

The Attackers: Review: Outside Adversity & Being Offended, Standing Fast Inside the Bubble, & Aorist Participles in Eph 6:14 ff.; the Belt of Truth Refers to Bible Doctrine Resident in the Soul; the Four Categories of Positive & Negative Volition

42. The devil's world will consistently confront the believer with opportunities to utilize the assets of his panoply. The procedure of managing these attacks is found in the grammatical principle noted here: you must put on the panoply before you can stand fast.
43. The first item of the panoply that Paul recommends is not actually stated but implied by the word *perizōnumi*: "to wrap around."
44. The item of the panoply that the Roman soldier wrapped around himself was called the *balteus* or belt. This element of military dress was what identified a person as a member of the Roman military:

Such belts identified a man as a soldier; Juvenal characterized soldiers as 'armed and belted men' (Satires, 16.48). The removal of the *balteus* stripped a soldier of his military identity; it was confiscated if a soldier was dishonourably discharged (Herodian, 2.13.10).

45. With the *balteus* as the initially mentioned piece of the panoply, Paul is orienting the believer to the concept of warfare. Having believed in Christ, he is now a Christian warrior who must prepare his soul to do battle in the scrum of the angelic conflict.
46. The belt was secured at the waist and was additionally supported by a leather strap that looped across the chest and over the shoulder.
47. The bottom of the breastplate was secured to it. The scabbard for the sword was suspended from it and loops were provided to secure ropes and rations.
48. From the front of the belt, leather strips hung down to protect the soldier's lower abdomen and groin.
49. The belt was the basic article of the soldier's panoply. Paul regarded Bible doctrine as the basic article necessary to protect the believer's soul. Therefore, he referred to the *balteus* as the "belt of truth."
50. The word for truth is the instrumental of means of the noun **ἀλήθεια** (**alētheia**): Bible doctrine. The believer is able to stand fast by means of doctrine.
51. There is no definite article preceding the word for truth. This indicates the high quality of doctrine in the soul and its importance to the believer.
52. To be an effective combatant in service to the Lord, the believer must fulfill the four areas of positive volition associated with spiritual growth: **(1)** salvation, **(2)** attend Bible class and concentrate, **(3)** accept the teaching as truth, and **(4)** apply what is learned to life and circumstances.
53. Regardless of the distractions, the believer must expose himself to the teachings of the Word of God on a daily basis.
54. The end result is attainment of the sophisticated spiritual life.

Ephesians 6:14 - Stand fast therefore, having buckled around your waist the belt of biblical truth in the soul ...