

"The Practice of the Believer"

Ephesians 4-6

Part 30

Introduction: Two weeks ago we started into our study on the actual pieces of the Armour of God. I have said this before, but it is worth repeating, that many believers today live defeated Christian lives because they have never looked at the section we are in or if they have read it, they never slowed down to consider exactly what the Apostle is saying here. If we were to do a survey today concerning what the church believed was the way to overcome the enemy today, we would most likely hear believers need to pray more. Now prayer is very important but here in our text it is the last thing that is mentioned. Paul spends more time on telling us about the WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD. Paul gives to us great detail concerning the armour because we need it all.

I. The Girdle of Truth

In our last study we looked at the Girdle/Belt of Truth.

Notice Ephesians 6:13-14a

The Belt of Truth is not walking in our truth and sincerity. It is knowing the Truth of the Bible and appropriating it to our lives. It is knowing the doctrines of the Bible. It is knowing what the Bible says about God and what the Bible says about Satan and what the Bible says about us. If we do not know the Truth of the Bible and apply it to our lives, we will certainly be defeated.

2 Peter 3:15-18

¹⁵ *And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;*

¹⁶ *As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

¹⁷ *Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.*

¹⁸ *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

The BELT OF TRUTH is foundational and without it Satan will render us useless in for the Kingdom. We MUST know the Word of God and walk in the Truth of it.

Before we move on let me explain something that we all need to grasp. You can stand for portions of the Truth and serve in the church, but if you do not have the whole armour of God you are defeated. Let us now move on to the next piece of armour.

II. The Breast Plate of Righteousness

Notice Ephesians 6:14

The breast plate protected many of the vital organs and namely the heart. Let us first of all understand that this has nothing to do with our righteousness. Keep in mind this is the ARMOUR OF GOD. It is NOT the armour of the believer. It is God's armour provided for each believer so that we can be equipped for the battle.

So we can be sure this is not our righteousness.

Isaiah 64:6

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.*

Romans 7:15-20

¹⁵ *For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.*

¹⁶ *If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.*

¹⁷ *Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

¹⁸ *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

¹⁹ *For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*

²⁰ *Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

The Bible is very clear that we have no righteousness that is acceptable by God. So we can certainly conclude that the Breastplate of Righteousness is NOT our righteousness. The Breastplate of Righteousness is the righteousness that God gives to each believer the moment they are saved.

Romans 3:19-22

¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

The moment that we are saved we are clothed in the righteousness of God. So when He sees us from that day forward, He does not see us as sinners, but He sees us as righteous saints.

Application:

Now let us understand why this is so important. When we sin the enemy will come, and he will speak into your ear, and he will tell you that you are done. He will tell you that God no longer loves you and that you have lost your salvation. It maybe after you have committed a deliberate sin of some kind. You knew it was wrong, but you committed the sin with a high hand in other words you ignored the Truth, and you committed the sin. Satan then comes to you, and he tells you that you have committed the unpardonable sin. He begins to crush you under a weight of guilt, and you feel worthless, and you feel as an outcast. There is not one believer who has not done this.

This is when you MUST be clothed in the righteousness of God. You need to know that when you were saved, He imputed to you His righteousness and that has not changed. You were saved by grace, and you are kept by grace. You are not kept by your ability, but you are kept by God's grace, and you are accepted by what Jesus did.

Ephesians 1:6-7

⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

The day we were saved we were brought into the New Covenant so let us see what that means for us.

Hebrews 10:14-18

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

¹⁵ *Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,*

¹⁶ *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*

¹⁷ **And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**

¹⁸ *Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.*

When Jesus died 2000 years ago, He died for all of your sin. That means He died for PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE SIN. Now that our sins have been paid for, they are forgiven and forgotten.

Psalms 103:11-13

¹¹ *For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*

¹² **As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ *Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.*

When you were saved you were JUSTIFIED.

Romans 5:8-10

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

⁹ *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

¹⁰ *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

When the Bible tells us that we are JUSTIFIED it means that we are declared RIGHTEOUS. This is a ONE-TIME legal act.

All of this is so important for we who are believers to grasp. If we neglect to put on the breastplate of righteousness the enemy will come and when you sin, he will cause you to doubt your salvation and you will find yourself in a situation where it is difficult to move on. There are many believers who get stuck on the subject of salvation and never move on in their walk. This is not what God desires for us. Let me show you what happens.

Hebrews 5:9-13, 6:1-2

⁹ *And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;*

¹⁰ *Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.*

¹¹ *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.*

¹² *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

¹³ *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

² Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

This is what happens to believers who get stuck on the subject of salvation. They do not grow and move on. Satan cannot take away your salvation, but he can cause you to struggle with security and this will then cause you to be defeated because you cannot go any further.

There are believers who get caught up in looking for some kind of sign that proves they are saved. If this, is you let me show you a few verses.

John 3:16, 18, 36

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

There is no greater proof of salvation than the Word of God. God said if you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior you are saved. **That is final and settled! Believe these Words and move on!** Put on the breastplate of righteousness so that Satan cannot shoot a fiery dart of doubt into your heart. Do not allow your feelings and emotions to control you. Walk by faith.

Let me share something else that Satan will try to use against you. Not only will he try to convince you that you are not saved but he will try to convince you that because of your sin God loves you less or maybe has stopped loving you.

Application:

There is not one thing you can do to cause God to love you less!

Romans 8:30-35, 38-39

³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

³³ Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Conclusion:

I want to leave you with a verse that shows us that we are secure in our salvation.

Romans 5:21

²¹ That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.