

The Breastplate of righteousness;

Ephesians 6:14(NKJV) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

**Putting on the breastplate of righteousness in understanding of God's righteousness: God is perfectly just, holy, and fair in all His actions and decisions. Righteousness is central to His character and is consistently highlighted throughout the Bible:*

Psalm 145:17 (KJV) ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

Romans 14:17(NKJV) For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Psalm 89:14(NKJV) ¹⁴ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

Psalm 9:7-10 (NKJV) ⁷ But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. ⁸ He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.

**Righteousness was imputed/received through faith right from the beginning:
- God`s Covenant with Abram/Abrahamic Covenant is the model/template for righteousness:*

Genesis 15:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to Abram, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to Abram, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And Abram believed in The LORD, and The Lord accounted it to him for righteousness.

Romans 4:13 (NKJV) ¹³ For the promise that he/abraham would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham himself or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

**Righteousness does not come through The Law/ old covenant/Mosaic covenant - laws, rules and regulation conditionally based on obedience and works, blessing and cursing and was attached to a sacrificial system to atone for sin:*

Galatians 2:16a (NKJV) ¹⁶ **knowing that a man/woman is not justified/made righteous by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ**

Righteousness in The new covenant/the new Law is imputed/given by the grace of God through faith:

Romans 3:21-22(NKJV) ²¹ **But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed,being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.**

**God's righteousness demonstrated in His response to sin and His provision of salvation in sending forth Jesus Christ as a scape goat to pay the penalty of sin once for all:*

Romans 3:25-26 (NKJV) ^{25a} **Jesus Christ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness,** ^b **because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously; *in the past* committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

1.) *In vs.25a; How did God demonstrate His righteousness?*

2.) *What does propitiation mean?*

3.) *In vs.25b; How did God pass over the sins that were previously in the past committed? References; Leviticus 16:15-16, Leviticus 17:11,*

4.) *What examples in the Old Testament can we think of that pertain to passing over sins by blood?*

**Putting on the breastplate of righteousness with the proper perspective of our own righteousness:*

Romans 3:10(NKJV) As it is written: **“There is none righteous, no, not one**

Isaiah 64:6a (NKJV) ⁶ But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;

**Putting on The Breastplate of Righteousness remembering What it cost Jesus Christ to make us righteous in God`s eye:*

1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ Jesus Christ Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ For He(God) made Him(Jesus Christ) who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Putting on The Breastplate of Righteousness bearing in mind God`s instruction to us regarding Righteousness:*

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Philippians 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹ and be found in Him (Jesus Christ), not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

Titus 2:11-12(NKJV) ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

1 Timothy 6:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

Romans 6:13 (NKJV) ¹³ And do not present your members *as* ^{la}instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NKJV) ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Philippians 1:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Proverbs 21:3 (NKJV) ³ To do righteousness and justice *Is* more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

The effect of righteousness:

Isaiah 32:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.

Proverbs 21:21 (NKJV) ²¹ He who follows righteousness and mercy Finds life, righteousness, and honor.

**The breastplate of righteousness: guards and protects the proper perspective of God`s righteousness from the sin and unrighteousness in our own flesh, the world and Satan that attacks our most vital organs; the heart and bowels; the base or seat of our emotions, feelings and affections.*

** Understanding the nature of the heart:*

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV) Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV) ⁹ “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”

Mark 7:21-23 (NKJV) ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

**Instructions from God`s Word regarding emotions, feeling`s and affection`s of the heart:*

Galations 5:24 (KJV) And they that are Christ`s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Colossians 3:2 (KJV) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Reference; 1John 2:15-17, Philippians 1:8

Proverbs 3:5 (NKJV) ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

Proverbs 23:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways. Reference; Jude 21, Colossians 3:14-15

2 Timothy 2:22 (NKJV) ²² Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Proverbs 4:23 (AMP) ²³ Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance, for out of it flow the springs of life. Reference; Psalm 139:23, philippians 4:6-7

Proverbs 15:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil. Reference; 2 timothy 2:15

**Warnings for following our heart according to it`s emotions, feelings and affections:*

Jeremiah 7:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ But they did not obey Me or bend their ear to hear Me, but followed the counsels and the stubbornness of their evil heart, and they turned and went backward instead of forward.

1.) What was the result to those that followed the ways of their evil heart?

Ecclesiastes 11:9 (NKJV) ⁹ Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.

1.) What is the warning to those youth who walked in the ways of their heart?

Proverbs 28:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

1.) What scripture(s) can you think of that instructs us in the right way to trust God in regards to our heart?

Proverbs 29:11(NKJV) ¹¹ **A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise *man* holds them back.**

Ecclesiastes 10:2 (AMP) A wise man's heart *turns him* toward the right hand which is the way of blessing, but a fool's heart *turns him* toward the left hand which is the way of condemnation. *References; Isaiah 41:10, luke 22:69, psalm 118:6, psalm 48:10, acts 3:7, psalm 18:35, psalm 17:7, genesis 48:14, Matthew 25:31-32*

**The evidence of the state of your heart:*

Luke 6:45 (NKJV)⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. **For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

**Examine yourself;*

- 1.) *Who or what is the treasure of your heart?*
- 2.) *What kind of fruit are you bearing?*
- 3.) *What are the things your mouth mostly speaks of?*

**Reflection: In our present warfare against the spiritual forces of darkness in our addictions, we are specifically instructed to put on the breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation in sobriety:*

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 (KJV) ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but **let us watch and be sober.**⁷ For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.⁸ **But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love (*righteousness*); and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.**

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NKJV) ¹³ Therefore **gird up the loins of your mind, be sober (*putting on the helmet of salvation*)**, and rest your hope (*in your mind*) fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children (*taking every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ*) not conforming yourselves (*by putting on the breastplate of righteousness*) to the former lusts, (*the desires, feelings or emotions of your heart*) as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

James 1:14-16 (KJV) ¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed (*in his mind, thus the need and purpose for the helmet of*

salvation.) ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived in the heart, (*thus the need and purpose for the breastplate of righteousness*), it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.¹⁶ Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Keep in mind... 1.) Where does temptation start? 2.) Where is sin conceived?