

## GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH

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Ephesians 6:14. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

After exhorting us to put on the whole armor of God, Paul proceeds to describe this armor. It is interesting to note that he begins with the words, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth." The first element in the armor represents truth.

Many people today would think that this was a wrong approach. They would say that what matters most is not truth, but our attitude. Now our attitude is of tremendous importance. The great central doctrine of the Protestant Reformation is salvation by faith. We cannot possibly earn our salvation. There is nothing we can do that can secure it. It is only through simple faith that a man can be saved. Yet even this great doctrine, if rightly understood, does not put our subjective attitude first. While no man can be saved without faith it is not a subjective quality within the man that saves him. It must be faith in something that is real.

Mark Twain tells in one of his books about an experience in the Alps. He read in his guidebook that a certain glacier was moving down to the village at the foot of the mountains. Having walked up on the mountain to a place beside the glacier, he said to his friend: "Let's ride down on the glacier." They sat down on the glacier and waited an hour, but the glacier did not seem to be moving at all. Mark Twain said: "I guess we should have inquired about the time table, so as to know when the glacier starts. Perhaps the guidebook will tell." He pulled out his guidebook and there he found it stated that the glacier was moving down toward the village at the rate of a few inches every year!

In the story, Mark and his friend displayed a perfect picture of an attitude of faith. They sat down on the glacier and patiently waited for it to take them to the village. But their faith was not grounded in truth. The glacier would