

Ready for battle?

“...put on the full armour of God...”

Week 3: “...with the breastplate of righteousness in place....”



“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 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.

Therefore put on the full armour 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.

*Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, **with the breastplate of righteousness in place**, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.*

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

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.

Ephesians 6:10–18 (NIV - Anglicised)

“with the breastplate of righteousness in place”

Question: Are there situations in your life where the devil is getting at you and you need to put on the breastplate of righteousness?”

Sermon Notes:

What is righteousness ?

It's not something we do - it's something God has already done

What does a breastplate do?

- A breastplate covers
- A breastplate protects
- A breastplate gives confidence

Practical applications when we need to put on the breastplate of righteousness

- Dealing with feeling we have to be perfect
- Dealing with criticism
- Dealing with unanswered questions

- Dealing with difficult times in life when we feel God can't love if He allows what's happening to us
- Dealing with what happens when we sin

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Think/Talk It Over

On a scale of 1 to 10 for being righteous, where would you place yourself? Why have you placed yourself there? At the end of these questions repeat the exercise. Has it changed?

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In Genesis 6:9 and 15:6 we read about two righteous men. What do you think it meant for a man of that time to be righteous?

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What do we read of God's righteousness in Psalms 9:8, 36:6, 85:13 and 89:14?

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If we live in a way that is displeasing to God (in an unrighteous way) how might that make us open to the attack of Satan?

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Read Isaiah 61:10. Ponder this image, then read Colossians 1:22. Can you picture yourself robed (as in Isaiah) and being presented (Colossians) to God? What are your thoughts and feelings?

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What do the following verses tell us about our righteousness and where it comes from?
Romans 3:22, 4:5, 4:23-24, 8:10, 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Philippians 3:9

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Read Isaiah 32:16-17. What are the effects of righteousness, as described here? Compare these to Isaiah 30:15.

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ARMOUR OF GOD

Breastplate

The iron or bronze scaled armour was built in four sections to cover each shoulder and side of the chest. The plates were sewn to a stiff leather vest which was put on like a jacket before the front plates were tied with leather straps.



ARMOUR OF LEGIONARY

Lorica Segmentata (Breastplate)

Guarded vital organs

ARMOUR OF GOD

Breastplate of Righteousness

“...and having put on the breastplate of righteousness...”
Ephesians 6:14b