

In Eph 6:14, Paul tells us to have our loins gird about with truth. What he is saying is that we must be clothed, with the truth. You know, when we think of being clothed, or being totally wrapped up in the truth, do we see ourselves putting on as much as we can? I am reminded of two fashion ideas that have been prominent in the past few years. The first is the mini-skirt. Many times we want to wear the mini-skirt of truth, or, in other words, we want to wear as little as possible and let as much of ourselves show as we can. But we must have the attitude that we love the truth and will completely cover our selfishness with it. The second fashion idea has nothing intrinsically wrong with it like the mini-skirt, but its very name puts me in mind of our attitude towards the truth: this is the leisure suit. We may clothe ourselves with the truth, but we do it leisurely. We do no work whatsoever towards spreading it; teaching others, really putting it into our lives, or loving it with an enthusiasm that is like an unquenchable fire. God wants us to completely cover ourselves with the truth, so that none of our own desires show. God wants us to work in that truth fervently.

The story is told in 2 Kings 13:14-19 of king Joash, who was told by the prophet Elisha to take some arrows and smite them upon the ground to represent the victory that God would give the Israelite forces over Syria. When Joash smote the ground three times with them, Elisha was very angry. Why? Had not Joash performed the commandment which he had been given? Yes, but he had shown no real enthusiasm or zeal! Elisha said, "You should have smitten five or six times; then you would have smitten Syria till you had consumed it: whereas now you will smite Syria but three times." God has told us to love the truth, but what if we are not totally involved in that love, and thirst after it? Then we will bring down the anger of the Lord upon us, just as Joash did.

It is really sort of simple. Because God loved us and has provided a plan to save us, we love him in return. Because God is truth we therefore love the truth. Because we love the truth we want to know it, and study it as a result. Because we know the truth, we learn to grow in our love for God. And the cycle continues.