

Put on the Armor of God

The Breastplate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6:13-17

We must not have gaps in our armor - the full armor of God.

Review - Our Mandate - **Be strong in the Lord and the strength of His might**

-Our Method - **Put on the full armor of God**

-Our Motivation - **Our struggle is not against flesh and blood**

1. Believers Stand Firm by Putting on the Belt of Truth

through knowing the content of truth as revealed in Scripture
through living a life of honesty and integrity \ this is the belt
through being fully committed to God / of Truth

The Breastplate of Righteousness

Roman Soldier

What - a breastplate made of bronze or chain mail.

Why - it provided protection for the torso, which contains vital organs like the heart, lung and bowels
It protected especially from unexpected or overwhelming attacks of the enemy

The Soldier of God

What - Righteousness

Why - to protect the vital organs of a believer
Heart is used in the Bible for our mind or will
Bowels are often seen as our emotions or feelings
Both are protected by our faith in Christ

I. What is Righteousness?

A. The Bible definition would be "the state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition that is acceptable to God" used 300+ times
It is as Truth also an attribute of God - Righteous in all He does.

Psalm 119:137 Righteous are You, O LORD, And upright are Your judgments.

Psalm 145:17 Psalm 71:19

B. What Christ taught

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Matthew 5:6

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:20 How?

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33 It must be God's!

C. What is taught in the Word?

1. It is not our righteousness

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. Isaiah 64:6

God gives us a beautiful picture in **Zechariah 3:1-7**

The High Priest Jeshua - take off his filthy clothes - give him rich robes instead

2. It is the righteousness of Christ

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 also Romans 3:21-22

3. Christ righteousness produces the fruit of righteous acts

Christ speaks of deeds of righteousness **Matthew 6:1**

In brief, Christ's righteousness is a transformative righteousness in that it effectively changes those who have been declared righteous by God.

II. How do we put on this armor?

A. We need to put it on because

1. Carelessness and unbelief can slip in
2. We are to show His power in our fallen lives.

B. The "How" we can see in Abraham **Read Romans 4:13, 17-22**

1. He believed the promise of God.
2. He trusted God's Word over the world's condition
3. He by faith obeyed God and followed Him

C. What does it look like in our lives?

1. It looks like faith and love

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 1 Thessalonians 5:8

"Faith" as the motive within, and "love" exhibited in outward acts

2. It looks like consistency and tenacity

If I tell a righteous person that they will surely live, but then they trust in their righteousness and do evil, none of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered; they will die for the evil they have done. Ezekiel 33:13

We begin by faith in Christ and we continue by faith in Christ

Faith in my righteousness will bring disaster.

What should we do?

Be renewed again and again in Him

Begin each day by acknowledging it is His righteousness

Give thanks each evening that Christ has protected you

Praise and proclaim His righteousness every chance you have.