

**Series: Standing Firm
“The Breastplate of Righteousness” – Part 2
Ephesians 6:14b**

Big Idea – The key to a believer’s armor is a right relationship with God.

Review – 1. Belt of Truth

Satan lies saying, “No absolute truth exists!” So there’s a **spiritual battle** for the minds of our children, our teenagers, our families. **The battle is a spiritual battle.**

The real battle is for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Lordship versus the Lordship of an anti-Christian ideology. We are Christ’s warriors, Ambassadors, and gospel defenders.

It is our responsibility to arm ourselves with the “whole armor of God” and stand firm against the woke progressive worldview that pushes diversity, equity, inclusion and political correctness as the dominant ideologies of today.

So we’ve put on the Belt of Truth – God’s Truth. Jesus said, “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

Let’s look now at the breastplate of righteousness.

What the breastplate was.

A full metal jacket protection from neck to thighs

What the breastplate protects:

Heart – the mind, the thinking

“as a man thinks in his heart” Proverbs 23:7

“out of the heart proceed evil thoughts” Mark 7:21

“the heart of man is deceitful ...and desperately wicked” Jeremiah 17:9

Bowels – feelings and emotions

in KJV often figure of speech for feelings of compassionate feelings, or tender mercies

“shutting up bowels of compassion” 1 John 3:17, also Phil. 2:1 “any bowels and mercies”

Satan attacks us then in these 2 areas: in our minds, our thinking, and in our emotions, our feelings. He wants to cloud our minds with false teaching and lies and appeal to the wrong parts of our emotions by evoking evil emotional responses.

Take the mind and emotions together, they include everything that causes us to act and react. All the things then that causes us to act are targeted by Satan.

Satan attacks believers by trying to:

Fill the mind – with lies, perversion, immorality, false ideas – Eph. 2:1-3
Destroy the conscience – get you to do wrong things to sear your conscience, so it doesn’t warn you like it’s supposed to – 1 Tim. 4:2
Debilitate or weaken your will
Confuse the emotions – cause fear & doubt
Corrupt the desires – tempt to sin – James 1
Draw away affections toward evil – how?

Satan Maximizes the pleasure of sin and Minimizes the penalty of sin.

Philippians 1:9-10 9 This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love;
10 that you will see the difference between good and bad and will choose the good; that you will be pure and without wrong for the coming of Christ;

Righteousness defined – “a right relationship with God” or more simply put “living right”

Three types:

1. Self-righteousness – like the scribes & Pharisees

Jesus’ illustration in Luke 18:9-14 – parable of publican & Pharisee

God’s Word on self-righteousness - Ephesians 2:8,9; Isaiah 64:6-“filthy rags”; Romans 3:10-“none righteous, not anyone

The apostle Paul himself – Philippians 3:4-9 – gives his pedigree then says all it amounts to is a pile of horse manure – “dung”

2. Imputed Righteousness – 2 Corinthians 5:21 – Jesus took our sins, literally “became sin for us” that we might have “the righteousness of God in Him” – this is the theological term we use called “justification”

Justified – God sees me “just as if I’d” never sinned.

In Phil. 3:10-14 Paul explains this makes possible Practical Righteousness

3. Practical Righteousness – making your “practice” or behavior match your “Position” or standing in Christ

What you lose without the breastplate of righteousness

1. Joy/Blessing from God – obedience to God’s Word brings blessing, disobedience brings conflict.

What is Obedience? – doing NOW what God says to do with the right heart attitude.

2. Fruitfulness – only possible when we yield to God’s Holy Spirit. We get the fruit, the results of being filled with the Spirit. Galatians 5 says the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness...

A “right living” checklist:

1. Faithful in reading the Word of God daily – Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2
2. Daily Quiet time of prayer with the Father – Psalm 55:17
3. Loving your family properly – Colossians 3:18-21
4. Speaking out for Jesus boldly in society –

Colossians 4:6 Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

1 Peter 3:15 “...always be ready to give an answer to everyone

5. Giving sacrificially to God’s work and being good steward of all you keep – Proverbs 3:9, 10

6. Living right as Bible teaches – obeying God – 1 Samuel 15:22
7. Removing disobedience, unconfessed sin, wrong attitudes, thoughts and deeds – say No to sin – 1 Samuel 15:23

A plea for Righteousness

1 Peter 2:11 “Dear friends, you are like foreigners and strangers in this world. I beg you to avoid the evil things your bodies want to do that fight against your soul.

12 People who do not believe are living all around you and might say that you are doing wrong. Live such good lives that they will see the good things you do and will give glory to God on the day when Christ comes again.

A heavenly perspective

Hebrews 11:13 “All these great people died in faith. They did not get the things that God promised his people, but they saw them coming far in the future and were glad. They said they were pilgrims and strangers on earth.”

The apostle Paul said, “our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20)

Jesus said in John 15:18 “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.
19 The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.”

Colossians 3:2 “Think only about the things in heaven, not the things on earth.

3 Your old sinful self has died, and your new life is kept with Christ in God.

4 Christ is our life, and when he comes again, you will share in his glory.

5 So put all evil things out of your life: sexual sinning, doing evil, letting evil thoughts control you, wanting things that are evil, and greed. This is really serving a false god.”

1 Corinthians 15:34 “Awake to righteousness and stop sinning”