

we need the *whole* armour, not *one* piece must be wanting. The armour must be of God, human armour will not ward off the attacks of Satan ; confidence in that armour will engage us in the combat to make us fall before an enemy stronger and more crafty than we. Let us see what this complete armour is.

“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with *truth*.” This is the first thing, looking at what we call the *subjective* part. Our *state* comes first, and there is no divine activity *until* the heart is perfectly in order. The loins are the seat of strength when duly girt, but represent the intimate affections and movements of the heart. The figure is taken from the habits of the country where these instructions were given ; they wore long garments, which hindered their working unless girded up. We get the expression in Job xxxviii. 3, “Gird up now thy loins like a man ;” that is, to see what he had to say to God. It is the power of truth applied to everything that takes place in the heart ; it is not doctrine, but truth *practically applied*. The Lord said, “Sanctify them through Thy truth : Thy word is truth.” God has sent into the midst of the world all that can judge man according to what God is. Christ is the centre of the word ; He was the light of the world, He revealed the thoughts of many hearts. He was here as a man, and revealed what God was, and the world was judged by it. He comes, and brings all that is divine and heavenly in a man (Christ) in direct