

Armor of God

Breastplate of Righteousness

Read: Ephesians 6:10-18

Introduction:

We are continuing in our series: **The Armor of God**. God is keenly aware of our battles and struggles. He wants to equip us so that we can overcome these challenges. Last week, we focused on the “**Belt of Truth**.” This week, we are focusing on the “**Breastplate of Righteousness**.” We are going to answer two questions: What does this mean? Why is it important?

When the Apostle Paul wrote this letter, people were familiar with the Roman soldier. He uses the imagery of their armor to help them remember what God is providing so that they can deal with the challenges of life. The breastplate of the Roman soldier was designed to protect the heart and other vital organs. Likewise, God wants us to use the breastplate of his righteousness to protect our hearts.

Our heart is the core of who we are. Accusations from devil and others make our heart/identity vulnerable to attacks. This is why we need Christ’s Breastplate of Righteousness.

The next key word is “Righteousness.” This word means “to be examined and approved.” Pastor Paul shared there are three kinds of righteousness that we can use, but only one will protect you from the warfare of this world. Let’s look at the three kinds of righteousness and why Christ’s breastplate is so important.

Discuss:

1. As you reflect on the sermon, what stood out to you? What challenged you? Were there any questions you want answered?

What does this mean?

2. Pastor Paul, described “secular righteousness” as seeking to get approval by others. What are some ways we seek approval by others?

3. What are some of the dangers in seeking other people’s approval? How might this impact our heart?

4. The “religious breastplate of righteousness” is another one we as Christians try to put on. When we wear this one, we are trying to prove to God we are worthy. How might trying to prove we are worthy impact our heart? How does it impact the way we interact with God and others?

5. Phil. 3:8-9 states, “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.”

In order to put on this breastplate we need to realize only Christ’s righteousness protects us. Why do you think we keep trying to put on the secular or religious breastplates rather than Christ’s?

Why is this important?

6. The righteousness of Christ is the very protection you and I need. Pastor Paul listed seven ways our heart/identity can come under attack: failure, guilt, being criticized, criticizing, struggling with doubt, the pressure of work, and disappointment.

As you read through this list, which of these attacks are you most vulnerable to? How does the breastplate of Christ help you deal with these attacks?

Apply

We need to put on the breastplate of Christ’s righteousness everyday. We need to realize that Christ’s righteousness has been imputed to us. Thus, we are approved by God. We have nothing to prove. But along with imputed righteousness, there is imparted righteousness. They go hand in hand. We are first justified and then sanctified. This leads to the Holy Spirit working in our lives and empowering us to live out righteousness. Which breastplate are you wearing?