

Series "Our Riches In Christ"
"The Breastplate"
Ephesians 6:14
Study-27

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, The righteousness of Christ!
God's credited righteousness, and the believer's practical righteousness!

In our passage, Paul lets us know that being in Christ is essential to being able to experience victory in spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 2:1-3 says, that the world, Satan, and our flesh

Satan is the leader of this demonic army of wickedness - Ephesians 6:12
he is called the "**Devil**"

Devil is a created being - Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28

Devil is not omniscient (all knowing) Devil is not omnipresent

Devil is powerful - Ephesians 6:12

Devil is wicked - Ephesians 6:12

Devil has many schemes - Ephesians 6:11 will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:10-11

There are **7 pieces of armor** provided for us by God. They have a specific order.

1. (Belt) having girded your loins with truth, speaking about "**Integrity**." It is **not whether we have the truth, but does the truth have us?**

Thought Of The Passage: Spiritual Attacks Are Deflected From The Believer Who Is Living Out Practical Holiness In Christ:

1. The Breastplate:

2. The Breastplate Of Righteousness:

3. The Breastplate's Importance:

1. The Breastplate:

Ephesians 6:14 The Breastplate: (Pictures) What is the Breastplate?
It was a tough, sleeveless piece of armor (vest) that covered the area from the neck to the waist. It was made of heavy linen or leather. Sewn onto it,

were overlapping slices of animal hooves or horns or metal. Sometimes it was chain. Some were made of sheets of metal that had been beaten to mold around the body.

It was attached to the girdle or belt. (Truth and Righteousness go together)

The purpose was to protect the vital organs of the body, the lungs, intestines, liver, kidney and heart. It was to protect from a "Short Sword" that was used to pierce the vital organs

In ancient Jewish thinking the heart represented the mind and will.

Proverbs 4:23

**Satan is over this sinful world system: System of temptations and philosophies that run counter to the Word and will of God.
(The mind)**

Satan attempts to get the believer to respond out of emotions rather than the truth: (Feelings over Truth) James 1:2

Satan is called the "**Devil**" (35 times) - false accuser (2 times) - slanderer (1 time) slanderous, accusing falsely

2. The Breastplate Of Righteousness:

Ephesians 6:14 RIGHTEOUSNESS – 92 times in the NT. used **30 times** in the book of Romans which theme is our Salvation; Our justification or righteousness in Jesus Christ.

RIGHTEOUSNESS - *"the state of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God, a worth before God. A sense of acceptance before God is given to you"*

Now the Bible speaks of "**Righteousness**" in **3 Ways:**

1. Self-Righteousness – (Fake Righteousness)

- 1. We are a self-made weapon for Satan.** We will lead people to man instead of God.
- 2. Smother out spiritual life with God. 2 Timothy 3:5**
- 3. Stifle our service.** (It is not of joy; it is not of the heart.)
- 4. Keep out of the power of fellowship with Jesus Christ.**
(We set up our own standards, it is one sided.)

5. Keeps an UN-believer out of heaven. Matthew 5:20

Isaiah 64:6 Self-righteousness is really "sin" it is the sin of pride.

- 2. Imputed Righteousness** - *(It is also called Justification, Positional Righteousness)* This is the righteousness that God credits on our accounts the moment that we place our our faith in Jesus Christ.

Justification – *"is the act of God whereby He declares the believing sinner righteous in Christ on the basis of the finished work of Christ on the cross"*

Romans 3:19-25 Speaks of Imputed Righteousness.

- 3. Practical Righteousness** - *(It is also called Sanctification, or Imparted Righteous, Holy Living)*

Philippians 3:9, 12-14

Romans 6:12-18

let your life be practically what I have already made it positionally.

3. The Breastplate's Importance:

Why is it important to put on God's "Breastplate of Righteousness"?
Imputed, and imparted righteousness? **(7 Reasons)**

- 1. The Breastplate Provides Protection From The Devil's Attempts To Divide Believers:**
- 2. Without The Protection Of The Breastplate Of Righteousness We Can Give The Devil An Opportunity: Ephesians 4:24-27**
- 3. Without The Protection Of The Breastplate Of Righteousness We Can Forfeit Our Joy: 1 John 1:4; Psalm 51:12**
- 4. Without The Protection Of The Breastplate Of Righteousness We Become Fruitless: John 15:4**
- 5. Without The Protection Of The Breastplate Of Righteousness We Suffer Loss Of Rewards: 1 Corinthians 3:12-15**

6. Without The Protection Of The Breastplate Of Righteousness We Can Bring A Reproach On Jesus Christ: Ephesians 5:3

7. The Breastplate Of Righteousness Protects Us From Accusations:
(3 types of accusations)

There are 3 basic types of accusations that he will use.

1. Accusations By Way Of Circumstances - The devil will speak into our hearts that we are being punished for our past sins.

2. Accusations By Others - Most godly individuals were falsely accused.
Moses; David; Nehemiah; Paul; Jesus

3. Self-Accusations - Romans 8:1

Application:

1. Satan Attempts To Get The Believer To Respond Out Of Emotions Rather Than The Truth. (Feelings Over Truth) God Wants Us To Respond With Our Minds, Not Our Emotions.
2. The Breastplate Of Righteousness Speaks Of The Imputed Righteousness - (Justification, Positional Righteousness) Practical Righteousness - (Sanctification, or Holy Living).
3. The Breastplate Gives Protection Against Divisions With Others. From Becoming Easy Targets. Protection From Forfeiting Joy, And Fruitfulness. Without Practical Righteousness, We Can Bring A Reproach On Jesus Christ. The Breastplate Of Righteousness Protects Against Accusations.