



# The Armor of God

## Week 2 – Belt & Breastplate

As we continue in our study of the armor of God, we come to the opening pieces of the believer's armor. Before a soldier ever picks up a weapon or stands behind a shield, they must first put on these two pieces. Paul begins with the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness. These are two pieces that stabilize the life of the believer and protect the \_\_\_\_\_. If these are not in place, nothing else will function properly. Today we will see why truth holds everything together and why righteousness guards everything within.

### I. LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH (vs 14a)

Girt – “to surround.” Girdle - “something drawn around a person's waist; To enclose”

- A. The absolute truth of God's word should strengthen us and hold us together as it encompasses all around every area of our lives. Ps. 119:89
- B. The belt of a Roman soldier has three main purposes.
  - i. It supports the armor.
    - The breastplate rests partly on the belt. (See Point 2)
  - ii. Tightened the tunic around the body. Jn. 8:32
  - iii. It held the \_\_\_\_\_. Jn. 17:17; Ps. 119:151
- C. Believers (soldiers) are responsible for knowing truth. 1 Tim. 3:15
  - i. This keeps us stable against false doctrine. Eph. 4:14-15
- D. Believers are responsible for holding truth. 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 1:13; Titus 1:9, 2:1
- E. The Truth has always been under attack. Gen. 3:1-8; 1 Kings 22:19-23; Mt. 16:22-23
- F. The Devil is the father of lies (John 8:44) and has brought doctrines of devils into the church in these last days. 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:3-4

### EXAMPLES: The Church at Ephesus had this piece of armor Rev. 2:2

Paul wrote to Timothy (1 & 2 Tim.) a pastor in Ephesus (1Tim. 1:3) about 1-7 years after he wrote Ephesians; charging him to preach, teach, and hold on to sound \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 1:3,10; 4:6,13,16; 5:17; 6:1,3; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2:2,15-18; 3:10,14-17; 4:1-2). Because the devil would send grievous wolves from within (Acts 20:28-30). It was sound doctrine being preached and disciples being girded with truth (2 Tim. 2:2) that exposed false teachers (1 Tim 1:19-20) and the doctrines of devils (1 Tim 4:1) they brought into the church. They were protected, strengthened, and held together because the truth and sound doctrine fully surrounded them

## II. BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Truth is connected with righteousness. Eph. 5:9; 2 Cor. 6:7

**A.** There are three types of righteousness in the bible.

**1.** Positional righteousness – “Just”

- i. Our souls are saved by Christ’s imputed righteousness. Rom. 5:21; 2 Cor. 5:21
- ii. Our positional righteousness comes from the Sun of righteousness. Mal. 4:2; 2 Cor. 5:21

**2.** Practical righteousness – “one holy in heart observant of divine commands.” Deut. 6:25

- i. God’s righteousness protects your heart

**3.** Self-righteousness – “focusing on outward goodness while neglecting inner humility”

- i. When you don’t have God’s righteousness covering your heart it is left exposed.

**B.** Breastplate shows up 28x in the Bible. 25x it is referring to the physical breastplate worn by the high priests (Ex. 25:7; 28; 35:27; 39; Lev. 8:8). The other three times it refers to a spiritual breastplate (Isa. 59:17; Eph. 6:14; 1 Thess. 5:8).

- i. In the OT, the high priest must have had on the \_\_\_\_\_ in order to go into the Holy Place. Ex. 28:29-30, 43
- ii. The Breastplate had to have the 12 stones representing the 12 tribes of Israel in the breastplate. Ex. 28:17-21, 29-30.
- iii. Positionally, having on the breastplate of righteousness shows that The Great High Priest has already carried your name into God’s presence and that just like the 12 tribes of Israel we are always on His heart. Heb. 9:24-26
- iv. Practically, the priest’s breastplate guarded his life before God, the believer’s breastplate of righteousness guards his \_\_\_\_\_ before God.

**C.** We must put on the Breastplate daily to guard our hearts.

- i. Our hearts are naturally evil. Jer. 17:9; Mk. 7:21-2
- ii. Righteous living protects your heart from sin. Pro. 11:5, 13:6, 16:3 Ps. 1:1-3
- iii. It guards our heart from the Enemy. Jn. 13:2; Acts 5:1-3
- iv. It protects what comes out. Lk 6:45; Pro. 4:23

**D.** Some key men in the bible that were righteous Ek. 14:14

- i. Noah - Gen. 6:9; Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5
- ii. Job – Job 1:1, 8, 2:3, 29:14
- iii. Daniel – Dan. 6:4; Dan. 1:1-8