

Dan21 - **The Spiritual Battle – Pt 7 – Eph 6:14**
The Armor – God’s Righteousness

When you **go** into **military training** (boot **camp**)
at **some point** you are **given** Your WEAPON

& **when** it is **issued** to you – that **weapon** becomes **PART** of **YOU**
You **LIVE** with it - **Day in/Day Out** – You Don’t **MOVE** without it

You **SLEEP** with it – You go to the **BATHROOM** with it -
That **weapon** becomes an **EXTENSION** of who you are

& if your **Superiors** ever catch you **without** your **weapon**
they **make sure** you are **SORRY**

& **the reason** our **military** does that –
is **so** at the **moment** you **need to Use** that Weapon

it **has become** like an **extension** of your **OWN BODY**
& you **can use it** almost **without thinking**

THAT is The **LEVEL** to which
The Weapons of our **Spiritual Battle** - Must **GET**

The Weapons of our **Spiritual Battle** must become **SUCH** a **PART** of
our **everyday** Life – that we **begin** using them **WITHOUT Thinking**

Unfortunately - This is **NOT the case** – in **MOST Christian’s** lives

Which is **WHY** we **see** so **many Christians** getting **so easily**
TAKEN OUT over & over again **by the Enemy**

My Prayer – is that we would **STOP**
being **Sitting Ducks** for our **Spiritual Enemy**

& the **ONLY WAY** we are **going** to **do that** - is to **make**
The **Spiritual ARMOR** an **EXTENSION of our LIVES**

To **LIVE in it** – **Day In/Day Out** – To **SLEEP** in it – To **THINK** with it
To Make **CHOICES** with it – To **WALK** in it

THAT – is my **Prayer** for **this series**

& **to that END - today** we look at the **2nd Foundational Article** of the
Spiritual Armor . . . The BODY ARMOR of God's Righteousness

Lets Pray

The **Greatest Gift** ever **given** for all **Eternity** –
was **given** to you the **moment** you were **SAVED**

The moment you **truly** put your **faith** in **Jesus Christ**
to **be** your **Savior & Lord**

God **FORGAVE** your sin -
& He **ADOPTED** you as his **Permanent son** or **daughter**

& **Immediately** there was **RESERVED** for you – An **Eternal Inheritance**
in **Heaven** – in the **Permanent Presence of God**

But **in order** for that to **happen**
God had to do **MORE** than **FORGIVE** your sin

He **had** to **Give** you a **Level** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** –
that **Could STAND** in His **PRESENCE** for **ETERNITY**

& the **ONLY level** of **Righteousness** that could **DO THAT**
Was God's **OWN Righteousness**

Which **means** – all those **people** who say *“I’m a pretty good person, I think God will accept me”*

DON’T Really Understand the 100% PERFECT Righteousness Required – to enter **God’s Presence**

& so – **IF** you are **SAVED** today – **God** has **given** you **HIS OWN** Righteousness – **thru Faith** in **Jesus Christ**

In **one** of the **Greatest Explanations** of **Salvation** in the **Bible**

2 Corinthians 5:21 says (ESV)

21 For our sake [God] made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him (Jesus) we might become the righteousness of God.

This was the **GREAT EXCHANGE** – **Jesus** Christ **TOOK** Our **Sin** – & **GAVE** Us **HIS Righteousness** – In **Exchange**

& **THAT** is why you **can Never Say**
“I try to be a good person, I think God will accept me”

Because to Be **Accepted** by God – You must be **CLOTHED** in **GOD’S OWN Righteousness** – which you **Can’t GET** on your **OWN**

Now – **THAT Righteousness** –
is called **POSITIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS**

POSITIONAL Righteousness means:

*To be **MADE RIGHT** before God,
To be in **RIGHT STANDING** before God*

That is the **RIGHTEOUSNESS REQUIRED**
to **come** into **God’s Presence** when this **life is over**

& **We believe** (firmly) that **ONCE** you are **TRULY SAVED**
You are **PERMANENTLY SAVED**

Which Means Satan **Cannot TAKE AWAY** your **Salvation**
(which is your **POSITIONAL Righteousness** before God)

But he **CAN** certainly **DESTROY your life** here on **earth**
AND – he can **get you** to **DESTROY** the **lives** of others

We've **seen it happen** to so many **Christians**
that it **sometimes feels overwhelming**

Again – Our **POSITIONAL Righteousness** gets us to **HEAVEN**
& **Satan CANNOT** take **THAT** away

But the “Working Out” (Fruit) of your Positional Righteousness is

- 1) **PRACTICAL Righteousness** (*How you Live*)
- 2) **RELATIONAL Righteousness** (*Right Relationship with God*)

How you **LIVE** (*Practical Righteousness*)
& your **Right Relationship** with God (*Relational Righteousness*) . . .

These are The **Areas of Righteousness** - **Where** your
Spiritual **Enemy** will **ATTACK**, & **ATTACK**, & **ATTACK**

& he will **DESTROY Your Life** – *In this Area* - **If you let him**

He **may not** be able to **STOP** you from **Going to Heaven**

But he can **DESTROY** your life here – & **USE YOU**
to **try** to **DESTROY** the **Lives** of **those around you**

THAT is why the **2nd foundational article** of **ARMOR**
is **The BODY ARMOR of God's Righteousness**

Because **PUTTING ON**

- 1) **PRACTICAL Righteousness** (*How you Live*)
- 2) **RELATIONAL Righteousness** (*Right Relationship with God*)

Is **what** is going to **PROTECT** the **Vital Organs** of your **life**
from the **DESTRUCTION of the ENEMY**

Is That **SUFFICIENT MOTIVATION** ?

Then **let's read** today's **Verse** - In Fact – **Let's See**
ALL 3 of the **Foundational Articles** of The **ARMOR**

Ephesians 6:14–15 (NLT)

14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and [putting on] the body armor of God's righteousness.

15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News (all of that) so that you will be fully prepared.

I Love the **NLT's** translation – **because** it makes it **clear** –
ALL THREE of these **ARTICLES** are for **your PREPARATION**

so that you will be fully prepared

So that you will be **fully prepared** – **FOR WHAT ?**

So that you'll be fully prepared

when the **enemy slides** in **like the Snake** he is
to **try** to bring **DESTRUCTION into your life**

So today – We'll talk about

- 1) **What** it **MEANS** to **STAND FIRM** in **God's RIGHTEOUSNESS**
- 2) **HOW** we can begin **TO DO THAT** right away

Again – in **THIS AREA** of the **Spiritual Battle** . . .

Your Enemy is **NOT AIMING** at Our **Positional Righteousness**
He's **already LOST** that Battle

He's Aiming at

Our **PRACTICAL Righteousness** (How We live)

Our **RELATIONAL Righteousness** (Right Relationship w/ God)

Because THESE are the **Areas** –
where **he** can **bring** real **DESTRUCTION** into our lives

Our **PRACTICAL Righteousness**
is **us** Actually **LIVING According** to **God's Righteousness**

& I could **easily spend** the day **TALKING** about **LIVING**
According to **God's TRUE Righteousness** . . .

Including the "**SPIRITUAL UPGRADE**" in **Righteous Living**
from the **Old Testament** to the **New Testament**

But in **the CONTEXT** of the **Spiritual Battle**

I **need** to **TALK about** the fact - **that** (often) **Christians**
Try NOT to **think** too much **about** their **Practical Righteousness**

Meaning – **Are** we **LIVING** in **God's Practical Righteousness** ?
AND in – **Right Relationship** with **Him** ?

Often - We're **super happy** that **Jesus Died** in the our **place**
to **Pay** for our **Sins** & **Give** us **His Positional Righteousness**
so we can **Go** to **HEAVEN**

But that **PRACTICAL** (Day to Day)
LIVING in **God's Righteousness** . . .

It's **NOT Unusual** for a **Christian** to **NOT WANT** to
THINK Too Much **About That** – or **DO** Too Much **About That**

The **REASON** we DON'T Want to **THINK** about
Living in **God's Righteousness**

is **because** we **WANT** to **DO** what we **WANT to do**
& we **don't** Really **Want** to **CHANGE** what we **WANT to do**
because that's what we want to do

& **What** I need you to **HEAR Today** is

The Christian who is **living like** that
is **sending** out **Personal Invitations** to the **Demonic Realm**
to start **shipping DESTRUCTION** to their **DOORSTEP**

& – (*even worse*) **when** you **Choose** to **HOLD ON TO** (or **HIDE**) **SIN**
OVER Putting on The **Body Armor** of **God's Righteousness**

You are **not only inviting** in
whatever Demon is **knocking** at **your door**

You're **also sending** out **invitations** for all his **little Demon friends**
to **come set up camp** in **your life**

Because **SIN** – **BEGETS SIN**
SIN – **Draws in** – **MORE SIN**

TONY EVANS **explains** it with **the picture** of
old trash and **rotting food** left **stacked up** in your **kitchen**

you leave that **old rotten stuff** laying **around**
& **pretty soon** you're **going** to have a **ROACH RAVE**

Man **those roaches** are **gonna come** from **miles**
to **camp out together** in your **rotten, stinky kitchen**

& it's the same with the Christian

Who's **HOLDING ON TO** (or **HIDING**) **SIN**
Instead of **Putting On** the **Body Armor** of **God's Righteousness**

HOLDING ON to that **rotten, stinking sin** –
is **going** to **KEEP INVITING** additional **layers of sin** into **your life**

& you're **going** to **end up** with **LAYERS of SIN** in your life

Because **SIN** – **BEGETS SIN**
SIN – **Draws in** – **MORE SIN**

& The **Enemy's Plan** – is for **you** to **CONTINUE ADDING**
Those **LAYERS of SIN** - **until** your **life** is **DESTROYED**
Along with the **lives** of **those around you**

We have **GOT** to **DEAL** with the **ROACH RAVES** in our lives

It **STARTS** by **cleaning out** that **OLD Rotten SIN** that You've
been **Holding On To** like **Last Months Rotten Banana's**

& **then** it **Continues**

By us **Constantly cleaning sin OUT** of our **lives**

So that we **don't** have the **SIN BUILD UP** – that draws **MORE SIN**
Like **Rotting Food** Drawing **Roaches**

CLEANING OUT - Old **Rotten Sin**

Then **CONTINUING TO CLEAN OUT** - **Ongoing Sin**

is **HOW** you **PUT ON** The **BODY ARMOR** of God's **Righteousness**

[repeat]

THAT'S how you **PUT ON God's Righteousness**

& **THAT'S** How you **KEEP IT ON**

AND I'm **NOT talking** about how **SOME People Clean House**

By Sweeping that **Rotting Trash Under** the **RUG**

Then **covering it up** with **Room DEODORIZERS**

"Is that rotting trash I smell? – Oh no, that's just these little Christmas Tree Deodorizers I have hanging all over my life – don't I smell good? – NO, actually you don't"

You need a **REAL - HONEST House Cleaning** – in **order** to

PUT ON the **BODY ARMOR** of **God's Righteousness**

& **then** you **need** to **begin to LIVE** in **God's Righteousness** – in order to **STAND FIRM** against the **constant schemes** of the **enemy**

So - **CLEANING OUT** – **OLD Rotten Sin** - & **Keeping it OUT**
Always **Starts** with **CONFESSION** - & **REPENTANCE**

Not **just ONCE** – to get your **TICKET PUNCHED** to go to **heaven**
- But an **actual LIFESTYLE** of **Confession & Repentance**

1 John 1:9 (ESV)

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we're going to **PUT ON** the **Armor of God's Righteousness**
We're **going** to **have** to be **cleansed** of **UN-RIGHTEOUSNESS**

& **Praise God** - the **Sacrifice** of **Jesus Christ**
was **NOT** a **ONE-TIME ONLY** **Cleansing** of **UNRIGHTEOUSNESS**

But **because** of what **Jesus Christ** has **done** for us . . .

Hebrews 4:16 says (ESV)

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus has **DONE** the **WORK** –
& **God HAS** the **Body Armor** of **His Righteousness** **READY**

BUT FIRST – We have **GOT** to **Clean Out** the **ROACH FEST**
that **we've been HIDING** in our **Lives**

& **THEN** – We've **GOT** to Learn to **Keep SHORT Accounts**
with **God** – when it **comes** to **SIN** in **our Lives**

Which means we've got to **begin to LIVE** in a **Place** with **God**
where we are **constantly praying** what **King David Prayed** in . . .

Psalm 139:23–24 (NLT)

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

**Then we have GOT to Actually MEAN that prayer
It CAN'T BE just a quote from a Famous PSALM**

We've GOT to be in a Relationship with God
where we TRULY ASK God to DO THIS

**Then We have to have the COURAGE to RESPOND Correctly
when he DOES Point Out UNRIGHTEOUSNESS in our lives**

Far TOO OFTEN what we Honestly See in our lives
Rationalization – Justification – Avoidance – & Denial

& then it often takes a Radically PAINFUL Crisis
for us to Begin to TAKE GOD at His Word

**DON'T DO THAT – Don't Live that LIE of Hiding SIN
Until Sin has DESTROYED a part of your life**

& THEN finally get the courage to start being Honest with God

**Have the courage to be Honest with God - NOW
& Start DOING Something about it – NOW**

<u>HONESTY</u> Comes in <u>CONFESSION</u> <u>REPENTANCE</u> Comes in <u>DOING SOMETHING</u> about it

**REPENTANCE Means TURNING AWAY From your Sin
Casting it OFF – & Turning TOWARD God**

Write down COL Ch 3 - & really meditate on it later

But **Let me Summarize** The **1st 10 Vs's** here

Colossians 3:1-10 (NLT)

1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven . . .

3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God . . .

5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you . . .

7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world.

8 But now is the time to get rid of [all these sins]

10 (instead) Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

PUT TO DEATH – The Unrighteousness

that **you've** been **Trying to Hide** or **IGNORE** in your life

& **PUT ON** (in its place) the **Body Armor of God's Righteousness**

and You WILL BE renewed - as you learn to know your Creator and become like him

I'll **show you** a **LITTLE BIT** – **HOW** to **do that** in a **Minute**

But **I've got** to **speak Briefly** about **RELATIONAL Righteousness**

Then we'll **Do** a **LITTLE "Practical work"** - & close

RELATIONAL Righteousness

is **Maintaining** a "**Right Relationship**" with **God**

& at **some point** – This **SHOULD** become your **Most Motivating Factor** - For **putting on** the **Body Armor of Righteousness**

At it's very **CORE** – **SIN** is **REBELLION** against **God**

& so **Sin** – **SEPARATES** us **FROM** God
More Specifically – **From** a **Right Relationship** with **God**

& **Believe me** - the **More** you **Experience**
a **RIGHT Relationship** with **God**

The More BEING in a **Right Relationship** with God
will be **PARAMOUNT** in **your life**

AND – The More **Being** in a **Right Relationship** with **God**
will be **Powerful ARMOR** in your **Spiritual Battle**

YOU may **not** be **Fully AWARE** of this
But **your ENEMY** is **COMPLETELY Aware** of it

& his **Primary ATTACK** to get you **OUT** of a **Right Relationship**
with God – is to **get** you **IN TO to SIN**

& **So** - **Confessing our Sin** & **Receiving forgiveness** from God

Keeps our **Practical Righteousness in place**
& **restores** our **Relational Righteousness**
by bringing us back into alignment with God

This is an **incredibly powerful** (& critical) **part** of the **Christian life**

We don't really **have time** to **properly develop** this
But let me **give** you a **few scriptures** that POINT to this

These are **ALL** references to **Being** (*or NOT being*)
in a **RIGHT Relationship** with **God**

**These are Vs's about Sin that YOU hold on to
BREAKING your Right Relationship with God**

Matthew 7:2 (NLT)

2 For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

NOT referring to your Salvation

But **Referring to your Ongoing Relationship with God**

Matthew 6:15 (NLT)

15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Again – A Warning about UNFORGIVENESS

Breaking your Relationship with God - (Mat 18:35 says the same)

James 2:13 (NLT)

13 There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others . . .

Again – the Sin of Mistreating others

Directly IMPACTS your own Relationship with God

Those are Strong Warnings

& I'm sorry I can't Dive into them more

But **just KNOW** – there is a **KEY Part of Our Righteousness**

that is a **RIGHT Relationship with God**

& the **Closer you walk with God**

the **More Important THIS Righteousness will become**

So – **HOW do we CLOSE ??**

With **just** a **Minute** of “**Practical Instruction**”

Last week - We **introduced** the **Foundation Vs**
for **ALL Change** in the **Christian’s Life**

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

This is **SO CRITICAL** –

For **Putting on** the **Body Armor** of **God’s Righteousness**

& **poss** the **BEST Ch** in the Bible – For **CHANGING the Way**
you **THINK** in **this area** – is **PSALM 51**

You **Can turn there** – or you can **watch the screen**

But **as I Read it** – **Honestly THINK** about the **SIN in your life**
& **about** your **RIGHT Relationship** with God

& **Make a Commitment** today – to **CHANGE the WAY**
you **THINK** in **this area** – **Allowing** God to **TRANSFORM YOU**

Psalms 51 (NLT)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love.

Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.

2 Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.

3 For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. (notice sin is rebellion)

4 Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.

5 For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

6 But you desire honesty from the womb (or the heart), teaching me wisdom even there.

7 Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me— now let me rejoice.

9 Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

11 Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

13 Then I will teach your ways to rebels (other sinners), and they will return to you.

14 Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.

15 Unseal my lips (from my sin), O Lord, that my mouth may praise you.

16 You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering.

17 The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

Let's Pray