

## **The Breastplate of Righteousness**

We need to know the enemy is Satan and all the evil in our world...We need to know the power from the Lord and from his mighty strength...We need to know the equipment God has provided for battle.

### **Review... The Belt of Truth**

Roman soldier wore a wide belt. the belt was essential because it had two vital purposes: (1) the belt held the rest of the armor in place and supported the sword), (2) the belt acted as a girdle which collected together the soldier's long under-garments about the waist. This provided needed extra support and additional strength in the time of battle.

We need to put on a daily basis, the Belt of Truth, who is Jesus Christ, and we need Him to be wrapped around us like a belt which will allow Him to hold everything together in your life!

Last week we learned that we are called to be strong in the Lord. We are to receive our strength for the battle from the Lord. If we receive our strength from the Lord, then why do we need to be dressed and prepared to do battle? In verse 11 last week we were told we are to put on the full armor of God so that we could stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

### **THE DANGERS WE FACE**

Consider the Christian soldier's breastplate of righteousness from the standpoint of the dangers we face. We are not fighting spears and swords; we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Eph. 6:14 Paul commands us to "stand...put on the breastplate of righteousness." A breastplate is simply a piece of armour designed to cover the chest, and thus protect that part of the body from the thrust of the spear and sword. If the soldier has on his breastplate he can fight with greater courage because he knows he has a measure of protection.

**THE DEFENCE WE NEED IS THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD ...**

## The Breastplate of Righteousness



The breastplate of the Roman soldier was typically made of bronze or iron, backed with leather, but some of the more affluent officers wore a coat of chain mail. The leather backing would attach to the belt to keep it in place. That's why, as we discovered last week, that the belt was actually the first piece of armor the soldier would put on and why we need to begin by putting on the belt of truth. Truth holds everything together. The breastplate covered the soldier's vital organs, including his heart and his bowels, in much the same way that many policemen use a bulletproof vest to protect those same vital organs today.

### Be Equipped to Fight the Battle

II Cor 10:3—4 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”

### Righteousness Imputed...Free...Way



Jesus Righteousness put into our account!

### Many Choices off the freeway



2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### Like you making a deposit in my banking account

### **This is called Positional righteousness or Imputed Righteousness**

Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.

When you ask Jesus to be your Savior from sin He moved into your heart and life now when God looks upon you He see His Sons righteousness in you and that is why you are accepted of the Father!

### **Sometime we choose to exit Gods path of Righteousness**



**We exit the path of  
Righteousness**

**Proverbs 3:5—6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.**

**But the Free Way is still there for us to return to. Jesus said: I am the way the truth and life.**

**I John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

### **God's call is for us to return to His path of Righteousness**



**We exited off the Free Way and circled around and came back on to the Free Way that is called repentance and confession.**

**I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness!**

**God will never put this sign up to stop you from returning to the Free Way.**



**Matthew 11:28 Jesus said,  
“Come to me, all of you  
who are weary and carry  
heavy burdens, and I will  
give you rest.**

**We need to understand what “Righteousness” means “It is to be in a Right relationship with GOD... It is to be in a Right Standing with GOD... It is to be simply ‘meeting God’s requirements... It is to be gaining God’s stamp of approval..**

#### **Old Testament Illustration**

**Zechariah 3:1—8 Then he showed me Joshua, the chief priest, standing in front of the Messenger of the LORD. Satan the Accuser was standing at Joshua’s right side to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, “I, the LORD, silence you, Satan! I, the LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, silence you! Isn’t this man like a burning log snatched from a fire?” Joshua was wearing filthy clothes and was standing in front of the Messenger. The Messenger said to those who were standing in front of him, “Remove Joshua’s filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken your sin away from you, and I will dress you in fine clothing.” So I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” They put a clean turban on his head and dressed him while the Messenger of the LORD was standing there...Isaiah 64:6 We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.**

**This was Positional righteousness or Imputed Righteousness all that God did for the priest Joshua!**

**In our passage from Zechariah, we find that although Joshua was unable to remove his own filthy clothes in order to stand firm against Satan’s accusations, God did it for Him. God not only took away his sin, but he also clothed Joshua with rich garments. Joshua didn’t deserve that or earn that in any way. It was completely an act of grace on God’s part. And then it was God, not Joshua, who rebuked Satan for his accusations.**

**Now we need to look at that which is called Practical righteousness...That is the daily Practice of our life.**

**Zechariah 3:6—8** The Messenger of the LORD advised Joshua, “This is what the LORD of Armies says: If you live according to my ways and follow my requirements, you will govern my temple and watch over my courtyards. Then I will give you free access to walk among those standing here. “Listen, Chief Priest Joshua and your friends sitting with you. These men are a sign of things to come: I’m going to bring my servant, the **Branch...Is Jesus**

**Because of what God has done for Joshua now God wants Practical righteousness...That is the daily Practice of Joshua’s life.**

After God removes Joshua’s filthy clothes, replaces them with rich garments and rebukes Satan, we might expect that would be the end of the story. But before He dismisses Joshua, God gives him this command: ‘If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.’ The command to walk in God’s ways and keep His requirements is what I have described as practical righteousness. Although God had already provided Joshua with his imputed, positional righteousness, there was one more thing that Joshua needed to do. He needed to apply that righteousness in his everyday life. Once we are clothed with the righteousness of Jesus, it puts us in a privileged position that requires us to practice righteousness in every area of our life. We also have a responsibility to impart that righteousness to others in all of our relationships.

**CONCLUSION**...There are many who are trying to fight the enemy without ALL the armor that God has provided for us to use in the battle and we are either engaged, AWOL or siding with the enemy.

**WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO STAND FAST IN THE FACE OF THE OPPOSITION FROM THE EVIL ONE WITH THE ARMOR OF GOD.**

This requires the wearing of the breastplate...Put it on the Deliberately...Put it on Daily and remember it is **Dependable**

Proverbs 4:23 tells us: "Above all else guard your heart; for out of it are the issues of life"

1 John 3:21 "Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God."

**Questions & Comments**