

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

Ephesians 6:14b--July 16th, 2023



Sermon Recap:

The Armor of God: Breastplate of Righteousness

I. What is the Breastplate of Righteousness?

- **Two Views**

- **Imputed Righteousness**

- "Alien Righteousness"- a righteousness that is not our own.
 - This righteousness is available to us through faith; faith in the saving work of Christ.
 - On the cross, Christ exchanged places with us, taking our sin upon himself and imputing his righteousness to his saints.
 - Therefore, we are declared innocent and stand before God clothed in and safe under the righteousness of Christ.

- **Imparted Righteousness**

- "Put on" implies that this is not imputed righteousness, since Christ puts that on us, but it is instead something we must do.
- Imparted righteousness is practical righteousness. The righteousness given to us by Christ is practiced in holy living.
- To stand firm against the schemes of Satan we must live righteous lives and pursue holiness.

II. Why Do We Need the Breastplate of Righteousness?

- **Assurance of Salvation**

- We have been saved for holiness.
- Sanctification (growing in holiness) is evidence of salvation.
- While we will never be perfect in this life, we can have assurance of salvation if there is practical righteousness and holiness our lives.

- **Protection**

- Practiced righteousness allows us to stand against the lies, temptations, and accusation of Satan.
- A truthful character that is genuinely growing in Christlikeness will repel his attacks.

III. How Do We Put on the Breastplate of Righteousness?

- **Anchor it to the Belt of Truth**

- The soldier's breastplate would be fastened to their belt.
- Righteousness must be fastened to truth.

- **Slay Sin & Pursue Holiness**

- As a new creation, we must slay sin that hinders our holiness.
- We must say "No" to sinful desires and replace them with righteous living.
- Now, walking in the newness of life, we actively, intentionally, practically pursue holiness.

Discussion Questions:

- What is the breastplate of righteousness?
- Why is it good that the righteousness in the breastplate is God's and not our own?
- How do we receive God's righteousness?
- What is the connection between positional righteousness (imputed) and practiced righteousness (imparted)?
- How does the righteousness of God in us provide assurance of salvation?
- How does it provide protection?
- What is the link between the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness?

Application:

- Are there areas of your life where you feel that you are engaged in spiritual warfare?
- Have you put on the breastplate of righteousness?
- If so, is it evident in your life by the practice of righteousness and the pursuit of holiness?
- Are there currently attacks upon your life that is causing you to doubt your salvation?
- How can the breastplate of righteousness protect you, personally, from those attacks?
- What sins in your life do you need to slay today?
- How can you replace them with righteousness?

