



WALKING WITH JESUS

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

Last Week ...

OUR SERIES ON BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- 1. WHY BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS MATTERS.
- 2. THE IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- 3. THE PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- 4. GUARDING YOUR HEART WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GUARD OUR HEART WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS?

- I. THE PRIORITY OF GUARDING THE HEART.
- II. THE PROBLEM: The Heart without Righteousness.
- III. THE PROVISION: Righteousness From God.
- IV. THE PRACTICE. How to Guard Your Heart Daily.

CONCLUSION:

“GUARDING YOUR HEART IS NOT PASSIVE—IT IS INTENTIONAL, SPIRITUAL, AND DAILY. YOU CANNOT GUARD IT WITHOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS AND YOU CANNOT PRODUCE RIGHTEOUSNESS WITHOUT CHRIST. A GUARDED HEART IS A SURRENDERED HEART, FILLED WITH GOD’S WORD AND LED BY THE SPIRIT.”

The Full Armour of God – The Breastplate of Righteousness

Righteousness vs. Condemnation

Romans 8:1-4 Life Through the Spirit

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Zechariah 3:1-5 Clean Garments for the High Priest

3 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. ² The Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?”

³ Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. ⁴ The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.” ⁵ Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by.

Introduction

Introduction: These two groups of verses set out for us our response to the title of our message today. Righteousness is our goal and the breastplate one of our shields to be enable us to reach that goal.

Condemnation is a weapon the enemy will use against us to thwart, disengage and steer us from the righteousness we claim as a right through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ

1. The Enemy Accuses

A Past sins

B Present failures

C False identity

2. God Closes the Case

A “No condemnation”

B Clean garments

C Restored standing

3. Standing Firm Against Accusation

A Speak truth

B Refuse shame

C Walk in grace

1. The Enemy Accuses

1A - Past sins

Paul wrote to the **Galatians, 5:17** The New Living Translation renders it this way: **“The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.”**

1B. The Enemy Accuses - Present failures

The apostle Paul acknowledged this ongoing struggle with sin when he said

Romans 7:19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing.

and

Romans

7:21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

1C. The Enemy Accuses - False identity

Since God designed people to walk in intimate fellowship with Himself, our sin erects a blockade in that relationship.

Isaiah 59:1-2 Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

2. God Closes the Case. So, what are the answers to those problems?

2A “No condemnation”

Romans 8:1-4 Life Through the Spirit

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are **Christ Jesus**,² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

They **are not** condemned, they **will not** be condemned, and **they cannot** be condemned

2B Clean garments

Zechariah 3:3-5 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. ⁴ The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.”

⁵ Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by.

2C Restored standing – Staying with Zechariah 3:3-5

The fine garments symbolized the gift of God's righteousness, which He accredited to *Joshua* and the people of Judah. In doing so, He restored their lives, allowing them to minister effectively to Him again as a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation"

Romans 4:3 What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

3. Standing Firm Against Accusation

In this last section we get to investigate the applications arising from the first two groups.

Romans 8:1-2 Life Through the Spirit - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

3A Standing Firm Against Accusation - Speak truth

2 Corinthians 6:7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left

Just as darkness will always be conquered by the light, so then truth will always prevail against the lies of the enemy.

Romans 8:4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- 1. Honesty in Relationships**
- 2. Truth-Telling in Adversity**
- 3. The Power of Truth**

3A 1. Honesty in Relationships

In our lives, relationships are built on trust, and that trust hinges on honesty.

Proverbs 12:22 - “The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.”

3A 2. Truth-Telling in Adversity

Facing challenges in life is inevitable, and how we speak the truth during these times shows our character. The Bible teaches us to remain honest even when the truth may be uncomfortable or painful. Upholding truth in adversity can be tough, but it deepens our faith and resilience.

2 Corinthians 1:12 - “Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God.”

3A 3.The Power of Truth

Truth holds immense power, influencing our actions and decisions profoundly. The Bible encourages us to embrace truth in every aspect of our lives. When we choose honesty, we become beacons of light in a world full of deception. Truth fosters peace, builds trust, and brings healing. It's essential for our spiritual growth and enhances our relationship with God and others.

Psalms 25:5

“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”

3B Standing Firm Against Accusation - Refuse shame

The Devil will use our sins against us. One of things that is inbuilt into the human psyche is the sense of right and wrong.

Twisting God's Word: Satan may twist scripture to try to make it say something it doesn't or to cause doubt in your mind.

Attacking your identity: Satan may try to make you doubt your identity in Christ, causing you to question your worth and value.

Creating distractions: Satan may try to distract you from your relationship with God through busyness, entertainment, or other means.

Pray regularly: Prayer is a powerful tool in the fight against the devil. Ask God to protect you and give you strength to resist temptation, by confessing our sins to God.

Use the Armor of God: Ephesians 6:10-18 describes the “armour of God,” which includes things like truth, righteousness, faith, and salvation. Put on this armour daily to be prepared for spiritual warfare.

Stay humble: Pride can make you vulnerable to the devil’s attacks. Stay humble and open to correction from God and others.

3C Standing Firm Against Accusation - Walk in grace

Zechariah 3:3-5 3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. 4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you."

What is Grace? - Grace, in the context of religion, refers to the unmerited favour and love of God towards humanity. It is a concept that transcends various religious beliefs and is associated with divine mercy, forgiveness, and blessings. The idea of grace emphasizes the notion that individuals are granted blessings and opportunities not because they have earned them, but because of the unconditional love and compassion of God.

Embracing Grace in Daily Life

Embracing grace in daily life involves integrating the principles of divine favour, forgiveness, and compassion into our everyday experiences and interactions.

Conclusion

Key Truth: Condemnation weakens; righteousness stabilizes.

The battle - Righteousness vs. Condemnation will never end, but we can at least make these battles minor instead of major ones by not letting the enemy's accusations infect us - trusting in God's promises and by standing strong within the truth.

The Enemy Accuses – We rely on the power of God, God Closes the Case, and we apply through faith, the power of the Spirit and Stand Firm Against Accusation

Perfection is not our goal – consistency and reliability is much more important.