

Ephesians 6 Pt 3 Breastplate of Righteousness

Radically Vertical

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 with**stand** 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...**

- **Belt of Truth:** 2-fold Defense
 1. **Live Truth:** Walk in Light/Satan can't touch us
 2. **Know Truth:** Able to Know/Refute Satan's lies with God's Word

Breastplate of Righteousness

Protects our hearts from Satan's Lies...

1. **You are** good enough w/out God: Pride/Judgmental/Legalism; i.e. self righteousness
2. **You're not** good enough for God: Parallelization/Self-pity or Legalism; i.e. trying harder

... both lies focus on us/how we are doing/our own righteousness
Meant to and draw us from Jesus

Galatians 5:4 You have become **estranged from Christ**, you who **attempt to be justified by law**; you have **fallen from grace**.

Satan's Goal for both lies: Good enough w/out God or Not good enough for God
Tempt us to focus on/trust in **ourselves** rather than God

*Lord let me stand in the Righteousness found in You alone
Lord empower Me to walk in that Righteousness...Worthy of my calling*

- **Breastplate of Righteousness:** 2-fold defense against Satan
 1. **Positional Righteousness:** Knowing our Righteous Standing in Christ Ch.'s 1-3
 2. **Practical Righteousness:** Walking in Righteous Practice by the Spirit Ch.'s 4-6

Breastplate of Righteousness

Standing in our Position

- **Righteousness:** State of him who is as he ought to be Condition acceptable to God
- Acceptable Condition of Righteousness? **100% Righteous.** Keeping law perfectly...

Matthew 5:20 ...unless your righteousness **exceeds the righteousness** of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by **no means enter the kingdom of heaven.**

We have a bit of a problem...

- We have no innate goodness [After A/E, sin infected us all]
- We must be 100% righteous to go to heaven
- We are born dead in sin unable/incapable of keeping the Law/be righteous

James 2:10 ...whoever shall keep the whole law yet stumble in one point **he is guilty of all.**

Romans 3:19 ... whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and **all the world may become guilty before God.** 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.**

God Provided an External Source of Righteousness...Himself
 IOWs He applied His righteousness to our account
 By Faith in Jesus we are 100% Positionally Righteous in God's Eyes

Ephesians 2:4 [Dead in sin] But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ [by grace you have been saved, 6 and **raised us up** together, and **made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...**

- Not only going to heaven but spiritually [in a greater reality] there now

Saved by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone. At the same time...
Made Righteous by God's Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone

Genesis 15:6 [First mention] And [Abram] believed in the Lord, and He **accounted it to him for righteousness.**

No one has ever gone or will ever go to heaven because they are good. Only God is good. Every person that has or will go to heaven is or will be there by faith in what Jesus did for them in granting them His righteousness. If you believe you are saved because you are a good person you are a person that is not yet saved and needs to repent of self-righteousness. [NJC]

- It cost Jesus everything to make us righteous...

2 Corinthians 5:21 [God the Father] made Him who knew no sin [Jesus] to be sin for us, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

- **Lie 1:** You aren't good enough. **Defense:** In God's eyes I am because of Jesus
- **Lie 2:** You are good enough. **Defense:** When covered Christ's righteousness

Romans 10:3 [Religious Leaders] ... being ignorant of **God's righteousness,** and **seeking to establish their own [self] righteousness,** have **not submitted to the righteousness of God.**

Submitting to God's Righteousness means Repenting of Self-Righteousness

Matthew 22:2 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/bad** Relative to one another
- **Garments provided** By the Father required to enter

Only one guy thrown out?

- The one who refused the Father's provision. Refused to change [his clothes]
- The one who refused to submit to the righteousness of God

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

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

Breastplate of Righteousness Standing in our Position

Lord let me stand in the Righteousness found in You alone

Next...Lord empower Me to walk in that Righteousness...Worthy of my calling

Breastplate of Righteousness

Walking in our Practice

- **Righteous Standing** comes by faith in Jesus who is Righteous **Position**
Salvation
- **Righteous Walking** comes from yielding to/empowered by the HS **Practice**
Reward
- Position is Unchanging Sealed with the Holy Spirit/Alive in Christ
- Practice is Developing Sanctification Process advanced by yielding/cooperating

Romans 8:28 ...we know [do we?] that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son**

We should be growing in Practical Righteousness
Becoming/Acting more like Jesus...Blameless to our Accuser

Satan attacks our Positional Righteousness...
When we fail to walk in Practical Righteousness

We expose a chink in our armor to Satan when we fail to yield to the Holy Spirit
IOWs When we fail to cooperate with what God wants to do in us...cause us to grow

- **Practical Righteousness**

Knowing our position is secure...

We now do what's right as led by the Holy Spirit. Real stuff...

- Loving the hard to love
- Forgiving those who don't deserve it
- Bear with those who are not like you
- Shutting our mouths/ears to Gossip
- Blessing/Encouraging/Edifying. **Why?**

1. Our obedience to God validates our love for God and..
2. The people God desires to save are watching to see if we're different/doing right

Ephesians 2:10 [Saved by grace] **...created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new **...20** Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. **21** For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might **become the righteousness of God in Him.**

- **Practical Righteousness is important:** Please God/Draw others to God

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.**

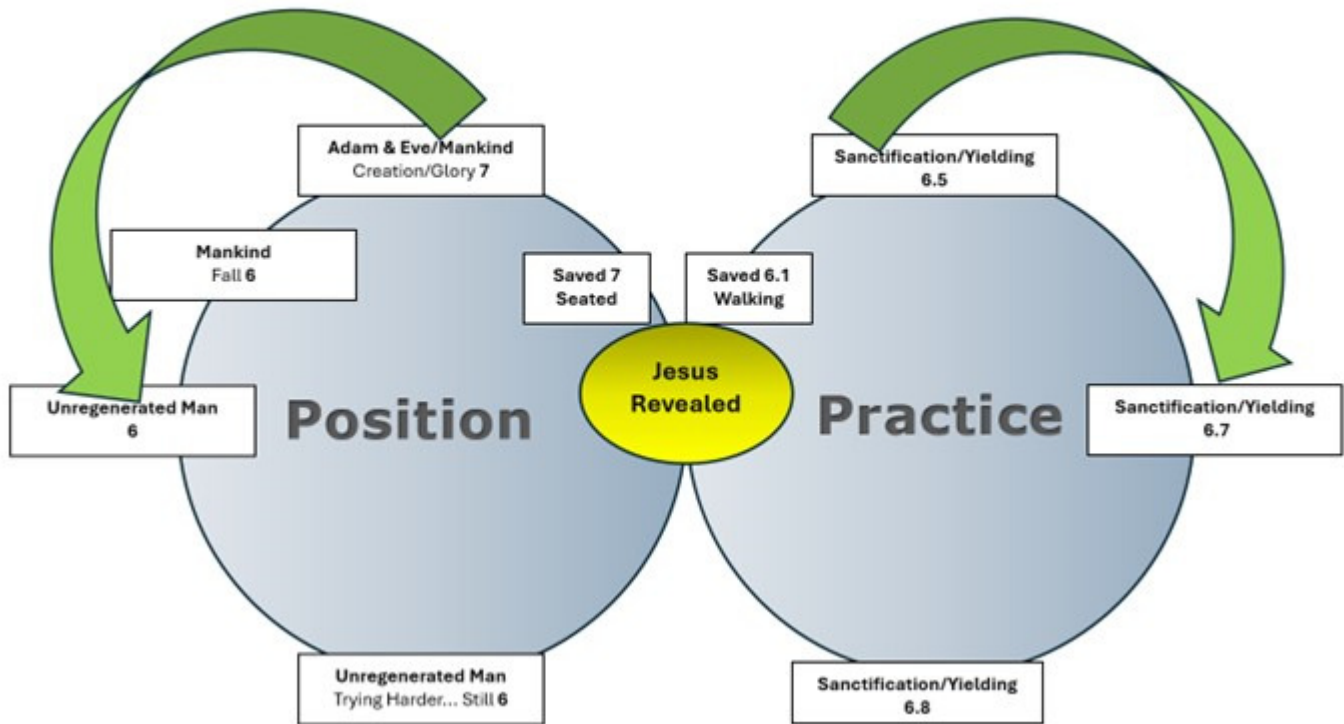
Titus 2:7 ...in all things showing yourself to be a **pattern of good works...**¹⁴ [Jesus] gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, **zealous for good works.**

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 ...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: Our Practice moving closer in line with Our Position
 IOWs 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 as a Defense Against Satan

- **The enemy tempts us** to doubt our righteous standing before God
- **The enemy accuses us** when we our practice falls short of our position, **yet...**

Even when we fail/fluctuate/falter and Satan attacks our Practical Righteousness...
 We can rest in our unchanging status **In Christ**: 100% Positional Righteousness