if his head was unprotected. So to the Christian soldier the meaning of the helmet is assurance of salvation.

Warning: *Lack of assurance brings defeat!*

Why? So you don't get knocked out. I mean, who would carry their helmet down here. If there was all kinds of like, can you imagine a construction worker, you know, with stuff they're welding up there and beads of metal are falling down and hitting all around him. Can you imagine the guy just walking along holding his helmet, you know...thunk! "Oh, man I can't understand why it's hitting me." Well, put your helmet on. Well, right here in verse 17 he says take your helmet. Make sure it's on. Make sure its functioning like it should.

6. **Sword of the Spirit.** Quick and deadly were the swords of a soldier. Vital to any victory was the hand to hand combat, which ended in the defeat of the enemy. To the Christian soldier this victorious sword comes only through the personal memorizing of the Scriptures. This is essential to effectiveness in battle.

Warning: *Neglecting the Word breeds weakness.*

And finally, watch out. Sometimes the battle gets up close and personal. Sometime there will be face to face encounters with enemies. And then only one thing will do, you must attack with the weapon of victory. And for the soldier there was only one, the short and lightning like stabs of the battle sword.

How do we gird up our loins?

The girdle of truth (v. 14a). Satan is a liar ([John 8:44](#)), but the believer whose life is controlled by truth will defeat him. The girdle holds the other parts of the armor together, and truth is the integrating force in the life of the victorious Christian. A man of integrity, with a clear conscience, can face the enemy without fear. The girdle also held the sword. Unless we practice the truth, we cannot use the Word of truth. Once a lie gets into the life of a believer, everything begins to fall apart. For over a year, King David lied about his sin with Bathsheba, and nothing went right. Psalms 32 and 51 tell of the price he paid.

1. Truth is the way God's saints serve: [Josh. 24:14](#); [1 Sam. 12:24](#);
2. Truth is written on the hearts of God's saints: [Prov. 3:3](#);
3. Truth is the way God's saints worship: [John 4:24](#);
4. Truth sanctifies God's saints: [John 17:17,19](#);
5. Truth is obeyed by God's saints: [Rom. 2:8](#); [Gal. 3:1](#);
6. Truth rejoices God's saints: [1 Cor. 13:6](#);
7. Truth is manifested by God's saints: [2 Cor. 4:2](#);
8. Truth approves God's saints: [2 Cor. 6:7,8](#);
9. Truth is the language of God's saints: [Eph. 4:25](#);
10. Truth grows as a fruit in God's saints: [Eph. 5:9](#)
11. Truth guards God's saints: [Eph. 6:14](#);
12. Truth is what God's saints meditate upon: [Phil. 4:8](#);
13. Truth is loved by God's saints: [2 Thess. 2:10](#);
14. Truth accompanies God's saints: [Tit. 1:1](#);
15. Truth purifies God's saints: [1 Pet. 1:22](#);
16. Truth Abides continually with saints, [2 John 2](#).

Girding of our loins with truth means that tunic had to be tucked in and girded around them. You know what this was? **A call for preparedness in the truth.** Now turn to [Luke 12:35](#). Our Lord talks about this, spiritually speaking, to his disciples. He reminds them "be dressed in readiness", or, "be girded - to put on what you need for what's coming." Why? Verse 35 - "and keep your lamps alight and be like men who are awaiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast." What he's talking about is, be perpetually on the alert. That's what this girding up the loins was about. He said if you're in the battle and if you are going to be involved, he says "gird up your loins, put on your belt. So it has to do with the whole idea of being committed and being ready to go into battle. And that commitment of being ready to go into battle means that we are prepared.

Secondly, it was a **call to commitment to the truth.** Roman soldiers wore at least three wide belts or girdles when they went out into warfare. These were thick leather things because in the ancient Roman times, a lot of guys lost it when up close in battle these little short daggers, when they were all kind of clunking shields with each other, they would pull out their daggers and they would try and stick somebody, you know, and knock them out by sticking them in the stomach. And so they started wearing these very wide, thick, 3-deep leather girdles. And so the guy would take his dagger and go like that, and uumph, it wouldn't go in. And those guys that wore that 3-fold belt - this girding of their loins - were ready for battle. They were committed. They were saying "I'm going to go out and battle and I don't want to be defeated, I'm going to stick with it. And that's what the Scriptures are talking about it.

Finally, it was a **call to obedience of the truth.** How are you going to know you are committed to the truth? You're going to be committed to having your loins girt about with truth. The Scriptures have a lot to say about that.

- We will believe and obey Romans 12 says that it starts by giving our life back and saying it's not mine anyway, it's yours.
- We will believe and obey I Corinthians 9 says we have to keep beating our body down.
- We will believe and obey II Timothy 2 says you've got to count the cost and decide, that any cost, you are going to follow Christ.
- We will believe and obey Hebrews 12 says we have to run the race looking unto Jesus.

The tragic condition of not being girded by truth:

Paul was looking at these soldiers that were guarding him and he says "if you're going to go out and fight", he looked at the guy next to him, he says "you've got to make sure first of all, that you have pulled in all the loose edges of your life, all of the billowing tunic that's all around." Just imagine wearing a big sheet and having it blowing in the wind. And that's how most people's lives are - they're kind of fluttering in every direction. Paul says if you are going to be victorious, you've got to pull all that in. Put on your belt and gird up and say "I'm going to be in the battle. I'm in this, I've counted the cost. I'm in this, I'm one who is going to beat down my

fleshly desires to get out. I'm in this for the duration. I'm in this - I've yielded my life to Christ." And he says you can stand firm if you have girded your loins with truth.

- Truth - the Word of God.
- Loins - the center and seat of life and the outflow of the life.

The idea that everything that comes out of my life will be truth and everything that is issuing forth from my life, will be bounded and guarded by the truth of God's Word.

The reason a lot of Christians are defeated, their minds are wandering, their hearts are divided, their concentration is broken, they have not girded up their spiritual loins to battle. They haven't yield and focused and calculating the cost and said I'm going to discipline and bring myself under...I'm going to pursue righteousness with all that I am.

As the truth of God penetrates your mind it attacks and demolishes the sin it confronts.

- [John 17:17](#) was what Jesus told us,
- Mt. 4 He demonstrated it! Jesus said the way we become holy is through the Word.

Remember this book will keep you from sin and sin will keep you from this book!

There are seven byproducts of wearing His truth:

1. God clothes us with PROSPERITY [JOSHUA 1:8](#) [Think of taking the reins from perhaps the greatest leader who ever lived. A man, who could talk to God face to face, led 3 million people for 40 years, a judge, prophet and priest. What is the prescription to follow such a monumental man? Meditate on the Word!]
2. God clothes us with FRUITFULNESS [PSALM 1:2](#) [At the front door of the longest book of the Bible is a secret recipe for spiritual success. God wants us to prosper and bear fruit. How? Meditation!]
3. God clothes us with PEACEFULNESS IN TRIALS [PSALM 35:28](#) [No one in scripture has more of their life laid bare than David. His affair, family problems, job stress, people problems, enemies, Satanic attack and more. How did you do it Dave? Meditation on the Word!]
4. God clothes us with STABILITY IN ROUGH SEAS [PSALM 37:30](#) [Is your boat rocking? Starting to list, sink? What is the sure-fire way to stabilize things? Meditate on the Word!]
5. God clothes us with refreshing WORSHIP IN DRY TIMES [PSALM 63:6](#) [Are you running fast and thin? Do your nights and days run together? How many times have you wished for a quiet day at a mountain, seaside or forest retreat with just your Bible and a cup of coffee? God says, the coffees on and I'm waiting at every turn of your life. Turn your car, bus, sink, computer workstation, desk or whatever into an altar. How? By meditating on the Word!]
6. God clothes us with A LIFELONG TESTIMONY TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AS OLD AGE COMES [PSALM 71:24](#) [Ever want to end up as sweet as some of the precious saints you know. They die serenely, enduring those last long and pain filled days with a strength and peace that only comes from God. Where did they get that in life and into the shadow of death? By meditating on the Word!]
7. God clothes us with COMFORT IN ADVERSITY [PSALM 77:12](#) [Do you feel it is too hard to even go on? Does the enemy seem to be winning? Are the problems multiplying like weeds? God has a solution and it is simple and powerful. What? Meditating on his Word!]

Wearing his truth! Well, that's the first piece of armor. And I'll tell you what, each one of them gets better. It's a building process that Paul gives us and I think that we're going to enjoy our journey. Let's begin that now with the commitment in our hearts and in our lives that we are going to focus on what Christ has done for us and let that help us draw on his power and be conquerors this week.

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