

The Armour of God (The Breastplate of Righteousness)

Ephesians 6:14

Pastor Jeremy Cagle, May 16, 2021

Before we get started in our sermon time this morning, I just want to remind you that we're having a special treat next week, we're having a special guest join us and that is George Crawford from Grace Advance. George Crawford from Los Angeles will be here with us, or he'll be on the screen up here. We have been blessed with several visitors lately. You may not be aware of this, but our church began with an organization called Grace Advance. It's the church planting arm of Grace Community Church in Los Angeles, John MacArthur's ministry there. And they've done a lot to help us throughout the years, along with several churches throughout Canada. I mentioned this just briefly last week, but Grace Advance has been involved in planting several churches in this country in the recent years. One is called Northern Grace Bible Church in Prespatou BC, I asked a couple of you guys if you knew where that is, I haven't found anybody who knows that location yet. But it's 13 hours north of here, just above Prince George, they're so new, they don't have a pastor yet. So if you'd be praying for them, they're in a little town of about 300 people, and they're looking for a pastor, so you can keep them in your prayers, but they were started about, I believe, two years ago, and then another one that was started before that, it was called Grace Bible Fellowship in La Crete, Alberta, just across the province line. So if you just head east a couple hours, La Crete is there. And several of us got to meet the pastor there, at the last Shepherd's Conference we went to, and hear their story and hear how they're doing and how they began there, in La Crete. And that was a very encouraging time, it was a blessing. But George was involved in all that, he had a hand in those ministries and in their beginning, and he's going to talk to us about that next week. So please join us for that if you can. I don't say this enough, but the Lord is still building His church, isn't He? God hasn't stopped doing that. You hear a lot of people saying that nowadays, you hear a lot of people saying that God is through with the nation of Canada, that's not true. God is still saving sinners here. And He's still bringing them to Christ. And we're going to hear more about that next week during the sermon at the sermon hour.

And speaking of the sermon, just to start our sermon this morning, if you would, open your Bibles to the book of Ephesians with me, if you would open your Bibles to a book that talks a lot about the Lord and His heart for sinners, His heart to save them. And that is the book of Ephesians in chapter 6. While you're turning there this morning, we're continuing our study of the final chapter of the book of Ephesians. We're continuing our study of the last one which is on the armour of God, very fascinating subject and I just want to read it to you before we get started. If you would read with me in Ephesians 6:10, Paul writes, and he says,

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our

struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;** in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION,** and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

We'll stop the reading there. Just to say a few words about that. If you've been with us for a while, you'll know that we've been in the book of Ephesians for some time now as a church, we've been in it for almost two years, it will be two years this fall, which is crazy to think about. It's kind of wild, because the time goes by so quickly, but it's important for this passage, because in verse 10, it starts off with the word 'finally'. It says, "Finally be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." In other words, this is the culmination of all we've said so far. This is the conclusion of what you've studied in the book of Ephesians. You need to be strong. You need to be bold, because the Christian life is not for sissies, it's not for wimps. All this stuff that you've studied is going to take some strength to do. Especially when you remember this, you're up against the devil. Especially when you remember who your enemy is, if you look in verse 11, it goes on and it says, "But put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."

See, now Paul tells you why you need to be strong. Now he tells you why you need to be bold in the Christian life, because you have an enemy, and his name is Satan. It would be hard enough to be a Christian if all you had to fight was yourself, right? Maybe it would be bad enough if all you had to fight was your own sin and temptation and weakness, but you don't. Paul says you have something worse than that, you have to fight the most evil creature in the world.

And just to say a few words about him, so you know what we're talking about here. The word devil here, it's the greek word 'diabolos', which means slanderer or defamer, because the idea is, that he is the one who stands in the courtroom and defames us. He's the one who stands in the courtroom and slanders us by saying, 'Look at what he did, God, look at what she did, throw them in hell!' Not only does he tempt you to sin, but he also does it in order to take your sins and throw them back in the face of God. In fact, as I've told you before, the term slanderer is just one of the many names given to him in the Bible. It's one of many titles that he has, because he has other ones. Some of these may be familiar to you, such as the accuser and the adversary, and a tempter, because he tempts us. He's been called a murderer and the serpent and Belzebug, the lord of the flies or the lord of all flying things, flying spirits, because the idea is, that he is a terrible creature. He's the worst one that there is. You know, when someone does something bad today, we say he's a what, he's a devil. That's where the idea came from. He's a demon. In

fact, the Bible says he was originally an angel. He was called Lucifer or The Morning Star, because he was so beautiful. He was so glorious, but he sinned. And as a result of that, he was thrown out of heaven, along with 1/3 of all the angels, that became demons. And they have been tormenting the world ever since. Some people have wondered when that happened, they wondered when he did that, and in all honesty, we don't really know. But we do know that in Genesis 1, when God created the world, He said, everything was good, was pure and righteous and holy. And then in Genesis 3, you see the devil, you see a serpent. And the idea is that sometime in between those chapters, this is what happened. The devil fell. He plummeted to the ground and he has been trying to drag us down with him ever since.

And the way he does it is simple. I mean, the way Satan operates is pretty straightforward. He lies. That's what he does. He tempts us with lies, twists the truth about God, he twists the truth about sin, he twists the truth about everything. In fact, in John 8:44, Jesus called him the father of lies, which means he is the one who invented it, he created the idea of lying. And he's been doing it all throughout his wretched history, because he loves to get you to doubt the Bible. That's one way he lies to you. He wants to get you to question what it says, forget what it says. He likes to get you to compromise. He wants you to look at sin and say, 'That's okay, I can do it once. It won't hurt anything.' That's from the devil. And he also likes to send you heretics. He likes to send false teachers into the church to propagate all this stuff. It's been said, if you want to find the devil, don't forget to look behind the pulpit. But he loves to do this. One of the most common images of Satan is a serpent with a forked tongue, tongue that goes in two directions, because that's how he operates, goes in two directions at once. That's what he's all about, slithering and sliding like a snake.

And Paul says that in order to stop him, you need to do this. In order to fight the devil. This is what God has given you. He's given you His armor. You don't go into the fight empty-handed. You don't go into it with nothing to help you. You have the armor of God, which is what the rest of this passage is about. And as Paul describes this, in Ephesians 6, he gives you six pieces of armor to look at, there's six items in the list. And this morning, we're coming to the second one. So this is item number two, and it's called the breastplate of righteousness. If you look in verse 13, it says, "Therefore take up the full armour of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness."

I'll say a few words about this passage in a moment, we're going to walk through what it says. But just to explain this a little bit, when Roman soldiers fought, they would often wear a piece of armour over their chest to protect it from injury. A large piece of leather under which pieces of bits of metal were sown, called the breastplate, or the thorax in Greek, from which we get the English word thorax. That's what it covered, it covered the thorax or the trunk, from your chest all the way down to your abdomen. And the significance is that it guarded you from a direct attack, it guarded you from a frontal assault. Oftentimes, in war, the attack could come in any direction. But if you're facing frontwards, this is what guarded you there. And it also protected your internal organs. It guarded the place where your heart was, which was important, as you can imagine. In fact, one ancient writer named Polybius, called this the heart protector,

or the soul protector, because the idea is that if a sword ever went through your breastplate, you were dead. That was the end of you. So it was the most important defensive weapon that you had next to your shield.

And in a similar way, Paul says here, this is the most important weapon for you as a Christian, this is the most important defensive one, you have a breastplate of righteousness. Not a breastplate of metal, or bone or leather. It's a breastplate of the 'dikaiosune' in greek, which means righteousness or the state of being right with God. As you come into the battle, you have the assurance that everything is right between you and your Creator. Which is only done in Christ. So in a sense, you could call this the breastplate of Christ because He is your righteousness as a Christian, He is your ultimate heart protector. So you guard your heart with Him. So that when the devil stands in the courtroom and swings his sword at you and says, "Look at what he did, God, look at what she did, God", you can hold Christ up to protect you from that.

We don't have breastplates today, I was trying to think of a modern equivalent of this. Soldiers don't wear these anymore. But we do have another thing that's similar to that, we have vests, bulletproof vests, kevlar vests, you guys have seen police officers wear those. And I've been told that they're a soldier's best friend, because when everything else fails, you still have this, you have a vest to protect you. Many soldiers have said their lives were saved simply by wearing that. It stopped a bullet from them, it stopped them from a knife attack. And with that in mind, Paul says this is your best friend as well. This is your greatest ally in the battle, you have a vest of righteousness. He put it on you to stop the devil. And this is so important. I mentioned this because so many Christians forget this today because they go around feeling so guilty all the time, right? You guys know what I'm talking about? They go around feeling like such a failure because they keep sinning. They keep failing. But Paul says you shouldn't do that as a Christian, you're not a failure in the eyes of God, if you've trusted in Jesus Christ. If you have Him, then you have righteousness. You're right in the eyes of God. I also mentioned this because others forget this as well, because they go around feeling so weak, they go around feeling so powerless, as if they can't do anything right. But Paul says you've done something right if you have him. He makes you right with God and He will take care of you, which is what we're talking about this week.

This week, if you're taking notes in Ephesians 6, we're going to look at three principles for the breastplate of righteousness. So that's our outline for today. That's what this is about. If you're taking notes in Ephesians 6:14, we're going to look at three principles for the breastplate of righteousness. And we're going to do this because this subject I think, is so confusing today for Christians. The idea of righteousness is so baffling to many people, because they try and try and try to work their way into heaven. They try and try and try to earn it, in order to be right with God and it never works. They always fail. Which is why they are a walking, talking ball of guilt. But the whole point of the Christian life is that you need something bigger than that, you need something in your own words to make you right with God. You need the righteousness of another, the righteousness of Christ, and that's what you have.

That's what you can wear. And we're going to talk about that with three principles to the breastplate of righteousness.

The first one is this. **This breastplate is not about performance.** So the first principle of the breastplate of righteousness is that it's not about performance, which means this is not about you and the good things that you do. This is not about you and your works and your deeds and your righteousness. When the devil attacks you, you're not supposed to hold that up to him, or hide behind that. This is about Christ. And if you read in verse 10, it says this, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armour of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything to stand firm, stand firm. Therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness."

I read all of that to you, because I want you to notice as you read that, that the word 'therefore', it's mentioned in verse 14, to point you back to all that was said before, it was mentioned to point you back to everything above it, which is all about God. If you read from verse 10, all the way down to verse 17, the one thing you notice is that the word 'God' or 'Lord' is mentioned six times in this passage, because this is all about Him. At first glance, when you read this, you might think this passage is about the devil. You might think this is about Satan, because his name pops up in there, and he's such a terrifying creature. But the hero in this story is God. And that's especially important when you come to the next piece of armor, which is the breastplate of righteousness. Because this is not about anything else, but Him. This is the righteousness that He provides you. The righteousness that He gives you. He gives you everything else in the list. He also gives you this.

Just to explain this some more. I mean, the typical Roman breastplate weighed about 10 to 20 pounds, so it was pretty lightweight, they weren't very heavy items. Because the idea was mobility, you had to move around in them. And they all look the same. Since the breast plates were made for the army, they were all made out of the same colors, the red, white and gold of Rome. So you could spot them, you could identify who was on your side in a battle. And they were shiny because the soldiers took good care of them, they were well polished. And they came with certain symbols. So if you looked at a breastplate, you would see certain items on there, such as an animal like a lion or an eagle, you might see trees, and you would also you would always see gods. Because the Romans were a polytheistic people, you would see images of Zeus or Hercules or Poseidon on their chest, they would have Mars the God of battle there. Because the idea is, that this is the one who's going to save me in the battle. This is the one who's going to keep me from dying, my god. And in a similar way, Paul uses that image here. See, this is the One who's going to save you in the battle. This is the One who's going to keep you safe. And that is the righteousness of Christ. The gods of Rome won't help you, they're not going to do you any good. Only Christ can help you in this battle. It was kind of an interesting thing. But oftentimes those gods were on

your breastplate, to say nothing's gonna go through this. Nothing's gonna go through my god. But it didn't work, because they often died in battle. Spears and swords went right through their gods. Paul says, this is not like that, you have a breastplate that nothing can get through. And that is Jesus.

Just to show you the connection here. The Bible says Jesus never sinned, it says He never committed one evil act. And so He was righteous His entire life. In fact, the Bible says that God was well pleased with Him. He was fully satisfied in His Son, to the point that when Jesus was baptized, the voice came down from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, with whom I'm well pleased. And that voice did the same thing again at the mount of transfiguration before He died. So at the bookends of His ministry at the beginning and the end of it, a voice spoke up from heaven, saying Jesus is righteous, He kept all the law. God never said that about any other man in the Bible. God never said that about any other person, but Him. Which is why His death was so unique. It was so special because it really can save you. He truly can bring you into heaven. Because God approved of Him, He accepted His Son as being righteous.

The reason, if you flip through the Old Testament, you notice the Jews kept killing animals. The reason they had to keep killing animals because it never did the job. One animal, two animals, three animals, four animals, none of that ever saved them. So God sent Jesus to fully fulfill the demands of His law. And that's what saved us. This is why the great reformer Martin Luther said this. He said, "When the devil throws your sin in your face, tell him 'Yes, I'm a sinner. But what of it? For I have one who made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ and where He is, there I will be also.'" Luther said that because when you trust in Jesus, the devil has nothing to accuse you of anymore. When you trust in Christ, the devil has nothing to throw in your face, because it's all been paid for at the cross. Which means that this is not about performance. This is not about the good things that you do.

You guys know what this is like, I think you understand this. But so many times when the devil attacks us, and when we feel guilty, what do we do? Well, we think of all our good things that we did that week, right? We think of our performance. When we sin, or we mess up, we go through a checklist in our mind and say, Okay, I sinned, but I went to church this week, check. And I read my Bible this week, check. And I sang my songs this week, check. I gave my offerings, and I prayed my prayers. And I did all this I, I, me, me, me, and we hide behind that. We put that forward as something to protect us. But the problem with that is it doesn't work. It's not enough. Because you just keep sinning, it doesn't make the devil go away. So you need something bigger, you need something greater, you need the righteousness of Christ. And this is why the issue of guilt is such a problem today. I think this is why it comes up in the lives of so many Christians, because they sin and instead of trusting in Christ, they trust in those things. They mess up and instead of turning to Him, they turn to their prayers and their tithes and their Bible reading and all that stuff that we just talked about, as if it's some kind of magic spell. As if I just do enough, it will help me get through this temptation. And that's not the way it works. You need to trust in Christ alone. All those other things are supposed to lead you to Him. They're supposed to be a bridge to draw you nearer to Him.

I remember talking to a friend of mine, several years ago, who had just given into a sin, had given into adultery in a major way. And in order to deal with that, they started listening to music. They started listening to Christian songs on the radio, which is fine, nothing wrong with that. But it didn't help them. It made it worse. And so they asked me Well, what should I do about it, I said you need to go to Christ. The songs are fine, I mean, you can do that. But that's all for nothing if you don't go to Him first. He is your breastplate of righteousness and leads to another point to consider this morning. Another principle for the breastplate of righteousness. The first one, it's not about performance. It's not about the things that you do, your works and deeds and all of that. But it brings us to another point, another principle here.

And that is, it's not about your feelings either. **Second principle for the breastplate of righteousness is that it's not about your feelings.** Which means that when the devil tempts you, your protection is not found in some kind of emotional high that you have, or some kind of experience. It's about something more than that. And if you look back in verse 13, Paul says, "Therefore take up the full armour of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything to stand firm, stand firm. Therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness." I read that because there's an important word for you to see here in this passage in verse 13, and it's the word 'resist'. Because it tells you what you're supposed to do with all this, it tells you what you're supposed to do when the devil attacks you. You need to resist him. That word is 'anthistemi' in greek. It comes from anti- against and histemi- stand. It means to stand against him, to stand up to him. There's another version of this word at the end of verse 13, where it says stand firm, and that means to stand firm in your position and hold on to it. But here it means to defend it.

And the piece of armour that was used to defend more than any other, next to the shield was your breastplate. And here's why. Because when everything else was taken away, you still had this. When you're when your sword and shield and helmet were knocked off in the battle, the one thing you had left hanging on you was your vest, your breastplate. It was strapped to your body across your shoulders, it was tied on, so it never came off. There are stories that have come down to us of the Romans fighting their enemies in hand to hand combat, and resisting them with when all they had was this piece of armour. And the stories are ugly, and they're brutal, and they're fierce, but they could fight with confidence, they could do it with boldness, knowing that this is the one thing that would never leave them in battle. Blood wouldn't knock it off, sweat wouldn't knock it off, attacks from the enemy wouldn't knock it off. And because of that, a soldier's breastplate was very important to him. It was a very special part of his armour, because many soldiers at this time would have been buried in it, they would have gone to their graves in their breastplate. And they would have hung it on the wall even after they left the army or retired, it would be kind of displayed in a prominent place, for all to see. And Paul says it's the same way with this, it's the same way with this breastplate. Because this is the one thing that'll be with you when everything else is taken away. And that is Jesus Christ.

And here's the significance of that today's, it has to do with our feelings. You probably know this, but Satan loves to wreak havoc on your feelings, doesn't he? He loves to play with your emotions. Because sin makes us feel bad, it makes us feel terrible. So in order to compensate with that, in order to use that against us, he twists it and turns it. And what some people do in response is they try to fix it by finding something to make them feel better, whatever it is, in the Christian life.

And what I mean is, you know, at our men's Bible study the other day, one of the men said that in the church he grew up in, everybody spoke in tongues. They taught that in order to be saved, you had to have some special encounter with the Holy Spirit, which made you dance around and babble in a meaningless language. But he said, at the end of the day, it was all about this, it was all about the emotions of it and the feelings. Because the band played for hours until they got everybody worked up into a frazzle. And that's when the tongue started. At the same time I spoke up, I said, the church I grew up, and everybody did altar calls. Because they taught that in order to be saved, you had to have a special encounter where you came forward to the close of a service and shook the preachers hand and so forth and so on. And it was all about the feelings. We used to joke and say, you know, if you might be Baptist, if you think the hymn 'Just as I am' has 72 verses in it. Because we keep repeating the same verse again until somebody came forward. But it was all about these emotions. And it was done in order to make you feel better. It was done in order to pacify a guilty conscience. It was done for other things as well, but that was one of the main ideas. But the problem was that it didn't work. It didn't soothe your conscience. Because each week you had to do it again. Each week, you had to repeat the process because you've sinned again and you messed up.

And what Paul is saying here is there's a way to get off that cycle. There's a way to get off of that, trying to find something to make you feel better, and that is to trust in Christ. In the spiritual battle, there will be times when Satan will make you feel so guilty that you'll wonder if you're even a Christian at all. There are times when he will make you feel so bad about something that you did, that it will make you wonder if you're saved. And in times like that, I'll promise you, something like tongues won't help you. Something like an altar call won't do you any good, because you'll need something more than that. You'll need Christ alone. You'll need something the devil can't touch. He's the only thing he can't knock off of you in the battle. Ephesians 2 says, when Jesus saved you, He seated you in the heavenlies, He seated you at the right hand of God, so that you can't be pulled down from that now. You can't be yanked down by the devil. And you need to remember that when he tempts you. You need to remember that when you're under attack, it also says that he raised you from the dead as well. He made you alive in Christ and that's something that the enemy can't touch.

Other chapters say that God made you into His workmanship and His possession and His people, He made you into His temple, and His body, and His bride. But the point is that all of that is a sure thing now. You have all of that in Christ, irregardless of how you feel. You have all of that, irregardless of your emotions. And you have to remember that. It needs to be impressed in your mind. Most soldiers that I've heard from have said that war feels terrible. It's a terrible feeling. Doesn't feel natural, gets you

all destroyed emotionally. And spiritual warfare is the same way. When you fight sin, it's the same way. But you can get through it knowing you have a breastplate of righteousness in Christ.

Which brings us to one more point to consider this morning. Just one more principle for the breastplate. The first one is that it's not about performance. Which means it's not about you, it's not about the good things that you do. And then secondly, it's not about your feelings either. second principle for the breastplate is that this is not about your emotional state, it's about something so much more than that. Something so much greater. Because you can have this whether you feel like it or not. And it brings us to one more principle to the breastplate of righteousness. And that is that this is not about wishful thinking. **A final principle for the breastplate of righteousness is that this is not about wishful thinking**, which means this is not about a guess, or a hope or a conjecture. This is a sure and a certain thing. And if you look in verse 14, it says this, it says "Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace, in addition to all taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, and take the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." I want you to notice as you look at the back part of this passage, there's three participles in here. There's three '-ing' words, that modify the word 'stand' in verse 14. Verse 14 says, stand firm, therefore. And then it says, having girded your loins, having put on the breastplate, and having shod your feet. In other words, the key verb is stand, the key message is to fight. But the good news is that you can do that, knowing that God has given you all this. You can fight knowing that you have all this armour, He's not giving it to you, He's already given it. You're not going to have it one day down the road, if you're good enough, or holy enough, you already have it. You just need to put it on. You just need to wear it.

And the way this relates to the breastplate of righteousness is that you don't have to go around wondering if you have this. You don't have to go around wondering if you are righteous in the eyes of God. If you've trusted in Christ, you already are. God has already given this to you. You just need to put it on. You just need to wear it in the battle. I mention this because as you talk to people in chilliwack, you talk to Christians around here, some of them think it's a noble thing to doubt their salvation, right? Some of them think it's an honorable thing to go around second guessing whether they're saved or not. Because they say well, I could never really know for sure. I could never know for certain, because I'm just too humble for that. I don't want to be that proud. But the problem with that is that it's like having a suit of armour at your feet and saying, 'I don't want I'm too humble to wear it. I don't want to be too proud and pick it up.' Paul says that's silly. You don't want to do that. You meet other Christians who say the same thing another way, they say well, 'I could never know for sure. If I could defeat the devil, I could never know for sure I could fight my sin and resist him. I'm just too humble for that.' But that's foolish too, that's like saying, 'I already have Christ. I'm just too humble to take advantage of Him and use Him in the battle.' Problem with that friend is that's not really humble, at the end of the day, that is proud. Because you're saying, it's all about me. It's all about me handling my sin on my own. And that's a big mistake because you can't. You need to trust in a Savior.

It's been said that humility does not keep us from accepting a gift, pride does. Humility accepts a gift and says thank you with open arms. And it's the same way with this. It's the same way with salvation, you need to receive Christ with open arms, you need to accept Him and just say thank you. That's how you defeat the devil. That's how you win the battle with sin, it's already been won. The devil's already been defeated at the cross. You just have to look to Him now and believe. And the good news is that you can do that today. This is possible because it is a gift, it's free. Which means you don't have to earn it, you don't have to work hard. First, in order to get it, you just have to believe. You just have to trust in Him. And this also means you can have this now, you can have it this very moment. You don't have to clean up your life first. You don't have to go home and be a good person and make things right. All you have to do is call on His name. And Jesus will be your breastplate of righteousness.

The story is told of the time an ancient Christian read the account of Abraham sacrificing Isaac, or taking Isaac to be sacrificed. He read the story to his wife for the first time because she'd never heard it before, because the Bible had never been translated into her language. And as she heard that story, she said, "I don't believe that, I don't think God would ever do that to his son." To which the man replied, "But honey, He already has. He's already done that to His Son at the cross." And He did it for this reason. He did it to give you His righteousness. He sacrificed His Son on the cross, so you don't have to fight the devil alone. You can do it in the strength of Christ. So friends, will you do that today? Will you put on this breastplate and take advantage of all the Lord has given you? Let me pray that you would and ask the Lord to give us grace, to apply all these things.

Heavenly Father, we thank you, Lord for what we studied this morning. And as it is, in all of this passage, everything we talked about, it seems like we're just sort of skimming the surface and just touching the edge of it. But Lord, we have a full and free salvation as Christians. And we need to remember that in the battle of sin. Lord, I pray for my friends here today, because I know that many of them do fight sin. We all fight sin throughout the week. We all live in a sinful world, in an evil world and there's so much being thrown at us on a daily basis. And yet Father, we have confidence. We can have confidence knowing that Jesus is with us, Lord thank you for such a Savior. Thank you for such a mighty Warrior on our behalf. Would we go and live in light of his freedom today and go and live in light of his victory. Lord, would you be honored, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.