



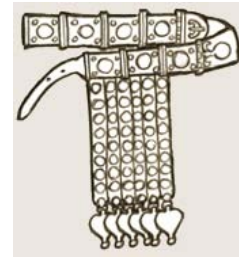
## **Introduction to the Armory**

### **Principles to bear in mind as we study this section:**

- 1) The armor is used as an \_\_\_\_\_.  
We should not try to overanalyze the physical aspects of the armor.
- 2) The armor has its source in \_\_\_\_\_, but man is called to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- 3) To understand the armor's use, we can look to:
  - a: Its \_\_\_\_\_ to the Roman soldier.  
The capital of Roman Asia, Ephesus would have had a military garrison stationed there and the Ephesian Christians would have been well acquainted with the soldiers who kept the *Pax Romana*.
  - B: The \_\_\_\_\_ of the satanic attack from which it is to protect us.

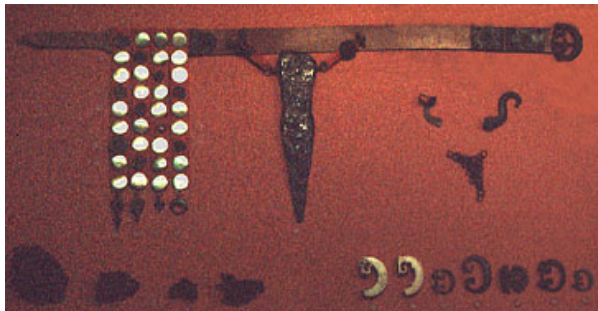
### **Three groups of armor:**

- 1) The belt, breastplate, and shoes. (vs. 14-15)  
\_\_\_\_\_ securely onto the body, these pieces must be in the ready \_\_\_\_\_ the battle is engaged.  
The "having put on" and "having fastened" of vs. 14-15 indicate a past, complete, and permanent action.
- 2) The Shield, helmet, and sword. (vs. 16-17)  
These weapons require \_\_\_\_\_ and must be \_\_\_\_\_ as necessary and in a variety of ways against the enemy's attacks. They are kept at the ready for use in a moments notice.  
Regarding the Roman Soldier in daily life -  
"Every soldier is every day exercised, and that with great diligence, as if it were in time of war, which is the reason why they bear the fatigues of battle so easily"  
(Josephus, The Wars Of The Jews, Book III, Chap. 5, 1).
- 3) Prayer. (18)  
The believer's ultimate weapon and source of power and for it there is no earthly analogy.



## The Belt of Truth

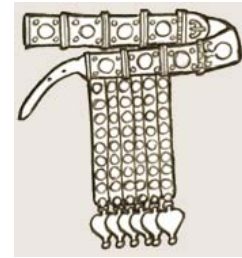
**“The Roman Soldier’s Belt:** Called *balteus* early in the empire and later the *cingulum militare*. It was the visible and audible hallmark of a soldier, who wore it with civilian as well as military dress. The ornate belt included a swath of several hanging leather straps, embellished with small metal disks and fancy terminal pieces, which would jingle smartly as their wearer walked. In the first half of the 1st century AD it was common to wear two belts in the army: one to hold the sword and one to hold the dagger. The *cingulum* may well have had a function in the preservation of male modesty when wearing the tunica without pants (as the Romans were wont to do in hot or temperate weather). The straps would normally fall between the legs, preventing wind or motion from lifting the tunic and exposing the soldier. Similarly, when a soldier sat down or squatted, the straps would naturally fall between his legs, keeping the front of the tunic where it should be, and not gaping open if his legs were crossed, for example.”



An original Roman *cingulum militare* shown with the scabbard of the sword still attached – this kept the sword in the “ready” position.. Notice the ornamental metal devices attached to the leather straps. A second leather shoulder strap would support the sword’s weight.

A modern reproduction of the belt below and a dressed soldier at the right –





## **Belt of Truth**

### **Function of the belt for the Roman soldier:**

- 1) A \_\_\_\_\_ of his office:
  - a. It reminded the soldier of his \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. It reminded both civilians and the enemy that he was present, alert, and prepared.
- 2) It protected the soldier's \_\_\_\_\_ by keeping his short tunic in place so that he would be free to move about without distraction.
- 3) It held the soldier's most trusted \_\_\_\_\_ at the ready – his sword.

### **What is the “truth”?**

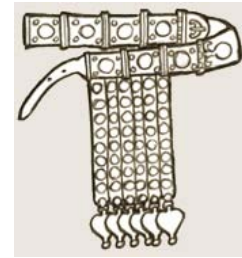
- Pilate asked that question of Christ, but did not look for an answer. (John 19:38)
- God's Word is truth. (Psalm 119:160, John 17:17)
- God is the God of truth. (Isaiah 65:16)
- Jesus said He came into the world to bear witness to the truth. (John 19:37)
- Jesus came full of both grace and truth. (John 1:14, 17)
- We are to worship God in spirit and truth. (John 4:23)
- If we abide in the word, we will know truth and it will set us free. (John 8:31-32)
- There is no truth in the devil. (John 8:44)
- Jesus is THE truth. (John 14:6)
- The Holy Spirit, who dwells in believers, is the Spirit of Truth. (John 15:26; 16:13)
- The unsaved suppress the truth and exchange it for a lie. (Roman 1:18, 25)
- The Gospel is the truth. (Eph. 1:13)
- The true church is to be a “buttress of truth”. (I Timothy 3:15)

### **The Greek word for “truth” can mean:**

- 1) THE truth as the whole body of that which is true – the revealed Word of God including the Gospel message.
- 2) It can be used of truthfulness or sincerity.

### **Function of the belt for the Christian:**

While a life of truthfulness and sincerity will provide a degree of protection for the Christian, as this piece of armor is from God, it must mainly concern the revealed truth of God's Word.



### *The Belt of Truth*

"As the Bible looks at this area, inner truth or truthfulness begins with a knowledge of God, who is truth, and a knowledge of the truth of God (if it is really known) inevitably leads to a life change consistent with God's character. We must be truthful men and women, of course. But we will become that only as we feast on the revealed truths of God."  
(James Montgomery Boice)

"We must master the Word, so that the Word will master us!"  
(Lloyd-Jones sermon on Eph. 6:14a)

- 1) The truth must be the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian.
- 2) The truth reminds us of our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as soldiers of the living God, having orders to follow, and owing allegiance to Him who is our Creator and Savior.
- 3) In the truth of God we walk and move about with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) When the Word saturates our minds, our \_\_\_\_\_ will always be at the ready.
- 5) Called to be \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ, the truth will make those around us aware of whom we are.

#### **Application:**

How do we as 21st century Christians "fasten on the belt of truth"?

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