

A dramatic landscape painting of Ephesus at sunset. In the foreground, the dark, silhouetted ruins of the Temple of the Virgin Mary are visible, with its iconic archway framing the view. The background shows a vast, hazy landscape with a city, likely Ephesus, nestled in a valley. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun, creating a warm and atmospheric scene. The overall mood is contemplative and historical.

# EPHESIANS

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST



# Our Struggle

- Our part is to:
  - ◆ RESIST in the evil day – stand against, withstand
    - ★ *anthistemi*
  - ◆ having done everything – (chapters 1-5!!!)
    - ★ Worked it all out
  - ◆ STAND FIRM – *histemi*
- The Full Armor of GOD (not you!!)



# Stand firm

- Loins with TRUTH
  - This is where all strength comes from to wrestle
  - Place of emotions and passions
- Belt held in and held up
  - Took pressure off the breastplate
  - Protected from low blows, vulnerable areas
  - Gave support for strong thrusts/shocks
  - Sword and dagger were hung here for quick use

# Mentioned 1<sup>st</sup>, last put on

- TRUTH- When we lack this...
  - The enemy hammers us with “LIES” EVE! Jesus
  - Mt. 22:16 – even enemies knew JC was truth
  - Jn 18:37 – Pilate did not know!
  - HS will guide into all – Jn 14:17;15:26;16:7
  - Sanctified Jn 17:17; Sets us free Jn 8:32
  - 2Ti 2:15 – rightly discern truth

# But, what truth?

- Truth about God: Nature, Works, Revelations
- Truth about ourselves
  - Redeemed of the Lord, Sanctified, Sealed
- Truth about the World
  - All its deceptions and lies
  - Its attempt to replace the Love of God
  - It's true “puppet master” – and his end!

# Tighten your belt!

- Listen, Read, Study
- Memorize, Meditate – Biblical concept
- Application and ‘follow through’
- Belts can get old, brittle and crack
- If you fail in an area of truth... ARMORER
- Walking around without a belt can be more than just embarrassing, it can be DEADLY!





# Breastplate

- Lorica – made of plates or rings
  - Chain rings (Hamata); 1<sup>st</sup> century Segmentata!
  - Strong enough to protect, but light and flexible
  - Many other forms of body armor, this was best
- Breastplate guards the major organs
  - Heart and lungs – passion and “breath”
  - Crushing blows – seek to incapacitate
  - Knock the “Wind” out of us...

# His Righteousness on us

- This is what guards our hearts
- His Righteousness – Isa 59:16-21
  - Purchased at Calvary; thru faith Ga 2:15,16
  - ‘We are as we need to be’ Mt 5:20
  - Unearned and undeserved
  - Covers EVERY past sin

# The attacks here...

- Stab to the heart – instant kill
  - Guilt - 1Jn 3:21,22 – conscience
  - Pride – “I don’t need God” – death!
  - Self-righteousness – the sin of the Pharisee
- Destroying our Integrity – Job and friends
  - Sinful living: David, Peter, Judas

# Tightening the armor

- Remember that the Truth Belt works with it!
- Know the FACTS about Your righteousness
  - Ro 3:21 – Righteousness without the LAW
  - Vs. 22 – by faith
  - Vs. 25 – by the Blood
  - Vs. 26 – His RIGHTEOUSNESS declared
  - 4:3 Abraham believed God... reckoned
  - 4:13 promise made good...