

AN OFFICER'S SPIRITUAL ARMOR

“STAND THEREFORE, HAVING YOUR LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH THE BELT OF TRUTH...” – EPHESIANS 6:14

WHAT IS THIS BELT? TO THE ROMAN OFFICER IT WAS CALLED A “LOINBELT”. TO THE MODERN POLICE OFFICER IT IS THE UTILITY BELT WE WEAR AS POLICE OFFICERS TODAY. YOU KNOW, THE WEB BELTS, OF THICK LEATHER.

BELTS IN GENERAL ARE WORN BY MEN TO HOLD UP THEIR PANTS AND ARE RARELY MENTIONED BY INDIVIDUALS WHO COMMENT ON ONE'S DRESS. WE HEAR PEOPLE COMMENT ON THE SHARP SHIRT WE ARE WEARING OR THE NICE SLACKS, COOL SHOES OR KILLER TIE, BUT SELDOM IF EVER DO FOLKS COMMENT ON THE BELT WE ARE WEARING. AND YET THE BELT IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IF NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM OF DRESS WE WEAR. IT HOLD UP OUR PANTS AND IF NOT FOR THE BELT, WE WOULD BE IN DANGER OF BEING EXPOSED BY HAVING OUR PANTS AROUND OUR ANKLES WHICH SERVES TO NOT ONLY EMBARRASS ONE BUT ALSO TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO WALK, RUN OR MOVE.

WHAT WAS THE ROMAN OFFICER'S BELT LIKE?

IT WAS USED TO ANCHOR THE REST OF THE EQUIPMENT WORN BY THE OFFICER:

1. IT ALLOWED THE OFFICER TO HIKE UP HIS TUNIC OR DRESS SHIRT TUCKING THE END IN THE BELT TO CREATE A SORT OF SHORTS WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE OFFICER TO RUN AND FIGHT UNENCUMBERED.
2. THE OFFICER'S SWORD WAS PLACED IN A SCABBARD ATTACHED TO THE LOINBELT.
3. SHIELDS NOT IN USE WERE CLIPPED TO THE LOINBELT.
4. ARROW QUIVERS WERE HUNG AROUND THE NECK BUT THE BOTTOM OF THE QUIVER FITTED INTO A SLOT ON THE LOINBELT TO KEEP IT STEADY.
5. BREASTPLATES WERE ATTACHED IN SEVERAL PLACES ON THE LOINBELT TO KEEP THE BREASTPLATE FROM FLOPPING AROUND DURING COMBAT.

TODAY THE UTILITY BELT IS ALSO USED TO BEAR EQUIPMENT. SERVICE REVOLVER HOLSTER, HANDCUFF HOLSTER, PEPPER SPRAY, BATON HOLSTER, FLASHLIGHT, RADIO, ETC.

WITHOUT HIS LOINBELT, THE ROMAN OFFICER WAS NAKED TO BATTLE. HIS EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE AS NEEDED.

SPIRITUAL APPLICATION

PAUL CALLS THE LOINBELT THE BELT OF TRUTH. HE WAS REFERRING TO THE WORD OF GOD AS SPIRITUAL TRUTH. KNOWING SCRIPTURE ANCHORS ALL A CHRISTIAN'S WEAPONS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE. THEY ARE READY FOR ACTION AND THE CHRISTIAN IS PREPARED TO DO BATTLE WITH THE

DEVIL. WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURE, (SPIRITUAL SWORD), IN ONE'S HEART AND MIND, ONE IS ABLE TO STAND FIRM KNOWING THAT HIS SPIRITUAL WEAPONS ARE SECURE AND READY FOR ACTION.

THE WORD OF TRUTH IS SCRIPTURE. IT:

1. SHARPENS ONE'S SWORD BY KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD
2. GIVES PROTECTION FOR THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
3. ALLOWS ONE TO DEFLECT THE ARROWS OF THE DEVIL WITH THE SHIELD OF FAITH
4. GIVES THE BELIEVER THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PROVISION THROUGH THE HELMET OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION.
5. ALLOWS THE SHOES OF THE PEACE OF THE GOSPEL TO BE SPREAD.

AS A BELIEVER ARE YOU WEARING THE AWESOME LOINBELT OF TRUTH?