

SATAN'S ACCUSATIONS

Lies Discredit Grace

Only God can give back what the first Adam lost in the Garden of Eden. How powerful is the God we serve! He bridged the gulf that separated us from Him with a cross and provided the way out--from death to life--from wrath to mercy--from futility to purposefulness--from enmity to peace--from isolation to family.

In previous chapters, our study of Romans 1:18-32 showed us that the presence of sin causes us to see truth in a distorted manner. When this happens, we see the evidence in corrupted worship, depraved body, and depraved mind. The list of results just goes on and on. Things are getting worse and worse. Those who know Jesus as personal savior and Lord have been provided with a way out of this dilemma. But Satan wants to keep us captive!

If Satan can only discredit what God has done in some fashion--if he can only make it seem like we can't possibly be worth it--then he has won a big victory. The sequence follows something like this:

- ❑ sin causes us to see truth in a distorted fashion
- ❑ distorted truth causes us to doubt grace
- ❑ doubting grace causes us to reject mercy
- ❑ rejecting mercy and doubting grace make us lose peace.

We might define grace as unearned, unmerited favor. Grace provides something that we can't possibly get for ourselves. Grace is everything Jesus Christ is and has made available to us without any reason within ourselves. Grace is because God loves us, not because of what we have done. If Satan or his demons move in and tell us that we have to do something to be saved, it's a lie! If he tells us that we have to do something to stay saved, it's a lie! Good works are simply the evidence of our salvation. Good works do not precede (and thus earn) salvation.

Satan is an accuser. He loves to remind us of our sin. He does everything possible to first keep us blind to the grace of God, and second to keep us ignorant of its working. He tries to convince us that God can't use us or help us because of sin. We need to remember that God saved us while we were still sinners.

Record what you learn in the following verses about grace:

2 Corinthians 12:9 _____

Ephesians 2:5-8 _____

Ephesians 4:7 _____

Read Romans 5:9 and write here your reflections regarding God's grace and Satan's accusations: _____

God has also extended to us his infinite mercy. We might define mercy as giving us what we need, not what we deserve. Mercy assumes need on the part of the one who receives it, and resources that are sufficient to meet the need on the part of the one giving it. Here, Satan's strategy is to make us believe that what we need from God is not deserved. He wants to convince us that we shouldn't ask God for it or expect God to give it to us.

Mercy is an attribute of God. God longs to be merciful. He is a present help in time of trouble.

Record what you learn about mercy in the following verses:

Titus 3:5 _____

1 Peter 1:3 _____

James 2:13 _____

Grace and mercy are benefits of salvation. It is really important here to take time out to remember two important things concerning grace and mercy:

1. You cannot have the benefits of salvation apart from the commitment of salvation. Read the account of the exorcists in Acts 19 who tried to use the name of Jesus when they did not possess a relationship with Jesus.
2. Grace doesn't give us the right to deliberately continue in sin. Read Romans 6:1.

Lastly, the combined results of Satan's perversions of grace and mercy result in a loss of peace in our lives. If you are experiencing a loss of peace, there is a problem! You might be experiencing UNBELIEF (which is sin). If you are, then you'll be miserable until you make a decision to believe God's Word. Read Romans 14:23 and record

what you learn: _____

Read Hebrews 3:18-19 and record what you learn: _____

If you are experiencing loss of peace, the other possibility is that Satan has heaped **GUILT** on you. Remember that when you were saved, you were "born again," that is, regenerated by the Holy Spirit. The devil keeps discussing your guilt, condemning and whispering accusations. Remember that if you see your sin as a sin against God (Psalm 51--against Thee and Thee only have I sinned)--if you have a godly sorrow which leads to repentance, and if you confess your sin to God (naming it for what it is) then God forgives. (I John 1:9) With forgiveness comes peace.

So, whether our guilt is because of pre-Christian sins or because we've sinned as a believer, the blood of Jesus Christ takes care of our sins.

IF ITS THE ENEMY WHO PARADES YOUR GUILT DOWN THE MAIN STREET OF YOUR MIND, REMIND HIM THAT THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HAS CLEANSED YOU FROM ALL SIN. STOP THE PARADE. YOUR GUILT IS GONE.

HOWEVER, IF THE DEVIL DOESN'T STOP, THEN DO WHAT JESUS DID: COMMAND SATAN TO GET BEHIND YOU FOR HE SAVORS NOT THE THINGS OF GOD AND THE PRIMARY THING OF GOD IS GRANTING FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

KAY ARTHUR

Read Hebrews 10:16-19 and Isaiah 43:25. Record what you learn about forgiveness: _____

A proper understanding of grace and mercy results in an understanding of forgiveness which results in peace. Is it any reason why so many of Paul's letters begin with the salutation, "grace, mercy and peace?"

Don't let Satan deprive you of the rights, privileges, and authority of your salvation. Ephesians 2:11-22 tells us that we have been saved by grace and that we are in Jesus. We belong. We will never be alone again. We are no longer aliens or strangers, we are part of God's family--we have come home. We are God's dwelling place. God chose us! We didn't choose Him first--He chose us before the foundation of the world. None of our crummy, rotten sins changed His mind! And God has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you."

authority in Jesus Christ, command the adversary to be gone. When you feel all alone, remember the nail prints in Jesus' hands. Read Isaiah 49:14-16:

EXTRA READING

If the material today was new to you, this additional reading may shed more light on the topics of this chapter:

Read the following verses and record what you learn:

Romans 12:1 _____

2 Corinthians 4:1 _____

Matthew 5:7 _____

1 Timothy 1:12-18 _____

Micah 7:19 _____

Isaiah 38:17 _____

Record here what you have learned about your position in Christ so far in this study:

GOD HAS A PLAN The Kinsman Redeemer

During the past weeks, we have been looking at the enemy of our souls. We have looked at his origin and his methodology. We have looked at the way sin entered the world, and we have looked at the results of sin. Everything would be looking very bleak, except

GOD HAS A PLAN!

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to his kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an **administration** suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. Ephesians 1:9-10

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the **administration** of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places. Ephesians 3:8-10

When we think of an administration, we usually think of a long-range plan to accomplish goals established by someone in a position of power or authority. In the above verses, Paul is telling us that God had a plan that would solve our sin dilemma. But the plan would be a mystery until God was ready to reveal it. When that time came, God would use the church as a vehicle to reveal the plan to angelic beings, good and bad. The purpose would be to show that God was never out of control.

Because of Adam's sin, all of Adam's offspring came under Satan's power and authority, and mankind moved into the domain of darkness. It looked like Satan had won, but God had an administration, a long-range plan, that would be revealed in the fullness of time. Even though God didn't bring His mystery to light until the birth of Christ, His plan was being developed throughout the Old Testament through the teaching of the kinsman redeemer.

A kinsman redeemer, or *go'el*, was a person who had the right to buy back a relative or a relative's property that had been lost through death or debt.

There are three words that are transliterated "redeem" in the Old Testament.

Padah means a transfer of ownership through payment of some sort.

Kopher means that a ransom has taken place. Something of value has been exchanged for something of equal value.

Ga'al means that a person or property is redeemed by a third party because the one sold cannot redeem himself. In other words, it takes a third party to work out the release. A strong emphasis is put on the relationship of the redeemed and the redeemer.

Leviticus 25:47-55 records God's law regarding the kinsman redeemer. Read these verses and record your insights on the following themes:

1. Why would a person need to be redeemed? _____

2. Who could do the redeeming? _____

Now, read John 8:34-36. Record your thoughts on how these verses reflect the teaching of the kinsman redeemer. _____

Deuteronomy 25:5-10 records God's law regarding a widow when a man died and left his wife without an heir. From these passages, what can we learn?

We can see these laws reflected in the story of Ruth and Boaz. Read Ruth 4:1-10, 13-14. Record what you learn from these verses. _____

We see that 4:14 was carried out because Jesus, our kinsman redeemer, was from the line of Boaz. It is exciting to see God begin to reveal His plan in the lineage of Christ. Boaz and Ruth became the parents of Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David. Jesus was a descendant of David. (Romans 1:3) Aren't you glad that Jesus wanted us? Aren't you glad that He didn't take off His sandal at the gate?

From the verses we have studied above, we can see three qualities of a kinsman redeemer:

1. **THE REDEEMER HAD TO BE A BLOOD RELATIVE.** We have learned in our study so far, that all men are born with a sin nature. All descendants of Adam are sinful. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

Hebrews 2:14-16 _____

Matthew 1:18 _____

Luke 1:35 _____

From these verses, we see that God provided our kinsman redeemer by the incarnation of His Son. Jesus was a blood relative of mankind, born of a flesh and blood woman. But he was the seed of God. Therefore, he was a blood relative, but without the sin nature inherent in the seed of Adam's offspring. But, only being a blood relative was only one part of the qualification for kinsman redeemer.

2. **THE KINSMAN REDEEMER HAD TO BE ABLE TO PAY THE PRICE.** The Greek word *exagorazo* means "to purchase a slave with the idea of turning him loose." What would be required to turn man loose from his slavery to sin? Read the following verses and record what you learn:

Hebrews 10:4-10 _____

1 Peter 1:18-19 _____

Colossians 1:13-14 _____

Leviticus 17:11 _____

3. THE KINSMAN REDEEMER HAD TO BE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE.

Luke 19:10 tells us that Jesus came to seek and save what was lost--us! Remember Ruth 4:6? The nearest relative didn't want to risk the redemption for fear of jeopardizing his own inheritance. Our kinsman redeemer left His inheritance—a throne in glory--to redeem we who were otherwise without hope. Although Jesus came for the purpose of our redemption, He wrestled with His flesh. Read the following passages and record what you learn.

Hebrews 5:7-9 _____

Matthew 26:36-44 _____

Even though other verses tell us that Jesus knew that He would die, be buried, and rise on the third day, we still see Him in His humanity in these verses. In His humanity, Jesus three times asked the Father if there was another way, but there was not, so Jesus "became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:8)

These verses reveal that God loved us so much that He Himself took on the role of kinsman redeemer. At His own expense, He paid the price needed to free us from slavery to sin. These works are accomplished. Our souls are no longer separated from God by sin once we have accepted the grace extended to us by Jesus on the cross. However, this is not all of the story. In future chapters, we will look at the fourth and fifth qualifications for the kinsman redeemer, and the future redemption of creation.

EXTRA READING

If the material in this chapter is new to you, the following research may help expand your thinking:

Record what you learn about our redeemer in these verses:

Ephesians 1:7-8 _____

Hebrews 10:4-10 _____

So far we have seen that the kinsman redeemer had three very important qualifications:

1. The redeemer had to be a blood relative
2. The redeemer had to be able to pay the price
3. The redeemer had to be willing to pay the price

When mankind fell into sin in the Garden of Eden, we not only lost our land (earth) but we were also separated from God by sin and subject to death. Our Kinsman Redeemer is capable of recovering all that we lost because he does away with Satan's control over us: sin.

Read Hebrews 10:8-12 and record what you learn about Jesus' sacrifice for us:

Colossians 2:13-14 tells us that God forgave "all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

Since our sin was paid in full at Calvary, when we accept this gift of God's grace, Satan's power over us has been taken away. Satan no longer has a legitimate authority over us. We have been redeemed – we have been purchased from slavery.

We see implications of what is to come in the book of Jeremiah. Read Jeremiah 32:6-15. Discuss what you learn about the kinsman redeemer from these passages: _____

In these passages, Jeremiah was serving as the kinsman redeemer of land that had been lost by one of his relatives. None of his other relatives wanted to redeem the land. The times were hard. Babylon was approaching Judah to conquer it. Jeremiah knew that Judah would be seventy years in exile in Babylon and he knew that land reverted to the original owner in the year of Jubilee. The

Most time Jeremiah could possibly own the land was 50 years (the time between jubilee years.) This meant, in effect, that Jeremiah was never going to get to enjoy the land, but he redeemed it anyway because God had told him to do so. Write down all that you see Jeremiah doing as kinsman redeemer: _____

Discuss the significance of the seal, when it could be opened, and what was contained in the scroll that Jeremiah sealed. _____

1. KINSMAN REDEEMER DUTY #1: REDEEM LOST LAND

Now, read Revelation 5:1-7 and 9-10. Record what you learn about Jesus in these verses: _____

Why could Jesus break the seal on the scroll? _____

Now read Ephesians 1:13-14. Record what you learn about Jesus in these verses:

Continue your exploration in Romans 8:12-17 and Galatians 4:4-8. Record what you learn: _____

2. KINSMAN REDEEMER DUTY #2: REDEEM ENSLAVED RELATIVE

After the fall, mankind was enslaved to sin. Read John 8:34 and record what you learn about man's slavery to sin: _____

Continue your thinking about duty #1 and duty #2 and compare with 2 Corinthians 4:7: _____

EXTRA READING

If the material in this section is new to you, enhance your understanding by doing the following research:

Jesus was worthy to open the title deed to the earth for because he met the qualifications of kinsman redeemer. He was a blood relative, he was willing, he was able. Discuss his ability. Although Jesus was a man, He never sinned. Previous to Jesus, there was no man outside the grip of sin. All traced their lineage to Adam and were thus born into sin. Jesus was tempted just as Adam was, but He remained sinless. Therefore, Jesus was not in slavery and was eligible (able) to pay the price. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and record what you learn about the temptation of Jesus: _____

How many times is "it is written" used? _____

Were any of the things Satan offered to Jesus not legitimately Satan's to offer?

How did Jesus finally get the devil to leave? _____

If Jesus would have yielded to any of the temptations, how would it have affected His relationship to God? _____

How would it have affected us? _____

Jesus had the authority to tell Satan to go away. We walk in the authority of Christ.

When it seems as if our enemy has injured us brutally, we have hope in the sure knowledge that our Kinsman Redeemer will ultimately triumph over the enemy and hold him accountable for all that he has done.

Because we are made in the image of God, human life is sacred. Discuss what it means to be made in the image of God: _____

Read Genesis 9:5-6 and record what you learn from these verses: _____

Read Exodus 20:13. Does this contradict the Genesis passage? _____

The word for kill is "*rasah*" which means to murder intentionally.

Read also Exodus 21:12-15 and write what you learn: _____

As we look at these passages, it becomes evident that intentional murder is never acceptable to God. God places great value on human life.

In this passage from Deuteronomy 19:10-13, underline the word "avenger." The word translated "avenger" is "galal". From what you know about the kinsman redeemer, who would become this avenger?

Deuteronomy 19:10:

SO INNOCENT BLOOD WILL NOT BE SHED IN THE MIDST OF YOUR LAND WHICH THE LORD YOUR GOD GIVES YOU AS AN INHERITANCE, AND BLOODGUILTINESS BE ON YOU.

Deuteronomy 19:11

BUT IF THERE IS A MAN WHO HATES HIS NEIGHBOR AND LIES IN IN WAIT FOR HIM AND RISES UP AGAINST HIM AND STRIKES HIM SO THAT HE DIES, AND HE FLEES TO ONE OF THESE CITIES,

Deuteronomy 19:12 **THEN THE ELDERS OF HIS CITY SHALL SEND AND TAKE HIM FROM THERE AND DELIVER HIM INTO THE HAND OF THE AVENGER OF BLOOD THAT HE MAY DIE.**

Deuteronomy 19:13 **YOU SHALL NOT PITY HIM; BUT YOU SHALL PURGE THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT FROM ISRAEL, THAT IT MAY GO WELL WITH YOU.**

From these passages, we begin to see the final qualification of the kinsman redeemer emerge.

3. KINSMAN REDEEMER DUTY #3: JUDICIAL EXECUTIONER OF THE MURDERER OF HIS FAMILY MEMBER(S)

The primary scripture section that discusses this duty is found in Numbers 35: 15-33. Read this section and discuss the following questions:

1. What does murder do to the land? _____
2. What makes payment when someone is murdered? _____

3. What did God specifically forbid with regard to the murderer? _____

4. When is the kinsman redeemer supposed to conduct the execution? _____

The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament tells us that the "go'el" was a guiltless executioner--in other words, he could not be executed in turn. He was outside the realm of either accidental or intentional murderer. He represented justice and could not be punished for the execution of a murderer.

Discuss the ways in which Jesus has or will fulfill this responsibility as our blood avenger. _____

Who instigated Adam's death? _____

Read John 8:44. What does Jesus say Satan is? _____

We have already read Genesis 3:14-15, where we saw the judgment pronounced against Satan. We have also already looked at Ezekiel 28:16, where we saw Satan cast out of his original position in heaven, although he obviously still has access.

Now, read the following verses and comment on the fate of Satan at the hands of our judicial executioner:

John 12:31 _____

Revelation 12:13 _____

Revelation 20:2 _____

Revelation 20: 10 _____

We have already read the story of Ruth and Boaz in Ruth 4. Review this story briefly.

4. KINSMAN REDEEMER DUTY #4: MARRY THE ONE WITH NO HEIRS

Because of sin, there were no heirs for the kingdom (Romans 4:14 For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified.)

Cross reference to Revelation 19:7 and reflect on why the church is called the "bride of Christ." _____

EXTRA READING

If the information in this section is new to you, the following research may aid your understanding:

Clearly, we have seen that Jesus is our avenger. What vengeance are we to take for ourselves?

Read Romans 12:17-21 _____

Does this mean that those who are murderers should go without punishment here on earth? No! Read 1 Timothy 1:9-11 and read who the law is for. _____

It is clear that the scripture finds laws in a land to be acceptable--laws that restrain ungodly behavior. Many times, however, men fail to appropriately enforce the law. What do you think will happen to people who "get away with murder" in this life? Find scriptures to support your position. Particularly read Jude 15 and Romans 2:8-11. _____

Do you have a family member living in a state of death because of the work of Satan? What is your responsibility now that Jesus, the ultimate kinsman redeemer, has come? _____

Has someone injured you or a loved one with a murderous word or action? How did you respond? _____

Was that an appropriate response? Why or why not? _____

Use the following space to record your insights on Jesus, our Kinsman Redeemer, and what His redemptive work means to you as you stand against the evil one:

THE CONTEMPORARY LOSS OF TRUTH PUT ON THE BELT

During the first eight chapters of this study, we have spent a great deal of time developing the concept of biblical truth with regard to our redemption. This is critical for two reasons:

1. Culture in our country today has lost touch with truth in many areas
2. Spiritual warfare is fought with the truth

In Ephesians 1:19, Paul speaks of God's resurrection power using the words "*dunamis*," "*kratos*," and "*ischus*." ("what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.")

In this chapter, we will begin the application portion of our study by looking at Ephesians 6:10-18. We see the same words used again, but this time in the instructions on how to stand. "Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. As Paul ends this letter, he wants us to remember that they are not to operate in our own might or power.

In Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:14-21, Paul prays that believers might recognize the power that is ours. But this is not the whole picture. We must also put on the full armor of God and stand.

Read Ephesians 6:10-17. _____

What imperative phrases do you see in these verses? _____

Notice that Paul doesn't say that the believer is to purchase the armor, or find the armor, or earn the armor. Obviously, each believer is outfitted with the armor. However, the use of the armor is another matter entirely. The imperatives both relate directly to verse 12, where our warfare is specifically discussed.

Read verse 12 again, and discuss all of the things we can learn about our struggle: _____

First, we find that we struggle against "rulers." This is alternately translated principalities. The word is "arche" ,which has the concept of commencement or elementary beginning associated with it. The word is particularly related to angels, and carries with it the thought of having been made "good"--it means "chief." (consider "archangel") We can deduce that these "rulers" have existed "from the beginning" and can be associated with angels and were created to be good.

Second, we find that we struggle against "powers." This is alternately translated "authorities." It has the idea of someone in authority who has the right to act--but that the right has been granted by a higher authority.

Third, we find that we struggle against "world forces of this darkness." The word translated "world forces" is "*kosmokratos*" and is a literal translation. The word has strong association with pagan gods, and is used in astrology for the planets, which are set up as "heavenly rulers" to control the fate of mankind. All of the usages clearly point to a worldwide rule. The phraseology is very reminiscent of the devil's claim to be able to give Jesus "all the kingdoms of the world." It also explains how Jesus could call Satan the "ruler of this world," and how John could say, "the whole world is in the power of the evil one." Such verses do not deny that Jesus has decisively conquered these principalities and powers, but it does indicate that they have NOT conceded defeat.

Finally, we see that we are fighting against "spiritual forces of wickedness." This literally means that we are fighting evil spirits. The word for "heavenly" is "*epouranios*". From it we get the name of planet, Uranus.

We are engaged in a struggle, (wrestling). Such a fight is characterized by strategy and trickery. Wherever Satan is waging such spiritual warfare, a lie will be at the root of the problem. Satan has three objectives in this combat:

1. DESTROY UNITY.
2. ENTICE YOU TO SIN
3. LEAD YOU INTO FALSE TEACHING

God has established the truth that will combat the lie of the destroyer. Is it any wonder that Paul first tells us to "stand firm, having girded your loins with truth?" In other words, we are to put on the belt of truth.

In our first eight chapters, we have seen that God has given us everything that we need to stand--the truth. The Word of God sets forth four great strongholds of truth that are a part of the belt of truth.

A. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE PERSON OF TRUTH "I am the way--and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

"The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

Jesus is the embodiment of absolute truth. He is our ultimate and total protection from takeover by Satan and his kingdom. Romans 13:14 admonishes us to "clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ." We can aggressively pray a prayer such as this:

"I put on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the truth. Satan, you are a liar. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command you to release my body. I give my body only to the control of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I cover myself with the shelter of His precious blood."

B. THE WORD OF GOD IS THE WORD OF TRUTH.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, and who correctly handles the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

"He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created." James 1:8

The trouble in our personal lives, the trouble in the church, and most of the trouble in the world is due to a departure from the authority of the Bible as the infallible standard for truth. Successful spiritual warfare begins by accepting the Bible as the sole and final authority of what is true and what is error. People do not figure out truth. ("the world through its wisdom did not know God" 1 Corinthians 1:21). We cannot trust man's wisdom and reasoning to find truth. We know where we stand because it is written in the Word. We use the Word to fight the enemy.

C. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.

"The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a *man* except the man's spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the

Spirit of God The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:10-12,14.

The Holy Spirit is the author of the Word of truth, and He will never tell us to believe or do something contrary to the Word of God. It is crucial that we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth as we read the Word of God. We can ask the Holy Spirit to protect us from being drawn into areas that are inconsistent with truth.

D. THE CHURCH IS THE PILLAR AND FOUNDATION OF TRUTH.

"Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth." I Timothy 3:14-15

The church has a high level of importance in God's plan. Every believer is to be related to a sound, Bible-teaching, Christ-exalting local church. Every believer should submit himself to the disciplines and checks and balances that God has built into the church. When the church rallies to pray, protect, and encourage, the enemy is put to flight.

A Roman soldier wore a belt, which held his sword and also belted his tunic in place. When a soldier walked down the street, you could tell by his belt if he was on duty. If the belt was tight, he was on duty, ready for action. If the belt hung loose, he was off duty. Do you have your belt buckled firmly in place?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:2-15. Note each reference to the enemy. According to this passage, what is Satan's strategy? _____

How does Satan lead us away from the truth today? _____

Read I Timothy 4:1-3. What can happen to people who do not keep on the belt of truth? _____

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-8. What value is a study such as this? What does it take to keep from being seduced? _____

EXTRA READING

Read the following verses and record what you learn. How are we to walk in truth? _____

Ephesians 4:15 _____

Ephesians 4:25 _____

PUT ON THE BELT

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I claim the protection of the belt of truth, having buckled it securely' around my waist. I pray the protection of the belt of truth over my personal life, my home and family, and the ministry God has appointed for my life. I use the belt of truth directly against Satan and his kingdom of darkness. I aggressively embrace Him who is the Truth, the Lord Jesus Christ, as my strength and protection from all of Satan's deceptions. I desire that the truth of God's Word shall constantly gain a deeper place in my life. I pray that the truth of the Word of God may be my heart's delight to study and memorize.

Forgive me for the sin of not speaking the truth. Show me any way in which I am being deceived. By the Holy Spirit of truth, open the Scriptures to my understanding and guide me into the practical understanding of His words of truth. I ask you, Holy Spirit, to warn me before I deceive anyone and to ever protect me from believing Satan's lies. Thank You, Lord, for making my local church a pillar and foundation for Your truth in my life. Help me to relate to my church and give protection and help to others as well as receive it myself.

I see, Lord Jesus Christ, that my ability to be invincibly strong and able to do Your will despite Satan's subtle ways requires the stabilizing power of the belt of truth. Thank You for providing this part of the armor. I take it gratefully and desire to have an ever-deepening understanding of its protection through Your power.

PAULINE DOCTRINE OF BELIEVER'S POSITION IN CHRIST AND LIFESTYLE WORSHIP

EPHESIANS 1:3-7	
COLOSSIANS 2:6-7	The believer is "in Christ."
EPHESIANS 1:13	The believer is "sealed in Christ" by the Holy Spirit
EPHESIANS 2:10	The believer is "created in Christ"
2 COR. 5:17	The believer is a new creature
2 COR, 5:21	The believer is the righteousness of God in Christ
ROMANS 6:3	
COLOSSIANS 3:3	The believer is reckoned by God as having died with Christ
2 COR. 5:14-15	
EPHESIANS 2:6	
COLOSSIANS 2:12-13	...and as having been raised with Him
EPHESIANS 2:5	
EPHESIANS 2:6	... and as having been seated with Him in the heavenlies
I COR, 1:30	The believer has been placed by God into Christ
I COR. 1:30	... and Jesus becomes the believer's wisdom, righteousness, holiness, and redemption
COLOSSIANS 1:13	The believer has been transferred by God from the domain of darkness into Christ's kingdom.
1 COR. 15:22	Being "in Christ" the believer is no longer "in Adam"
ROMANS 7:14,18,25	The believer, crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20) and whose old man has been crucified (Romans 6:6) still does possess a "flesh"
GALATIANS 5:16, 17, 24	Dealing with fleshly actions is the believer's daily responsibility.
ROMANS 7:17,20,21	Sin as a principle still dwells in the believer, but is not identified with the believer's position in Christ