

Breastplate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the **whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...

We are Equipped with the Armor of God by Praying
We pray in light of Satan's attack on what each piece protects

▪ **IOWs Pray anticipating how Satan will attack...**

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| 1. Truth | No absolute truth |
| 2. Gospel | Other Ways/All religions same |
| 3. Faith | Doubt the Word |
| 4. Salvation | Question if we are saved |
| 5. Righteousness | Trust in our own righteousness/Accuse us when we fail |

When we doubt our righteous standing before God
We are rendered useless...Satan wins...That is Unacceptable.

Our Prayer: Lord let me understand that my Righteousness is found in You

▪ **2 Reasons for doubting our standing before God?**

1. **Unsaved:** There is no armor for unsaved. No godly righteousness
2. **Saved:** Believe devil's lie-Not right w/God because of what you did/are doing

▪ **Godly Righteousness Defined**

1. Right standing before God
2. Right works before God

Q. Can we know we are right with God? **A.** Yes.

• **Three types of Righteousness: 1 Worldly. 2 Godly.**

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| 1. Relative | Righteousness relative to others | |
| 2. Positional | Clothed by Jesus righteousness at conversion | Permanent |
| 3. Practical | Doing right works as led by the Holy Spirit | Fluctuates |

Matthew 5:20 For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.** 21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.

- Righteousness required for Heaven? **100%**. *Positional* Righteousness thank God
- Pharisees weren't righteous enough to go to heaven. **Why?**

Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of **God's righteousness**, and **seeking to establish their own righteousness**, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

- Rejected the Cornerstone that makes right/true...tried to be right in themselves

Romans 3:20 Therefore **by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight**, for by the law is the **knowledge of sin**. 21 But now the **righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the **righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ**, to all and on all who believe...

We are fully clothed in the Righteousness of Christ by Faith in Him

Matthew 22:2 [Jesus] The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. ...**10** So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.**11** "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. **12** So he said to him, 'Friend, **how did you come in here without a wedding garment?**' And he was speechless. **13** Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- **Invited good and bad** Different degrees of Relative Righteousness
- **Clothed w/garments provided** Each with 100% Positional Righteousness

Only one thrown out?

- The one who refused to submit to the righteousness of God
- The one who refused to be clothed in the Father's provision. Refused to change.

Arrogantly/Presumptuous came to the wedding in his own filthy clothes...

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And **all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags**; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

- Calls him friend? God desires all to be saved. He did not humble himself

No one ever entered Heaven because of their own righteousness except Jesus
We must be clothed in the garment the Father provides us...Clothed in Jesus

- **Positional Righteousness** Received At Salvation. Perfect. Now seated with Christ
- **Practical Righteousness** Now doing what is right as led by the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- Practical Righteousness is important

We can't... be saved by Good Works

We can...draw people to a Good God when they see our Good Works

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your **good works** and glorify your Father in heaven.

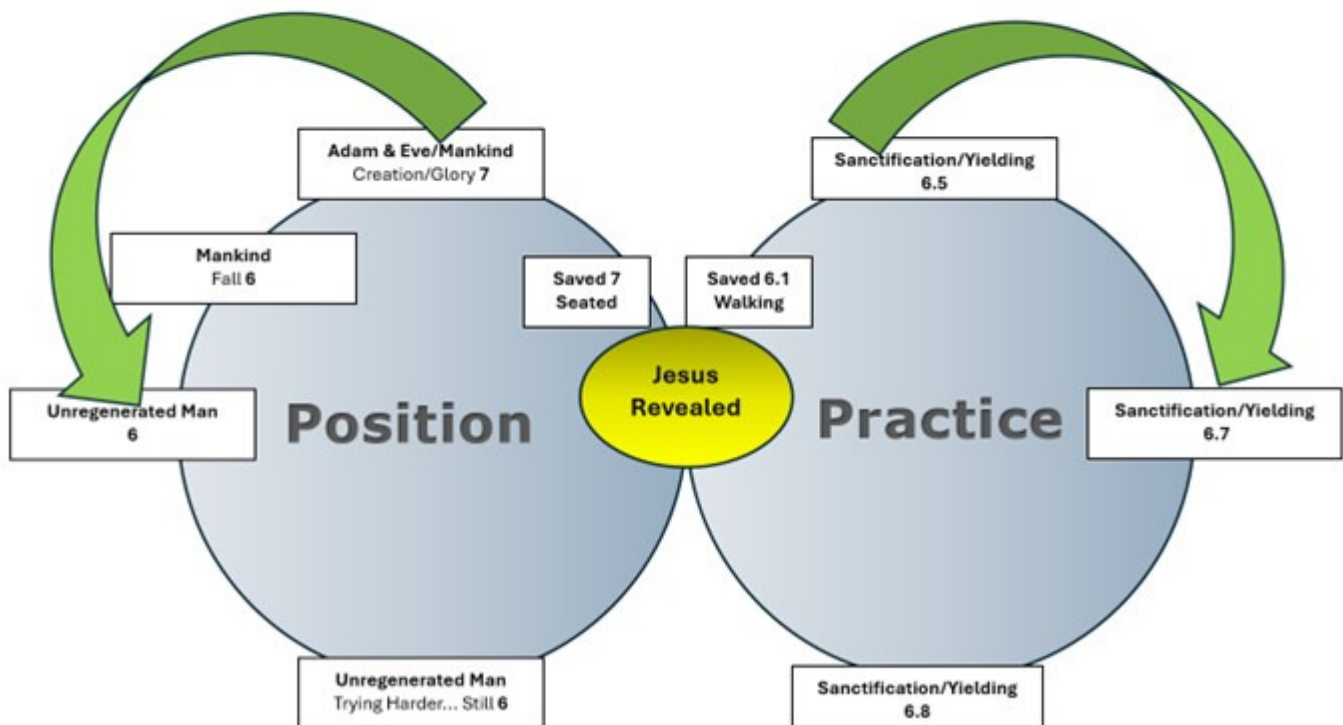
Titus 2:7 ...in all things showing yourself to be a **pattern of good works...**¹⁴ [Jesus] gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for **good works.**

Titus 3:8b ...those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain **good works.** These things are good and profitable to men.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and **good works...**

1 Peter 2:12 [Have] your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, **by your good works** which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Positional Righteousness Relation to Practical Righteousness



Goal: Practice in line with Position

Walk Worthy of Our Calling: Equal weight on each side of the scale

Ephesians 4:1 I beseech you to **walk worthy** of the calling with which you were called

Matthew 5:16 ... that they may see your **good works** and glorify your Father in heaven.

Breastplate of Righteousness

The enemy wants us to doubt our righteous standing before God
Good News: Our righteous standing is not based on us but Jesus

Thus, when we fail/fluctuate and Satan attacks our Practical Righteousness...
We can rest in our unchangeable status before God: 100% Positional Righteousness