

# BLAKE WHITEMAN THE REAL WAR: THE BELT OF TRUTH JANUARY 19th, 2025

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**Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)** - 10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12For 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. 13Therefore 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. 14Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people

1. THE ARMOR OF...
2. NOT AGAINST, BUT AGAINST
3. TO STAND FIRM

## THIS WEEK: THE BELT OF TRUTH

### WHAT IS THE BELT OF ARMOR?

In the context of armor, a belt is primarily used to hold up and secure other pieces of armor, like a sword and breastplate, essentially acting as the foundation for the entire armor set, allowing the wearer freedom of movement while keeping their weapons readily accessible. Considered a crucial part of the armor, as without a secure belt, the other pieces would not function properly. (Billy Graham)

**In a spiritual sense, the "belt of truth" represents the foundation of a Christian's faith, holding their convictions and commitment to God's word, allowing them to stand firm against spiritual attacks.**

### WHAT IS TRUTH?

**John 18:37-38a (NIV)** – Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” 38Pilate said to him, “**What is truth?**”

- Jesus bears witness to truth
- Jesus invites everyone to be of the truth
- Being of the truth is listening to Jesus
- Truth is always questionable

**John 17:17 (NIV)** – Sanctify them by the truth; **your word is truth.**

- The word of God is truth
- We are sanctified by the truth

**2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)** – 15Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who **correctly handles the word of truth.**

- Truth – the Word - is something we are to handle correctly

**1 John 3:18 (NIV)** – 18Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and **in truth.**

- Love is in truth
- Love and truth are actionable
- Love is not only words and speech but with actions; actions without truth are not always loving

**John 4:24 (NIV)** – 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and **in truth.** •

Worship of God is to be in truth

**John 14:6a (NIV)** – 6 Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.**

- Jesus is the truth
- The way of Jesus is truth
- The way of Jesus is truth and is life

## IF IT ISN'T TRUTH THEN WHAT IS IT?

**John 8:31-47 (NIV)** - 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, **“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”** 33 They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” 34 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. **Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word.** 38 I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.” 39 “Abraham is our father,” they answered. “If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do what Abraham did. **40 As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.** Abraham did not do such things. 41 You are doing the works of your own father.” “We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.” 42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. **43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.** 44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. **He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.** 45 **Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!** 46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? 47 Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”

- Who’s teaching do you hold on to?
  - Do you have room for Jesus? Are you too full for a belt? Too satisfied?
  - Do you seek to kill or love the truth?
  - Do you have ears to hear? Do you want to know what truth is?
  - When we believe lies and buckle up lies as our belt we secure lies as our firm foundation like the enemy. •
- Why don’t you believe Jesus?... Lies

- Feelings
- Fears
- Failures
- Foes
- Fantasies
- Fatigue

## SO, WHAT IS BUCKLED AROUND YOUR WAIST?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What stood out to you from this message on truth? Why?
- What is the most personally challenging part of this message? Share.
- How does God’s part, our part and other’s part play into this message?



- What is one next step you can take from this message?
- To watch the Overtime Podcast, go to: <https://bit.ly/RLOvertime> **Overtime Podcast**