

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: “Ephesians 6:13-17 “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, **having girded your waist with truth....**”

Quote: “O to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.”

Robert Robinson

The girdle of truth kept a Roman soldier’s loose, flowing shirt from hampering him during life-or-death struggles. No knowledgeable soldier would enter mortal combat with his shirt flapping around his arms and hindering his movements. By tucking in the loose ends and tightening his belt, he demonstrated his readiness to fight and his personal understanding of what was at stake. For Christians, girding your waist with truth refers to “inward, practical *acknowledgement* of the Truth.”¹ It is “an *attitude of truthfulness, sincerity, honesty, integrity* or COMMITMENT.”² It is a heart that is right before God and that does not play at religion.

Joseph is one of the best illustrations of the truth that *personal* commitment to spiritual integrity is *purposeful, permeating* and *persevering*. Joseph’s decisions reflected who he really was at the heart level. When tempted by his master’s wife to commit adultery, he consistently refused. He said to her, “There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has (Potiphar) kept back anything from me but you, *because you are his wife*. How then can I do this great wickedness, and *sin against God?*”³ How different Joseph’s response to temptation was from David’s, who sent for Bathsheba after being told that she was Uriah’s wife! This courageous King of Israel, who was a man after God’s own heart,⁴ grievously violated God’s Law that he had loved and faithfully obeyed for years. After committing adultery and murder, he went on with “business as usual.” For over a year, he lived a lie! When Nathan the prophet confronted him, David was forced to come to grips

with his hypocrisy before God Who knows each of us for who we really are.

Smitten by the truth, David eventually cried out to God. “Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight.... Behold, *You desire truth in the inward parts*, and in the *hidden part* You will make me to know wisdom.”⁵ In Psalm 119, he wrote, “With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, *let me not wander from Your commandments!* Your word I have *hidden in my heart*, that I might not sin against You!”⁶ David immersed himself in God’s truth!

Among the Plains Indians, “sacrificial warriors,” who were chosen for their bravery and commitment, wore a long “no retreat sash” into battle. They anchored themselves to the ground with a stake or war lance, thereby declaring to friend and foe, “Here I stand in victory or death!” Once tethered, the warrior could order a retreat, but the only way he himself could be freed with

honor was if another warrior pulled out his stake and slapped him across his back, symbolically driving him from the battle. For the true Christian, ultimate victory has been secured by Christ. However, we can be “drawn away” from the battle for truth by our own lusts, resulting in sin and the damage or the death of relationships, opportunities and rewards.⁷ We must maintain a “no retreat” mentality by anchoring ourselves to the Word of truth, and by intentionally and consistently applying it to our habits. Each of us is writing our personal history through what we do and say. Like Joseph and David, we can continue to IMPACT people long after we die by the testimony that we leave behind!⁸ Doing right is a daily struggle *for each of us!* It takes forthright commitment to being a person of integrity out of love for Christ. Value your character before God. Value your reputation before men.⁹ Daily strap on the belt of truth and take your stand!

Put on “the girdle of truth”

1 Vincent 2 MacArthur 3 Genesis 39:9 4 1 Samuel 13:14 5 Psalm 51:4, 6 6 Psalm 119:10, 11 7 James 1:13-16 8 Hebrews 11-12:1, 2 9 Job’s reputation (1:1) and his character (1:8) were one and the same. Note Job 2:9-10 and Job 42:1-6, 10