

ARMOR of GOD - Spiritual Warfare Wear

Week 2 - RIGHTEOUSNESS - Getting Dressed for the Right Occasion

Let me give you a brief synopsis of Spiritual Warfare:

- God and Satan want the same job
- God kicked Satan out of Heaven.
- If you give your life to Jesus Christ, Satan has lost you
- Satan is going to do everything in his power to make you ineffective

What is a breast plate? *Show photos of breastplates (or body armor)*

- The Breastplate protects all your vital organs. It protects the things that are the most important organs in keeping you alive Physically!
- Righteousness is important in keeping you alive and healthy Spiritually.



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, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Last week we talked about truth and integrity: knowing the difference between right and wrong and choosing the right.

Righteousness means to **be right** with God and to **do right** according to God.

- To "Be Right": Is what happens when you get saved!
- To "Do Right" is to live your life in accordance to God's Word!
- You can "FAKE" any combination of these two – but Righteousness is having BOTH working right!

1. THE BENEFITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

a. A Life of PROSPERITY and HONOR

- What is "Prosperity" and "Honor"?
 - Prosperity – not just finances but complete fulfillment.
 - Honor – A life with no shame.

Proverbs 21:21

He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

b. A Sense of PEACE and CONFIDENCE

Isaiah 32:17

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

c. A CHRIST-LIKE Life

Ephesians 4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

2. BEGIN A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

a. Understand MY NEED for Righteousness

- You are not righteous by NATURE (See Psalm 51)
- You do not become righteous by BEING GOOD
- You become righteous because of what JESUS DID

Romans 3:21-24

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in[a] Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

b. Understand THE DEPTH of Righteousness

- Remember, righteousness is two parts. It is to be right and to do right.
- IMPUTED righteousness: given free of charge without any effort on my part. That's what God did!

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

- IMPARTED righteousness: God's power working in me and my cooperation with God

c. Approach God's Presence with ANTICIPATION

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- Like when you were a little kid on Christmas morning.
- You don't have to go through a mediator to talk to God.

d. Obey God's **DIRECTION** for Righteous Living

- If you're already a Christian – you ARE RIGHT.
- Now you have to DO RIGHT.
- GPS Directions. The Bible is **G**od's **P**ositioning **S**atellite.

Romans 8:11-12

¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. ¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation - but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.

e. Regularly **EVALUATE** if I'm wearing the Breastplate of Righteousness.

- God's already made you to be right. This is the "*be right*".
- You made the exchange. You put your sin to the savior.
- He made you right.
- Now I've got to evaluate. Am I *doing* right?

Galatians 5:14

For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom

- The sign of whether you and I are living righteously is whether our life is characterized by **LOVE**

Psalms 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me

One Last Thought:

**When we walk in Righteousness,
we can live **WITH CONFIDENCE****