

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place...

Philippians 3:3-14

³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



The Breastplate of Righteousness (part 2) 10/13/2019

Ephesians 6:10-14, Philippians 3:3-14

LOSING, AND FINDING, RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Paul had to come to terms with what his righteousness **WAS**, and then to see that it was totally **INSUFFICIENT**.
 - He learns that righteousness comes **FROM** God through **FAITH** in Jesus Christ.
- He had to **TRUST** in the righteousness that was provided by **CHRIST**.
- He can now **RUN** the **RACE** God has given him.

GRASPING, AND BEING GRASPED

1. A Christian is born because of a spiritual **LASER BEAM**.
 - “I can only **GRASP** this abundant life with intensity, because an intense, focused love, **FIRST** came down and grasped **ME**.”
 - **Does every Christian have a dramatic conversion experience?**
 - **How do I know if it's happening to me now?**
 - **If a Christian is a person who is the object of God's focused spiritual activity, why isn't God going after everybody?**
 - “Conversion is not an **ARRIVAL** at our final destination; it's the acquisition of a **COMPASS**.”
2. A Christian life **RESULTS** in a spiritual laser beam.
 - Your entire life is **REORIENTED**.
 - Your entire life is focused toward a **SINGLE** point: to **KNOW** Jesus Christ and make him **KNOWN**.
 - If you know what he's **DONE** for you, then you can know **HIM**, and then you can truly live for **THEM**.



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GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the [MTC App](#), or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](#).

GETTING STARTED

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, **was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, inspired or confused you?**

DIGGING DEEPER

2. Read Philippians 3:3-14

Think about what Paul says about himself in verses 3-6... **if someone who knows you well looked at your life from the outside, what would they say is the most *righteous* thing about you?**

3. When you think about verses 7-9, **how have you experienced (or why would you say, in principle), that the righteousness that Jesus Christ gives you makes everything else look like garbage?**

4. Verses 10-11 say: *¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

**How you have experienced a will and desire to “know Christ”?
What do you think it means to participate “in his sufferings”?**

GETTING PERSONAL

5. Verses 13-14 describe straining and pressing to win a prize, running the race God has given to you for *your* life.

If you have put on the breastplate of righteousness, how do you think that enables you to accomplish important things for God, and for others (and not for yourself)?

BRINGING IT HOME

6. Verses 13 talks about “*forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.*”

How does putting on the breastplate of Jesus Christ's righteousness enable you to “forget what is behind”?

What are you needing to “forget” about, that is behind you?

What are you needing to “strain toward” that is ahead of you?

PRAY TOGETHER