

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Christian's Holy War

The Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS

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 saints.

The second weapon in God's Armor is the Breastplate of Righteousness ^{Ephesians 6:14b}. This study will probe the Scriptural significance of the physical aspects of a Breastplate and the absolute spiritual necessity of Righteousness in the life of a Christian.

In the OT, the LORD figuratively armed Himself with the Breastplate of Righteousness.

The LORD was preparing to deliver Israel and take vengeance on His enemies.

Isaiah 59:17a [The LORD] put on righteousness as his breastplate,

A Breastplate Protects the Heart: the most Vital Organ of the Warrior.

The natural heart is the center of emotions and cannot be trusted without supernatural help.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

The Christian's heart and mind must work together for the right balance for genuine faith. ^{Acts 4:32a}

Matthew 22:37 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.

The LORD searches hearts and minds to see motivations. ^{Psalms 26:2, 139:23, Jeremiah 11:20a, Revelation 2:23b}

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.

Nevertheless, it is an "upright heart" that leads to righteousness. ^{1 Kings 3:6a, Psalm 64:10, Matthew 5:8}

Psalms 32:11 Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Holy War – 4 Breastplate of Righteousness

Salvation is a step made in the heart that is revealed in the words out of the mouth.

Romans 10:10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

What is central in a person's heart will reflect what is important in their life. [Luke 6:45](#), Colossians 3:23

Matthew 6:19-21 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Christ's Righteousness is the only path to Salvation and the Sanctification process.

There are two forms of Righteousness in Christianity.

Righteousness necessary/sufficient for Salvation is God's gift, and results from Christ's work on the Cross. It is received by believing and accepting Jesus [Romans 3:22\(21-24\)](#) as Lord & Savior [Luke 2:11](#).

1 Peter 3:18 Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.

A second Righteousness is obtained through the living of a Righteous life. Once saved, a believer is called to live Righteously [2 Timothy 2:22](#) through the power of the Holy Spirit [Acts 1:8](#), [Ephesians 3:16-19](#).

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Sanctification is a Christian becoming in practice what they already are positionally.

In other words, the Salvation Righteousness gained through the blood of Jesus, should be progressively reflected in the everyday life of the Believer. [2 Peter 1:5-8](#)

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 mind; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. [Romans 6:6-7](#)

A Believer must live Righteously to be Victorious for God in the Battle.

Many Christians are not embracing the victory Christ won [Romans 8:37](#), [1 John 5:3-4](#), because they have not declared allegiance to God in a completely committed way. [Romans 5:1-4](#)

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Please forward questions/concerns about these notes to ron price, pricegang@integrity.com, 505-294-4743.

The Breastplate of Righteousness combines the provision of physical protection by the Breastplate for the Christian's vital organs, especially the heart, with the spiritual strength the warrior gains from having the security of Salvation through the imputed Righteousness of Jesus. When wearing the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Believer can enter the realm of Spiritual Warfare with confidence in God's eternal protection.

In conclusion, Peter tells Christians Why They should Live Righteously:

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy & godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. ^{2 Peter 3:10-13}

1 Kings 3:6a Solomon [said], "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart."

Psalms 26:2 Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;

Luke 2:11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 6:45 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

Acts 4:32a All the believers were one in heart and mind.

Romans 3:22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

Romans 5:1-4 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 rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 8:37 ...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Ephesians 3:16-19 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace,

2 Peter 1:5-8 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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