The battle we’re in is serious business. The enemy is aggressive, intelligent and passionate about your destruction. St. Paul directs us to be strong in the Lord! Place hope in Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life. The same Christ of God Who destroyed Hell and restored us to our heavenly Father. Put on the full armor of God. As one adorns for battle, the first piece we put on is the “Belt of Truth.”

There is lots of talk on the topic of truth. Politicians wax on about truth, only to reveal that it was not “the whole truth and nothing but the truth.” A salesman, pointing to a bright, shiny, tricked out “beast” tells you, “This truck is the best, most reliable pickup in the world! It is awesome! You need this truck. It has ‘Y-O-U’ written all over it and we’re running a special on it, today only!”

Yea, well, the truth is that this truck may have “Y-O-U” written on it, if you spell it, “C-H-U-M-P.” It’s too expensive! Although it has “bling,” it’s a gas hog and has a bad transmission.

Truth is a very powerful element for...
Ecclesiastes is a book of great comfort. The author is called Qoheleth; Martin Luther recommends we call him “Preacher.” Spend time in the fifth chapter. You feel refreshed like drinking from a fountain of fresh, sweet, cold water. The Preacher is responding to the dark concept many have of the future. Any recently produced science fiction movie or television show depicts the future as a dark, dystopian existence. The Preacher reminds us the future is in God’s hands. Luther said concerning Ecclesiastes, “Let us then be satisfied with the present and commit ourselves to the hand of God, who alone knows and controls the past and the future.” (LW Vol. 5)

Ecclesiastes extends hope in the “now” for individuals struggling through life. How often we find people dreadfully unhappy. They hate work, their family and themselves. Life is a prison sentence. No hope. Just drudgery. Now, some have good cause to feel this way. Tied down by debt, substance abuse or relationship problems. Those who suffer due to life challenges deserve our help. As members of the Body of Christ, we reach out to those with acts of mercy. But an overwhelming number are drug free, managing their finances and living healthy relationships... and are still unhappy.

God has a purpose for our walk on this earth. The Preacher reminds us God is the author of life and He gives it to you. Second, life on this earth is finite. Life is short; don’t waste the days you have being unhappy. Third, the Preacher tells you happiness is in enjoying food and drink. If blessed with wealth, embrace it and enjoy it. Accept your life situation ... all the fretting, grousing, complaining in the world won’t effect it. In the end, you die. This is not a dark comment on life. Rather it’s a strong indictment to enjoy the gift of life God gives you. This is wonderful news! One need not search out philosophies, trends or false religions to find the purpose and meaning of life. The answer is found in Scripture.

The Preacher drives home the point to tell us our purpose in life. ENJOY IT! Appreciate where God has placed you! Embrace hard work. Relish the challenge it provides. Work the job until it’s complete and you are proud...
of the accomplishment. As a part of hard work, we eat and drink to our joy and His pleasure.

The Preacher focuses on the gifts of God. Enjoy life on a daily basis and not worry about the future. How these words tie in with the Lord Christ!

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”

Matt. 6:25–27

The Preacher along with Jesus is echoed in the word of St. Paul:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. Erwin L. Lueker, Luther Poellot, Paul Jackson. Christian Cyclopedia. (St Louis: CPH, 2000).

God is truth in opposition to all that is relative and derived.
(Ps. 31:5, Is. 65:16, John 17:3, 1 John 5:20)

God cannot lie.
(2 Tim. 2:13, Heb. 6:18)

All that comes from God is true.
(Ps. 33:4)

Truth is manifested in Christ.
(John 1:14,17; John 14:6)

The Holy Spirit imparts the truth of Christ, through Whom truth is known and Whose Word is truth.
(1 John 2:20–21, John 8:31–32, John 17:17–19, 2 Cor. 4:2, Gal. 5:7, Eph. 1:13, James 1:18)

Truth is known is sanctified life.
(John 17:17–19; 1 John 2:4–6)

us who serve and have served in the military. We see examples all the time. The “Belt of Truth” resonates in our soul. Truth effects the success or failure of your duties and the mission itself. Here is what I am talking about.

A shipmate tells of an inspection tomorrow. You trust he’s telling you the truth. Off you go and prepare for the “shake-down.” If a leader directs the unit to bring cold weather gear, the truth is revealed. Especially when the temperature drops to a bone-chilling level as dawn approaches. You hear in the rumor mill about an early return from deployment. You act on the rumor, assuming it’s the truth. You alert the family. You get rid of stuff accumulated while deployed. You lose focus, and your duties suffer. You then discover the “truth.” No early return. You backtrack and embarrassingly put your head back in the game.

Paul writes of truth as a weapon of faith. The “Belt of Truth” is serious. In the ancient Roman army, the belt was used to carry one’s primary weapon, called the gladius. This short sword (about two feet in length) is a frightening instrument. It brought about the subjugation of empires. The belt also fixed one’s dagger, called a pugio, the secondary weapon of a legionary. Finally, the belt is used to balance equipment. As a result, the legionary marches further, faster and longer because of its use.

The “Belt of Truth” has another purpose. It holds the identity of the individual. No one else in Roman society is allowed a belt fixed around their clothing. It is seen by all and worn everywhere. The “Belt of Truth” identifies the individual as a Roman Legionary, a force to be reckoned with. He was a person belonging to an organization that makes the mighty quake with fear, the nasty run in terror, the horrible coward in a dark corner. Paul says we have a “Belt of Truth.” We have something that identifies us to friend and foe alike. We have the “Belt of Truth” that fixes our gladius of the Spirit close and ready for immediate use. It is “Truth.”

Truth is wrapped up in a loving Savior who called you out of darkness by His suffering, death and resurrection. Truth is tied to your Baptism.”