

Armour of God 2 message 2020

Intro

We have been sharing about the armour of God ,we as the family of God need in order to be a powerful army for God using teamwork and the godly sense of Family as the glue that binds us together in order to be successful for God. The first piece was the Belt of Truth. Today is the second which is the breastplate of righteousness.

Breastplate of righteousness

Romans 3:25

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his **righteousness**, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.

Romans 3:26

he did it to demonstrate his **righteousness** at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:9

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of **anything** we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

As believers, we have been called to live a holy and righteous life. This is an expectation of God for all who follow Him. We are to lean on His strength to be approved in our walk with Him.

God is righteous and He is the standard set for us to work towards

Psalm 89:14

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.

Psalm 98:2

The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his **righteousness** to the nations.

Psalm 98:9

let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in **righteousness** and the peoples with equity.

Psalm 103:6

The LORD works **righteousness** and justice for all the oppressed.

Why do we need righteousness or right living as the focus of our lives?

Proverbs 11:4

Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but **righteousness** delivers from death.

Proverbs 11:5

The **righteousness** of the blameless makes their paths straight, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.

Proverbs 11:6

The **righteousness** of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

Proverbs 12:28

In the way of **righteousness** there is life; along that path is immortality.

Proverbs 13:6

Righteousness guards the person of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

Proverbs 14:34

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.

Proverbs 15:9

The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue **righteousness**.

These are only some of the benefits of living rightly. Where God's blessing and eternal hope lie, is where righteousness is pursued.

What is righteousness?

It is living right. Who determines what is right? God does and it comes from the truth He gives us which we talked about last time as the belt of truth (bible).

Righteousness is 2 things:

One, it is the standing we have in Jesus as His followers which does not change. We have a righteous position with God because Jesus has cleansed us and made us righteous in God's sight by His sacrifice for our sins.

Romans 3:22 [Full Chapter]

This **righteousness** is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,

Secondly, it is our response to His command to live for Him according to His standards and wishes now that we are His children.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for **righteousness**, for they will be filled.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his **righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Purpose of this piece of armour

This piece of armour is a foundational relational piece that makes the other pieces more effective. It is meant as the way to stay in the blessing and favour of God. It is meant to keep us acting as He would act in this world so others will see what He is like and what He can do to redeem or transform sinful humanity into constructive life giving new creations of God with an eternal hope.

This piece of armour is to protect the vital core of our life. It includes the areas where we are developing character qualities, becoming more like Jesus in the way we respond to others, and the passions that shape what we spend effort doing.

How is it put on?

We start by removing things in our lives that are unrighteous, wrong living habits, ideas, or lifestyles that the bible says is wrong. Again, the belt of truth is our guide and the breastplate of righteousness reinforces the belt.

1 John 1:9 [Full Chapter]

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

When we confess them to God asking for forgiveness, we receive the cleansing from God and that makes us clean and right before God.

Psalm 119:9

How can a **young** person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

2 Timothy 3:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

We just read about the word of God, the bible, being able to train us in righteousness. It starts by us reading in the bible what God says about how to live right or righteously. It helps us to begin realizing how God views us now that we have accepted Him as our Saviour and are part of His family, His team, and His army.

How is it used?

Satan will try to make us think we can't be like Christ and are beyond help because we do sin. He will try to make us think we are disqualified from God's blessing because we fail. He will continuously point out our faults and mock us when we fail. He will try to make us think being righteous is weird or unattainable thru Christ. In so doing he will be saying Christ is incapable of making us new creations of God and it is futile to try to be like Christ. It is not futile if we are drawing on God's strength to be like Him.

Matthew 19:26 [Full Chapter]

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God **all things are possible.**"

By continually keeping our hearts clean by asking Jesus to cleanse us and reading the bible, we can train ourselves to have a greater and greater appetite for living right as Christ would want us to. Asking the Lord Jesus for His help and how we should respond to things and situations we find ourselves in will provide wisdom to keep going living in a righteous or right way.

Things to consider

Are we eliminating anything Jesus would call unholy that He would never do? Are we consuming the things that would make us run hard after Him? Are our desires wanting to do what makes His heart joyful? If we are, then the breastplate is there and is doing its job.

When we are in shock physically, the body only has a heartbeat in its core. Injury causes this. How good are we at protecting our Christian life from Satan's attacks? He will attack you in your heart, soul, mind, and strength because that is how we are to please God.

Mark 12:30

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Satan says don't please God. Without the core strong, the rest of our life in Christ Jesus won't do well. The breastplate of righteousness protects the vital core. Jesus' last words were, go into the world and talk about me to others so they may know me. That won't happen if the core of our life is lacking.

Matthew 28:19 [Full Chapter]

Therefore, go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

The heart is where the desire to serve God will come from. The soul is where the decision to serve God is cemented. The mind is where we retain what Jesus says and relay it to others so they can understand the message. The strength is where the effort will come from to do as He has said. The doing indicates how much we love him.

John 14:15

"If you love me, keep my commands.

Conclusion

Analyze all the areas of your life and see if you are in the faith. Intellectual assent to what God says is not meeting the righteous standard. A heart felt powerful desire to go and be all Christ wants us to be is the grade. This

breastplate protects the holy standard God has set and guides us towards living right before God.

Call to action

- Put on this breastplate of righteousness or right living.
- Read in the bible of how to live
- Know the standard is holiness.
- Be convinced it must be met
- Understand you can not meet it without God's help.
- Don't let the devil discourage you from hungering after God's righteousness-read the bible back to Him
- Call on the lord to renew the desire in you to be like Him in every way.
- Begin to place His desires ahead of your own
- Do what He wants before thinking about what you want to do.
- Be urgent about getting His desires met and that they need to be done right when He asks.

When we are living righteously, we have confidence in our prayer life, confidence in defending against the attacks of the Devil, and confidence in being a believer who is not ashamed to let Jesus be known.

God wants us to win in right living so that His blessing can follow us everywhere and that the world will see what transformation of a human life looks like. Amen.

