

The Real War

Week 3-Breastplate of Righteousness

Recap:

- We are in a spiritual battle
- We cannot fight a spiritual battle using physical weapons
- We need the armor of God to be able to stand firm
- It all starts with the belt of truth
- When we stand in the truth, lies fall to the ground

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

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** 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...

What is righteousness?

The quality of being right or just.

This is not a self-righteousness but a righteousness that comes from God through Jesus and Jesus alone...this righteousness is then imputed to us.

Righteousness is not achieved, it's received

Romans 3:22-25a; 27-28 (NLT)

²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, **freely makes us right** in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus

as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood...

²⁷ Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. ²⁸ So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

Righteousness is not achieved, it is received

1st

Ok, so we first of all need to know that there is a righteousness that is given to us through a relationship with Christ Jesus.

2nd

Secondly, we need to know that there is a righteous standard of living that God not only commands that we live, but also protects us from evil when we live that way...

We don't just get to accept Jesus and then live however we want...

Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

1 John 3:7-10 (NLT)

⁷ Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. ⁸ But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. ¹⁰ So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.

How do we live righteously?

Ask yourself the following 4 questions:

Do I have...

Sin that is unconfessed

When we live in habitual, unconfessed sin, we are giving the enemy an open door and a stronghold in our life...

1 John 1:5-9 (NIV)

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)

James 5:16 (NIV)

Acts 3:19 (NIV)

Occultic practices in my life

Deuteronomy 18:10-12a (NIV)

Galatians 5:19-21 (NLT)

¹⁹When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Occultic practices can include...

Ouija boards, Tarot cards, Magic 8 balls, Palm readings, Fortune tellers/psychics, Mediums, Astrology (horoscopes, zodiac signs), Crystal balls, Wicca/witchcraft

Other sinful behavior can include...

Inappropriate music/movies/video games.

Ungodly Books/magazines.

Drugs/excessive alcohol.

Pornography

1 Timothy 6:11 (NIV)

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

Un-forgiveness

Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

¹⁴ “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Lies I am believing

We talked about this last week...

You can give the enemy a foothold in your life when you believe the lies he’s telling you.