



**FIGHT
THE
GOOD
FIGHT**

Message #7

Breastplate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.



Ephesians 6

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.



Ephesians 6

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;



Ephesians 6

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;



Ephesians 6

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.



The Whole Armor

- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit
- Prayer

(maybe easier to memorize going from head to toe)



Put on the whole armor of God

Think of this phrase...

If you put on this armor who do you
look like in battle?

Be strong in the LORD!

Be strong in the power & might of Jesus Christ!

Fighting with the strength of the ONE who is
undefeated.

Why Armor?

- We are not a people on a picnic.
- We are a people engaged in a spiritual war.

Put on the whole armor of God!

(Here are some other ways to say it)



Romans 13:11-14

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us **cast off** the **works of darkness**, and let us **put on** the **armor of light**. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

14 But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Ephesians 4:22-24

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.



Ephesians 6:14

Stand therefore, having girded
your waist with truth,
having put on the
breastplate of righteousness

The Roman Breastplate

- Breastplate was the brightest & **most impressive** of the armor.
- One of the first things to catch your eye.
- **Distinguished** you as a Roman soldier.
- Polished up, it would **shine** bright.
- Gives **protection** & **confidence**.
- 2-pieces, one for the **front**, one for **back**.



What is Righteousness?

Right-e-ous-ness

- **to be made right by God**
- a judicial decree that pronounces you right

It's the question of the ages:
How can a person be right with God?

Some Related Words to Righteousness

- Justified, Just, Justice
- Faith, Believe, Trust
- Gift, Receive
- Salvation, saved
- Judgment
- Holy, pure
- Forgiveness
- Sanctification
- Mercy, Grace

Opposites

- Condemnation
- Sin, sinner
- Guilty
- Wrath
- Unrighteous

Romans 1: 16 - 17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to **salvation** (rescue, deliver, save, fully restore to health) for everyone who **believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

17 For in it the **righteousness of God** is revealed from **faith to faith**; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Romans 3:21-23

21 But now the **righteousness** of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through **faith in Jesus Christ**, to all and on all who **believe**. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 5:17-19

17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of **grace** and of the **gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in **condemnation**, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be **made righteous**.

One of Our Greatest Problems

- **Self-righteousness** = the fallacy of thinking we can somehow make our relationship with God right on our own, by good deeds or religious practices

Isaiah 64:6

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like **filthy rags**;

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin
to be sin for us, that we might become
the righteousness of God in Him.

The greatest trade or exchange a person can make.

Picture of How it Works

- O.T. - When the sacrifice was brought to the priest, what did the priest examine?
 - The man or the sacrifice?
- N.T. – When you approach God, He examines your sacrifice – Jesus Christ.



Is God pleased with Jesus?

Now What?.....1 Timothy 6:11-12

11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and **pursue righteousness**, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- Jesus gives us righteousness as a gift.
- My pursuit of doing what's right in word, thought & deed is **my gift back to Jesus**.

Now, go back over these & make the spiritual parallels.

The Breastplate of Righteousness

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