

## ***The Breastplate of Righteousness***

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### ***Ephesians 6:10-14***

*“...having put on the breastplate of righteousness...”*

#### **Christians are at war with our adversary the devil!**

*Revelation 12:17 “Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.”*

📖 Exodus 15:1-3 *“The Lord is a man of war, the Lord is His name!”*(verse 3)

*Isaiah 59:17 “...[The Lord] put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head;...”*

#### ❖ Christians must understand the importance of the armor of God!

*Roman Soldier:* The breastplate is the central part of the soldier’s armor. It protected his thorax, which is the area between the neck and the abdomen, and was necessary during close combat. The thorax cavity includes the heart, lungs, bronchi, and esophagus and other vital organs – it is the area that is needed to sustain life!

*Christian Soldier:* The Breastplate of Righteousness is a central part of the Christian soldier’s armor.

It is important to understand that there are two aspects of righteousness:

*Right Standing and Right Living:*

- Right Standing is fixed by God in Christ.
- Right Living is carried out by Christians.

#### **I. The Breastplate of Righteousness is our right standing before God!**

*2 Corinthians 5:21 “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

*“Not only did God impute our sin to Christ, He also imputed Christ’s perfect righteousness to us (that is, He counted it as belonging to us).”<sup>1</sup>*

*Jeremiah 23:6 “In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”*

*Philippians 3:8-9 “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—”*

#### ❖ Right Standing cannot be achieved by our good behavior!

📖 Romans 10:1-4

*Isaiah 64:6 “We have all become like one who is unclean, **and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.** We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”*

*Romans 5:17 “For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and **the free gift of righteousness** reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.”*

❖ Why is it important to know that our right standing before God is established in Christ?

☞ Satan is the accuser of our brothers!

*Revelation 12:10* “And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.’”

➤ Satan means adversary.

➤ Devil, one of the names of Satan, means slanderer or accuser.

... it is relentless accusation!

❖ The victory that we stand in is that there is no condemnation in Christ before God!

📖 Romans 8:1-4

📖 Zechariah 3:1-7

## II. Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness is Right Living before God

*1 Peter 2:24* “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.”

📖 1 John 3:4-10

*1 Timothy 6:11* “But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.”

*Hosea 14:9* “Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.”

❖ As we learn the ways of God, through the knowledge of His Word, we can then live in a way that is right before God!

*Psalms 119:4-7* “You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules.”

*Ephesians 5:9* “...for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true...”

❖ What can Christians do if we fail to walk in God’s ways?

➤ Confession of sin!

*1 John 1:9* “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

❖ Beware of self-righteousness.

📖 Luke 18:10-14

*Psalm 37:39-40*

*The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;*

*He is their stronghold in the time of trouble.*

*The Lord helps them and delivers them;*

*He delivers them from the wicked and saves them,*

*because they take refuge in Him.*

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

♦ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.