

# HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

6/30/24

Ephesians 6:11 & 14 NIV

<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

<sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place

We can't put on the breastplate of righteousness until we have put on the belt of truth.

What is truth? God is Truth. It is His nature. Truth transcends all cultures, it never changes, it cannot be affected by feelings, it is absolute and factual, and truth is knowable by all of humanity. These attributes describe the God of the Bible. Jesus Christ and the Word of God represent absolute truth, goodness, beauty, righteousness, joy and peace. If something is true, it is true for all people for all time in all places.

## Breastplate of Righteousness

The purpose of the breastplate of righteousness is to protect our heart against sin and the enemy's attacks.

Psalms 116:5-6 NKJV Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful. <sup>6</sup> The Lord preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me.

God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is 100% righteous. It is His righteousness we put on to fortify ourselves against assaults and to stand confidently. His righteousness is a gift, so God gets all the glory. It is not our doing; it is what Jesus has done!

Romans 5:17 NIV For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Believing Jesus is the one who makes us righteous, meditating on His Word, and asking God to strengthen us in His righteousness is the key to overcoming spiritual warfare. It is hard to face the enemy if we aren't putting on the full armor of God. The breastplate of righteousness protects our hearts. An unrighteous life, a life apart from abiding in Jesus, destroys us.

John 15:4 NIV Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Proverbs 4:23 NIV Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Luke 6:45 NIV A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Romans 6:15 NIV What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!

To be righteous is to be in the right - to be correct in morals, ethics and actions; to be clear of wrongdoing; to be justified. We are righteous when our actions and our thoughts are aligned with God; His Word, His law, His truth. The life of righteousness comes from a reverent fear of God.

Romans 3:20, 22-23 NIV Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

The law can only show us where we are imperfect, but the sacrifice of Jesus Christ allows us to do something about that imperfection:

Romans 8:3-4 NIV For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Our own righteousness is an inadequate breastplate in this spiritual war:

Isaiah 64:6 NIV All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

The righteousness of Christ is consistent, dependable and impenetrable.:

Hebrews 2:14 NIV Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil

As soldiers of God, it is our duty to "pursue righteousness":

1 Timothy 6:11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

As we take our stand against Satan's forces, we can count on the righteousness of God to do exactly what a breastplate is designed to do: keep us safe from the killing blows of the enemy. We have victory through Jesus Christ. We are made righteous by the blood of the Lamb.

Psalms 23:3-4 KJV

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.