



Shiloh Messenger October 2021

BUCKLE UP !

“Put on Truth as a Belt to Strengthen you to Stand in Triumph.” Ephesians 6:14a TPT

Years ago there was a song that came out from the National Public Safety Service and it had that catchy little tune that was advertised on Televisions across the USA.... Many will remember... “Buckle up for Safety.. Buckle Up, Buckle Up for Safety, Everybody Buckle UP.... Show the World you care, by the belt you wear.. Buckle up for safety... Everybody Buckle up.” If you remember that song... Then... We are sure you sang it in your head just now! Oh that captivating refrain... This Particular Public safety announcement came out in the 60’s , and many....Oh Yes... remember it well.

However simplistic and repetitive the announcement may sound, It is imperative that we listen well, adhere to, and implement those **SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENTS that are vital to our well being.**

As we thought about this, We recalled another very important **Safety Announcement** that was ushered out 2 thousand years ago by The Apostle Paul as he penned an epistle to the Church in Ephesus. Paul was talking about a **Safety Belt** as well. **The Belt of Truth** In Ephesians Chapter 6 describes the armor that we are to put on if we are indeed The Redeemed of The Lord. This armor has several vital pieces, but the Belt is the very first piece strategically. It is vital to have this piece on or the other pieces will not be able to be utilized as The Lord God has intended. THE BELT holds the other pieces. **IT ALL BEGINS WITH JESUS.**

In a world of Chaos we so need **TRUTH.** Many People in our Culture are defining by their own standards what they believe truth is.... Many do not believe in ABSOLUTE TRUTH, and believe truth is only relative. The secular world is increasingly teaching that all truth is relative, a simple matter of each person’s perspective. The existence of Absolute Truth is a necessary foundation of Christianity. If we are not girded with HIM, We can drift away from TRUE NORTH. The enemy will cause us to be defeated, embrace lies, and we will not experience our Lord & Savior and what HE is saying to us in this hour in which we live. If not careful to be girded in ABSOLUTE TRUTH, We will not know by discernment how to proceed forward in fulfilling our destiny and winning souls for HIS KINGDOM. We are in a massive war, and the enemy of our souls has always been using his most favorite play card of deception. If we as The Lord Jesus’ Followers are not walking circumspectly, (Ephesians 5:15-20) and having put on THE ARMOR (Ephesians 6:10) in which HE has provided for us, we as well will fall for the cunning craftiness of deception that the enemy of our soul would subtly place before us.

So how do We put on the belt of Truth ? Truth is only embraced when we embrace The Person Of Jesus Christ. Jesus is The Way, The Truth, and The Life. (John 14:6) Truth is worn when we develop and nurture our relationship with JESUS by HOLY SPIRIT every day. It is not a one time event. Truth is known when a Follower of Christ meditates on The Word of God. It is imperative that We do not neglect God’s Word. The more We study God’s Word and pray for revelation of God’s Word, We are solidified with Truth. Our Spirit Man becomes fortified when We are girded with HIS WORD which is Truth. The more We know God’s Word, the more We can recognize deception. We will know Truth from a lie. And then when We are committed to do The Lord’s Will, “Your Kingdom Come, Your Will be done” according to Matthew 6:10, our discernment is sharpened knowing good from evil. When we are girded with Truth, we submit ongoing to the guidance, teachings, and promptings of Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us that in these last days there will be many deceived. We must be alert and more thirsty for God than ever before. The writer of Psalm 42:1 states, “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for YOU, O GOD.” Have you been thirsting for God like that? Is HE your passion? If so, Your soul thirst is a sign of growth, and surely desiring TRUTH and being alert. If we indeed as followers of Christ are girded with TRUTH, we will be more sensitive to and aware of God than ever before. When we wear Him (JESUS IS TRUTH) We are aware of HIS presence. Truth causes us to be governed more and more by God’s Word, concerned with The Church and The Kingdom of God, and also the disciplines of The Christian life, desiring to be conformed everyday more to HIS IMAGE. HIS Followers, who truly have put on Christ, make no provision for the flesh. When We have put on TRUTH, We understand more fully that people are not our enemies, and we are aware that the war we are in, is certainly inflicted by principalities and demonic powers of this world. Wearing TRUTH as HIS Disciples, we are thinking more and more of JESUS and HIS coming again, and earnestly desiring HIS coming. We are governed by our passion for HIM and we are girded with The Belt of Truth. Yes absolutely, We are in a war, the longest war known to mankind. The devil is subtle, slanderous, fierce, and deceitful. However ...The battle that rages can actually catapult us to be alert. We have heard it said that Christians grow drowsy in the sunshine, but never fall asleep in the fire, or in the water. So that being said... there should be no drowsy in HIS BODY. We are IN WAR, and we have all the weaponry we need to go through successfully and take some spoils of war in addition. THEREFORE PUT ON CHRIST JESUS AND MAKE NO PROVISION FOR THE FLESH. (Romans 13:14) **BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY! PUT ON THE BELT OF TRUTH!**

Shiloh Graduate

My name is Cory Schwartz. This testimony is about Jesus and how a relationship with the Father through the Holy Spirit is worth pursuing at all costs. I don't know how to emphasize this enough through sentence construction, but hopefully, it gets revealed through some life experience. I credit Shiloh with saving my life in 2012. Of course, it was Jesus, and He gets the glory, but Shiloh Ministries, Pastor Rocky, Sister Debbie, Cliff Brast, fellow students, and all affiliates deserve special recognition. Dallas, 2012, after 37 years of life, I was homeless, having resided in drug addiction for two decades. Suicide was my most appealing option. Although I was a staunch atheist, I decided to pray to God. Those familiar with these newsletters can fill in the blanks from there. Following my graduation from Shiloh in 2013; I intermittently served on staff, graduated two schools from Youth with a Mission, visited other countries as a missionary, and lead my own teams consisting of Shiloh graduates. Best of all I had the privilege of displaying the love of Christ to those broken and burdened just as I was. Credit, the first year at Shiloh, for saving me from myself but the additional years there prepared me for life. The time under the tutelage of Pastor Rocky was invaluable, and without it, the necessary tools would not be there for me to handle future assignments from our Lord. The grind of Shiloh allowed me to learn many lessons like work ethic, how to grow from mistakes, deal with conflicting personalities, silence the inner cry-baby, and gave me much-needed time to deal with serious personal issues and emotions. After my tenure at Shiloh, I attended Christ for the Nations (CFNI) in Dallas. Halfway into the last semester, COVID hit, the school sent everyone home and transitioned online. Those of us with nowhere to go were permitted to stay on campus. The world was mainly still on lockdown when I graduated from CFNI's Biblical Counseling program. For those of us left on campus, not only did the lockdown ruin our job opportunities, but having been full-time students, we did not qualify for unemployment or any financial assistance. Ultimately, the school was forced to empty the campus; it was a tough time for everyone. I want to express my immense gratitude to CFNI for everything they did during this time. Dallas, 2020, almost a decade as a Christian, I am faced with no housing, finances, or possibilities, and on the tail end of a pandemic and worldwide lockdown. Complete reliance on God was my only option. Those who have experienced a time like this in their walk with God can fill in the blanks. But God. Currently, I am living at the base of a mountain in Sheridan, Wyoming. The scenery is breathtaking. Volunteers of America Veteran Services 6 months ago promoted me to developing and advancing the new Moral Injury program over the Northern Rockies. You can imagine how difficult this assignment is since we currently find ourselves living in a world lacking morality where good has become evil and evil, good. The daily challenges cause me to utilize everything I learned at Shiloh and throughout the years while remaining flexible to learn new things at a moment's notice. I believe God has revealed Moral Injury work for just such a time as this, and it will open the eyes of many to finally see the way, the truth, and the life. I want to add how much I love my parents. My dad lost his leg in Vietnam and went on to take care of a family of five. He will always be my hero, so there is a special connection to working with veterans for me.



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thankful for your love
and financial support of
The Lord's Ministry at
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**Rocky & Debbie Fondren
Founders & Sr. Leaders**