

The Breastplate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6:14

Isaiah 59:17

1 Thessalonians 5:8

Ephesians 6:13-14

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness...

A.D. 60 - 70

- **A tumultuous decade for Christians**
- **Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon ca A.D. 62**
- **“The days are evil” (Eph. 5:17)**
- **A.D. 64 The Burning of Rome**
- **Nero blamed the Christians**
- **First official Roman Persecution**
- **A.D. 70 the Fall of Jerusalem**

The Church of Ephesus

- **Rev. 2:4, “You have lost your first love”**
- **The Belt of Truth: intellectual convictions of the gospel, “Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching..” (Eph. 4:14)**
- **The Breastplate of Righteousness: received by God through faith and redirects the purpose and intent of our lives.**

How to Put on the Breastplate of Righteousness

- **Stand in Integrity**
- **Kneel in Intercession**
- **Walk in Intervention**

1. Stand in Integrity

- **Transformed into the image of Christ**
- **The Breastplate of the High Priest symbolized the mercy and righteousness of God.**
- **The Breastplate of the soldier symbolized integrity of heart and complete commitment to righteousness.**

Integrity

- To be morally sound, through and through
- “Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you” (Psalm 25:20-21).
- “The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them” (Prov. 11:3).
- “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life” (Prov. 4:23).

Abraham and Abimelech

Genesis 20:1-18

- Out of fear, Abraham told Abimelech that Sarah was his sister, twisting the truth.
- Abimelech “took Sarah”
- Abimelech prayed, “In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this” (Gen. 20:5).
- God said, “I know you have done this in the integrity of your heart” (Gen. 20:6).

Treasure Integrity

- **Keep your heart pure**
- **Confess sin quickly**
- **Let God through His Word build up your character**
- **Do not trust in what seems “expedient” but determine to do the right thing always.**

2. Kneel in Intercession

Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head ... (Isaiah 59:14-17)

Our Business as Christians

- **“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers and intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:1-4).**

Your Prayer

- **Is your prayer a mile wide and an inch deep?**
- **Is your prayer a mile deep and an inch wide?**
- **The Breastplate of Righteousness means to become intercessors for God.**
- **“Evangelism is not only speaking to men about God. It is especially speaking to God about men.” (Lewis Sperry Chafer)**

3. Walk in Intervention

- **When the days are evil, Christians especially need to focus on doing meaningful ministry for Christ.**
- **Intervention, involvement, action ... do something for the sake of God's righteousness.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

- **“... the Lord will come like a thief in the night ... But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober... But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.”**

The Christian and the Government

- **Governments ought to do what is right.**
- **Governments, however, cannot bear witness to the gospel of Christ.**
- **No government program can remove from the church of Jesus Christ the obligation to care and love and help others.**
- **“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world” (James 1:27).**

Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness

“...And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:29-31)

Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness

- Our strength and our protection in the day of evil is found in putting on the breastplate of God's righteousness, being inwardly transformed into the image of Christ, and to go intentionally and quietly about the business of God in prayer and in action.