

Series: The Wealth of Christ & The Walk of the Christian

**THE BREASTPLATE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS
EPHESIANS 6:14; PROVERBS 4:23**

Text:

Introduction:

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

The Bible has much to say about the heart.

The word is used 833 times in 765 different verses.

We read in Jeremiah 17:9:

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

And in Matthew we read:

Matthew 15:18-20

¹⁸ 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: ²⁰ *These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.*

This is why is vital that we protect or guard our heart as we read in Proverbs 4:

Proverbs 4:23

²³ *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

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 as we consider the Breastplate of Righteousness and why it is needed to protect our heart:

1. THE HEART IS DECEITFUL (JEREMIAH 17:9)

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

I've heard people say when making a decisions that they just followed their heart.

That is a dangerous practice to follow.

You may be wondering why. It is because our heart deceitful.

- The Heart Deceives Us About Sin

James 1:14-15

¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Galatians 6:7-8

⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

- The Heart Deceives Us About the Shortness of Time

Matthew 24:44

⁴⁴ *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

Luke 12:40

⁴⁰ *Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.*

- To the lost today is the day of Salvation
- To the Christian he fields are white already to harvest

2. THE HEART IS DESPERATE

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹ *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

- The heart is wicked
- The heart will wonder

Illustration: Come Thou Fount

O to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be!

Let Thy goodness like a fether, Bind my wonderin heart to Thee

Prone to wonder Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;

Heres my heart O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts above.

Notice not only is the heart "Deceived and Desperate" but also:

3. THE HEART DETERMINES

- Disposition is Determined In the Heart (Sweetness)

Proverbs 17:22

²² *A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*

Proverbs 15:13

¹³ *A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.*

- Direction is Determined in the Heart (Separation)

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

¹⁴ *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?* ¹⁵ *And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?* ¹⁶

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸ *And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

2 Corinthians 7:1

¹ *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Luke 21:34

³⁴ *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

- Dedication is Determined In the Heart (Service)

Romans 10:1

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Proverbs 23:7

⁷ For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

1 Corinthians 3:9-14

⁹ For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

- Devotion is Determined in the Heart (Steadfastness)

Matthew 6:19-34

¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ²² The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. ²³ But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. ²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? ²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye

of little faith? ³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

- **Destiny Is Determined in the Heart (Salvation)**

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Close:

If we are going to keep our hearts with all diligence then we must put on the breastplate of righteousness.