

# OUTLINE: IN IT TO WIN IT... THE BELT TRUTH

## A FIGHT TO THE FINISH • SFCC • 03.19.23

*And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels. Ephesians 6:10-12 (MSG)*

*Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. Ephesians 6:13-14 (MSG)*

The NIV says it like this...

*Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, Eph 6:14 NIV*

### WHAT IS TRUTH?

Pilate the Roman Ruler asked Jesus about truth.

*Then Pilate said, "So, are you a king or not?" Jesus answered, "You tell me. Because I am King, I was born and entered the world so that I could witness to the truth. Everyone who cares for truth, who has any feeling for the truth, recognizes my voice." Pilate said, "What is truth?" John 18:37-38 (MSG)*

### DEFINITION: ALETHEIA (ἀ-λήθεια)

-the content of that which is true. The literal meaning of the word ἀ-λήθεια is "the state of not being hidden; the state of being evident".

*Jesus said, "I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. John 14:6 (MSG)*

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

*Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test. Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only. Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. Matthew 4:1-11 (MSG)*

*I'm not asking that you take them out of the world but that you guard them from the Evil One. They are no more defined by the world than I am defined by the world. Make them holy—consecrated—with the truth; your word is consecrating truth. John 17:15-17 (MSG)*

## **WHY TRUTH?**

Truth is IMPERATIVE...*it's urgent*

Truth is IMMUTABLE...*it's undeniable*

Truth is INCORRIGIBLE...*it's persistent*

Truth is INFLUENCING...*it's powerful*

## **GOT TRUTH?**

*How trustworthy and dependable are you as fighter in the fight of life?*

Are you willing to put on the belt of truth that demonstrates that you are truly committed to Jesus?

*"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 (MSG)*