

# The Breastplate of Righteousness

## Eph 6:14 & Rom

Text: Eph 6:14

Introduction:

The Roman soldier's breastplate protected his upper body where all of the vital organs are.

Proverbs urges us to protect our hearts.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

In Matthew we read:

Matthew 15:18-19

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. [19] For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Righteousness must be the guardian of our hearts.

The word used here in our text occurs 92 times in the New Testament including 30 times in the book of Romans.

Because of the Danger that we face from our enemy the Devil, god has provided our Defense, so that we can fulfill our duty - Stand.

Note:

## **1. RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED (ROM 1:17)**

Romans 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

### **A. God is Righteous**

Daniel 9:14

Therefore hath the Lord watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the Lord our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.

Psalm 71:19

Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee!

God is righteous - He always does what is right. He does what He does because of Who He is. He does right because it is impossible for Him to do anything wrong. He makes no mistakes. He's not swayed by fear of favor.

## **2. RIGHTEOUSNESS REQUIRED (ROM 1:18)**

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

### **A. The Problem**

#### **1. Our lack of righteousness**

Romans 3:10-16

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: [11] There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. [12] They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. [13] Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: [14] Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: [15] Their feet are swift to shed blood: [16] Destruction and misery are in their ways:

Isaiah 64:6

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

## **3. RIGHTEOUSNESS RECEIVED (ROM 4:5)**

Romans 4:5

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

### **A. Received through faith**

Ephes. 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 5:17-19

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) [18] Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. [19] For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

## **4. RIGHTEOUSNESS REPRODUCED (ROM 6:12-23)**

Romans 6:12-23

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. [13] Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. [14] For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. [15] What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. [16] Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? [17] But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. [18] Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. [19] I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. [20] For when ye were

the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. [21] What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. [22] But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. [23] For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A. Once we have received His righteousness, we are then to reproduce that righteousness.

Ephes. 5:9

(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)