

## USING THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

### *Part 2 – The Breastplate*

Ephesians 6:14b

#### **Introduction:**

##### A. Physical struggles

1. Are important to r\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g physical therapy)
2. Can adversely affect our a\_\_\_\_\_
3. Must be seen as a s\_\_\_\_\_ struggle (a battle against the unseen spiritual forces of wickedness)

##### B. Spiritual struggles

1. We are to put on the w\_\_\_\_\_ armor of God (this puts us in position to be empowered by God)
2. We are to t\_\_\_\_\_ up the whole armor and use it (this empowers us to win the battle against Satan & his army)

##### C. The armor

1. Last message
  - a. Belt of truth – we are to gird our loins with truth
    - 1) Girding the loins means to tuck hanging clothing under the belt so as to be r\_\_\_\_\_ to move about unhindered)
    - 2) In plain English – we are to prepare ourselves to battle over t\_\_\_\_\_ (Satan is the deceiver)
  - b. Sword of the Spirit – corresponds with the w\_\_\_\_\_ of God.
    - 1) The Bible is to be our s\_\_\_\_\_ of truth
    - 2) We must not just increase our knowledge of God's word but l\_\_\_\_\_ it.
2. A word about the enemy
  - a. Satan cannot read our minds or see our motives. This is a u\_\_\_\_\_ characteristic that only God has (1Kgs 8:39; 1Chr 28:9; Ps 139:1-4; Jer 17:10; Rev 2:23).
  - b. The evil spiritual world can only learn how a believer thinks by o\_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Satan speaks through the unbelieving world to plant thoughts into our minds which brings us to the third piece of armor – the breastplate

## **The breastplate of righteousness – Christ living in me**

### **A. The breastplate**

1. Its purpose – to p\_\_\_\_\_ the heart and lungs
2. Its material
  - a. Some were made of c\_\_\_\_\_ (very hard to pierce)
  - b. Others were made of b\_\_\_\_\_ (less weighty)
  - c. Paul observes that the Roman soldier next to him DID NOT have the breastplate on. We are to a\_\_\_\_\_ to have it on and use it to protect us from Satan's attack on righteousness.

### **B. The battle over righteousness**

1. S\_\_\_\_\_ righteousness is unrighteousness before God
  - a. All our righteousness is like f\_\_\_\_\_ rags (Is 64:6)
  - b. There is not even o\_\_\_\_\_ who is righteous in themselves (Rom 3:10)
  - c. Jesus told the Pharisees that they were o\_\_\_\_\_ righteous but inwardly unrighteous (Matt 23:28)
2. Righteousness must be r\_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus
  - a. Jesus was called the Righteous One by the a\_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 3:14; 7:52; 22:14)
  - b. Jesus, the Righteous One, fulfilled Isaiah 53:11, bearing in His b\_\_\_\_\_ the sins of the many.
  - c. When we trust Christ to be our sin payment and the God of our lives, God does not s\_\_\_\_\_ our many sins but the righteousness of (2Cor 5:21).
3. Satan wants believers to forget about this and reflect a self-righteousness.
  - a. Phil 3:9 – we are not to be found to have a righteousness in ourselves based on following rules, but a righteousness from Christ based on f\_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Satan uses rule-oriented Christianity to promote a different righteousness/
    - 1) Biblical example – the healing of the blindman in Jn 9
      - a) Jesus was accused of breaking the Sabbath laws by healing the blindman on the Sabbath day.
        - 1) He spit on the ground which was considered p\_\_\_\_\_ by the Pharisees
        - 2) He made mud which was considered doing p\_\_\_\_\_
        - 3) He applied the mud to the man's eyes and healed him which was considered the work of a ph\_\_\_\_\_.

- b) The Pharisees should have rejoiced with the blindman's healing but put him on t \_\_\_\_\_ and forever barred him from the synagogue.
  - c. Rule-oriented Christianity
    - 1) Takes the focus off G \_\_\_\_\_ word and puts it on man-made rules (e.g. don't smoke, drink, chew, dance, play cards)
    - 2) Leads rule-oriented Christians to be judgmental
    - 3) Never leads to a h \_\_\_\_\_ change
- 4. What about making rules for yourself?
  - a. It is okay if it is because you v \_\_\_\_\_ your relationship to Christ (e.g. *I won't drink because I probably will get drunk which will dishonor Christ*)
  - b. Never put your personal rules as a requirement on others in living out their Christianity.
- 5. Beware of parading your freedom in Christ to the point that it becomes a s \_\_\_\_\_ block to others (1Cor 8:13).

## Conclusion

- A. Putting on the breastplate of righteousness – R \_\_\_\_\_ the source of righteousness (2Cor 5:21 – comes from Jesus)
- B. Using the breastplate of righteousness – R \_\_\_\_\_ Christ in all that you do or don't do (Gal 2:20)