

Having Put On  
Ephesians 6:14

Standing therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

I. Intro

- A. Recap the Armor
  - 1. Belt of Truth
  - 2. Breastplate of Righteousness
  - 3. Boots of the Gospel of Peace
  - 4. Shield of Faith
  - 5. Helmet of Salvation
  - 6. Sword of the Spirit
  - 7. Prayers of the Saints
- B. Recap Belt of Truth
  - 1. Practical: Truth Holds things together
  - 2. Spiritual: Truth allows freedom and direction
- C. Today: Breastplate of Righteousness:
  - 1. Such an important piece of Armor
  - 2. Such a practical need in battle
  - 3. A Breastplate is for protecting vital organs
  - 4. A Breastplate of Righteousness is for vital protection for the believer

II. Text

- A. Having put on (VERY IMPORTANT)
  - 1. This letter, written to the church, speaks to the putting on in the past tense in English
  - 2. The Putting on of the BELT in Greek: per-id-zone'-noo-mee: To gird up
  - 3. The Putting on of the BREASTPLATE: endyo
    - a) This is very different, the word is compound, means to sink into
    - b) The breastplate of righteousness is "put on" by sinking into.
  - 4. We have already been blessed by "falling into" or being immersed in righteousness.
- B. The breastplate
  - 1. The bullet proof vest, the layer of protection that gives us protection of our vital organs.
  - 2. We have already fallen into the righteousness and been given the breastplate of protection.
- C. Of righteousness
  - 1. This righteousness is the only real righteousness
  - 2. This is by the blood of Jesus!

III. Point

- A. What you have as a believer
  - 1. We are given the protection of God, for the purposes of God
  - 2. We have the righteousness of God
    - a) You have this by grace through faith
    - b) You are gifted this righteousness.
    - c) His righteousness is charged to your bankrupt account
  - 3. This provides relationship
  - 4. This provides fellowship
  - 5. This provides mission and vision
- B. Why you have it
  - 1. No weapon formed against you will prosper
  - 2. But the weapons are formed, so you need the protection
  - 3. The reality of what you have provides a foundation for your Spirit Filled Life
  - 4. What you are promised, you ACTUALLY HAVE

5. God has called you, empowered you, and sent you with His promise.
  - a) You have His power
  - b) You have His permission
  - c) You have His promise
6. So, we possess this truth, and we are becoming this truth
7. I have the protection from God that is His righteousness
  - a) That produces in me righteous acts
  - b) That produces in me a mindset of reliance
  - c) That produces in me a battle in my flesh
8. You have what you need to be an overcomer, and to be more than a conqueror!
9. [Rom 8:31-39 ESV] 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### C. What is Righteousness

1. Definition of Righteousness:
  - a) state of him who is as he ought to be
  - b) the condition acceptable to God
2. Righteousness is perfection, just, virtue, right thinking
3. So, bear in mind, you have this.
  - a) Not because you are this in the flesh
  - b) But, because you are made righteous.
4. Imputed Righteousness:
  - a) [Rom 3:19-26 ESV] 19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
  - b) [Rom 4:1-8 ESV] 1 What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from

works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

- c) [2Co 5:20-21 ESV] 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- 5. My righteous acts are because I have been made righteous, but my righteous acts would never be enough to make me righteous.

#### IV. Close

##### A. Important words:

- 1. promise, protection, power, permission
- 2. Righteousness, relationship, redemption

##### B. All true and all secure behind the breastplate of righteousness