

This professor of whom I spoke used the sun, moon and planets as an example. He said that people have their various theories, but that the heavenly bodies go on in their courses just the same, without being affected by our theories. This may be true as far as they themselves are concerned, but as far as we are concerned, if we make our calculations incorrectly about the heavenly bodies it may sometimes have very serious effects upon our lives, particularly in these days of space travel and nuclear warfare. Even in the time when the professor gave his illustration, a sailor poorly trained in navigation might cause a shipwreck through false ideas of the movements of the stars.

Paul puts truth at the very beginning. It is extremely vital that we know the truth. Jesus said: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

But how are we to know the truth? In spiritual matters there is only one way. God has revealed the truth we need, and has led holy men to write it in the inspired books that form our Bible. <sup>God's</sup> Word is our only source of divine truth. We can depend upon what it says, for it is God's book. It is extremely vital that we know the truth and that we stand for the truth.

We note, however, that Paul does not simply say, "stand for the truth." In his instructions about the Christian armor, his words are: "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth." The Roman soldier wore long flowing garments which could easily get in his way and be a hindrance when he wanted to fight. It was necessary that he gird them tightly around his loins, so that they would not be in his way. He was then girded for action. Paul does not simply present the truth as an abstract thing. It is vitally related to our effectiveness, and is necessary to the successful conduct of our lives. It is not enough simply to know the truth. There is too much dilettantism in our day. There are too many who think that mere knowledge of facts is enough. The truth must reach our hearts as well as our heads. It is necessary that we hold the truth in such a way that it becomes the very foundation of all our activity. This is the all-essential beginning of "the whole armor of God."