

Breastplate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6

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,

Did you know that you're in a battle? Sometimes, it's obvious; we feel as if we're being attacked on every side. Nothing is going right, and we face hardship and suffering. Other times, life is pretty good, and it's easy to forget there's a spiritual battle being fought in the heavenly realms. What's being fought over? You. And me. Not just us, but we're part of the fight. ***The good news is we aren't left to fight on our own.*** God gives us spiritual armor; part of that armor is the breastplate of righteousness. That's the one I want to talk about today.

Satan attacks many times in 3 areas.

Thoughts

2 Corinthians 10

⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Motives

Emotions

Philippians 4

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Isaiah 59

[15](#) Truth is nowhere to be found,
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.
The LORD looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.

[16](#) He saw that there was no one,
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm achieved salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.

[17](#) He put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

In the armor of a Roman soldier, the breastplate served as protection for some of the most important parts of the body. Underneath the breastplate are the heart, lungs, and other organs that are necessary for life.

If a soldier did not wear his breastplate, he was vulnerable to an attack that could result in instant death.

To be righteous means to obey God's commandments and live in a way that is honorable to Him.

Right living

Meet his standard

Psalm 106 (ESV)

3 Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!

2 Cor 5

16 So from now on, we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, and the new is here! **18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20** We are, therefore, Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. **21** God made him who had no sin to be sin ^b for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The breastplate of righteousness does not automatically clothe us each day. We have to make the intentional decision to put it on. Just like a soldier has to put on a breastplate to protect him in battle, we as Christians have to put on the breastplate of righteousness each day to protect us from Satan's lies and attacks. If we do not actively put on the breastplate of righteousness, we will be exposed to the enemy's attacks. When we choose to wear the breastplate of righteousness, we can take our stand against the devil and his schemes.

Matthew 6

31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 5

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

We must live intentional lives!

Philippians 3

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 [a](#) 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.

"When the will of God crosses the will of man, somebody has to die."

~Addison Leitch

