

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Ryland Walter | July 30-31, 2022

Week 3: Being Right With God

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. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place... Ephesians 6:13-14 (NIV)

Righteousness

Righteousness is not found by looking _____ on others...

Righteousness is found by looking _____ to God.

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰ “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”
Luke 18:9-14 (NLT)

Righteousness is not earned by us...

Righteousness is _____ to us.

What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.
Romans 4:3-5 (NIV)

1. What is righteousness?

Being _____ before God and becoming right with others as I act rightly before others.

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

Romans 3:21-22 (NLT)

2. How does righteousness protect me?

“Do not go up, because the Lord is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies” Numbers 14:42 (NIV)

My heart is protected from Satan’s attacks
as I focus on my new relationship with God.

3. How do I wear righteousness?

WARNING: Do not try to make your own righteousness!
[Philippians 3:4-11]

- _____ for it

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled. Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

- _____ yourself to God

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.

Romans 6:18-19 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

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- Hunger for it

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- Offer yourself to God

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.

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BEING RIGHT WITH GOD
Talk-it-Over Notes | July 30-31, 2022

REVIEW IT

“Stand firm then... with the breastplate of righteousness in place.” The word “righteousness” is used over 500 times in the Bible. However, even with all that context, it can be a confusing word. Many people have a negative thought toward righteousness. They associate it with strictness or harshness. But, righteousness is not found by looking down on others. Righteousness is found by looking up to God. Also, Righteousness is not earned by us... The Bible says, righteousness is credited to us.

So, let’s answer some questions. What is righteousness? It’s being made right before God and becoming right with others as I act rightly before others. How does righteousness protect me? My heart is protected from Satan’s attacks as I focus on my new relationship with God. How do I wear righteousness? I hunger for it, and offer myself to God.

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

Spend some time in the word... **Read Philippians chapter 3**

TALK ABOUT IT

- What comes to your mind when you think of righteousness?
- When you see someone worse off than you or sinning more than you, are you more likely to think, “I would never do that... I’m glad I’m not like them...” or do you ever think, “That could have been me.”
- What would temptation in reverse look like to you? What would you dwell on to create a hunger for righteousness?

ACT ON IT

How do we wear righteousness? We offer ourselves to God. Read Romans 6:18-19. This week, think not about listening to your body, but about offering your body to God.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take some time to ask how you can pray for and support one another this week. Pray that righteousness would protect you from the enemies attack on you and your loved ones.