

Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

Week 8 – Monday

Eph. 6:13-14 – Footnotes 13¹, 14³

Now we come to the details of the armour. Verses 13 and 14 say, “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. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.” The details of the armour begin here. First it talks about the girdle of truth and the breastplate of righteousness. The truth actually is for supporting our whole being. That is to strengthen your being. My father will turn 99 in a month. He is in the church life there in New York. His salvation is another story; I wish I had time to talk about that. He got saved when he was 69. That was a battle, but anyway the Lord won that battle. He was a carpenter for many years and very often he would wear a girdle so that he could climb up stairs and be on a ladder hammering. The girdle would strengthen his back. What is the girdle for the Christian, for the believer? Truth. What does this mean? Does this mean that we need to study the Bible so that we know the word? The word *truth* in Greek is *alitheia*. It has very many denotation in the New Testament, but we can say how to understand it here because this is in the context of Ephesians. This is not the first time this word appears; it is also in chapter 4. There you could say that truth is actually God in Christ realized by us and lived out of us. That is reality; you could translate this as reality. The triune God Himself in our experience often is conveyed to us through the Word. Yes, truth is related to the Bible, to the Word of God, but when that truth is spoken to us, it brings Christ to us. Then when we experience the reality of what we heard, that truth strengthens our being for the fight.

I don't know when you have your prayer meeting here—Tuesday. Suppose that the whole day on Tuesday you live your work day, at school or at home, with no reality, no experience of Christ, but now you come to the prayer meeting. Actually, I wonder if you even want to come to the prayer meeting, but you do come. Do you turn, do you pray? Of course, the blood cleanses, but you don't have much base for the spiritual warfare that night. To fight the spiritual warfare we need a base of reality in our living. When we experience the Lord in our living, the enemy takes note. Paul was in prison when he wrote many of his epistles, but the enemy took note of him because even there he was living out the reality of the triune God. There is a story in Acts 19:13-16 where seven sons of Sceva saw that Paul could cast out demons, so they tried to do the same thing. They came to a demon possessed person and said, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” The demon said, “Jesus I know of, and with Paul I am acquainted; but who are you?” Then the demon possessed man jumped on them and overpowered them. “Jesus I know of, and with Paul I am acquainted; but who are you?” When we come to fight the spiritual warfare, the enemy should know who we are already. How does the enemy know who we are? When we live Christ. When you live Christ, the enemy knows, he recognizes Christ in you. We need the reality in our daily living.