

The Battlefield of the Mind

The Breastplate of Righteousness

The Breastplate of Righteousness

- Ephesians 6:14 (1255)—the next piece of armor that Paul address is the breastplate of righteousness. Paul Sadler in his commentary on Ephesians states the following regarding the breastplate, “The breastplate is to be put on and never removed, as implied by the phrase “having on.”
- The breastplate was designed to protect a soldier’s vital organs namely the heart and lungs. If damage was done to these organs it most often would proved fatal to the soldier.
 - See pictures

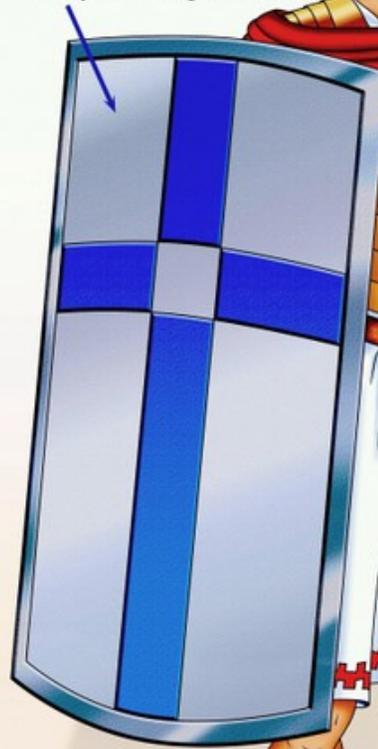
THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

"... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)

Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.



The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)

Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)

Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)

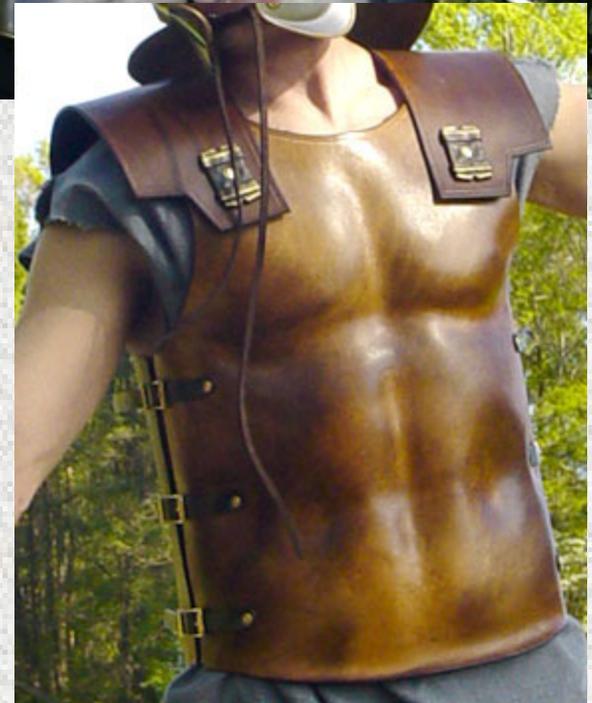
Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)

which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)

The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.



The Breastplate of Righteousness

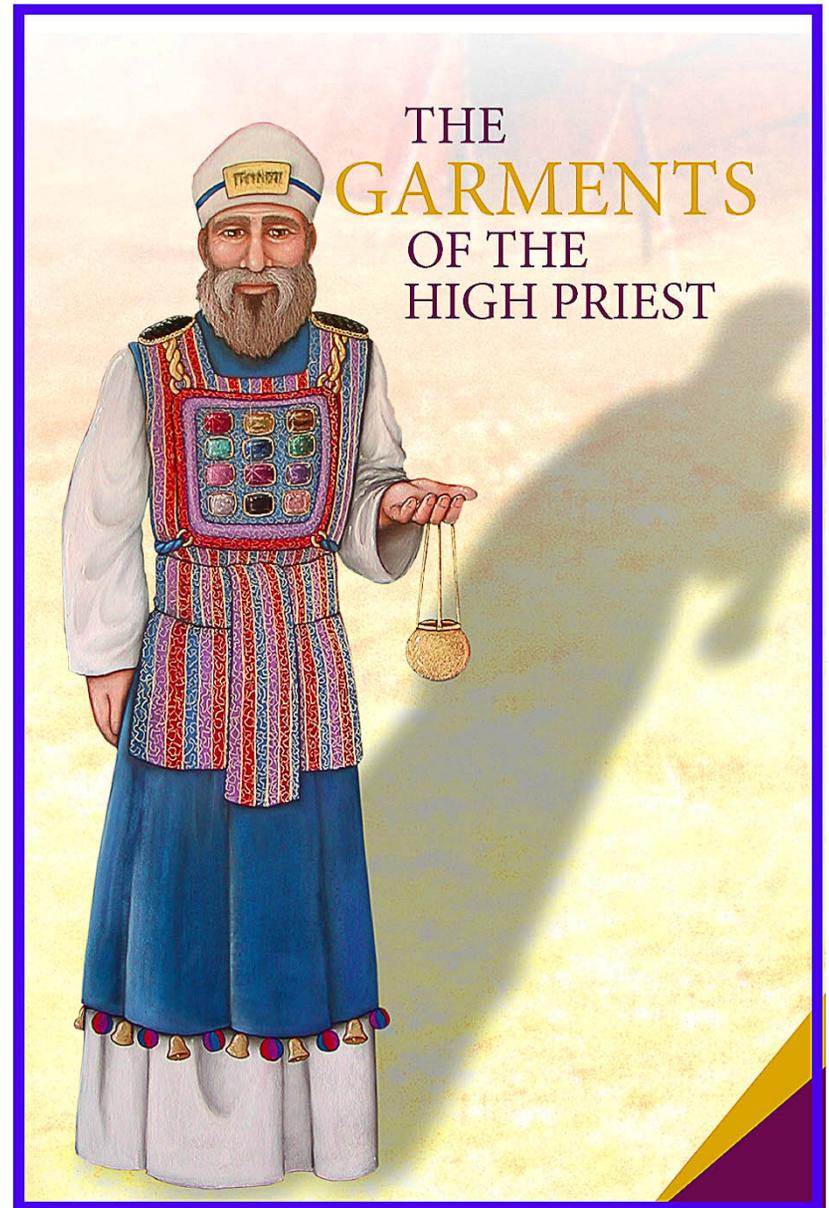
- Just as a Roman soldier would wear a breastplate to protect his vital organs, Paul tell us that righteousness serves as the believer's breastplate to protect our vital organs against the wiles of the devil.
- When it comes to defining what kind or type of righteousness Paul has in mind here the commentators cannot agree. While they all agree it is not self righteousness, some see it as imputed righteousness while others see it as practical rightness.
- Regarding the imputed righteousness view Sadler states, "Some have suggested it is the "imputed righteousness of God" that is received upon conversion (II Cor. 5:21). This righteousness, however, is never said to be put on, suggesting that it could be taken off."
- Meanwhile, Ernest Campbell seems to disagree with Sadler when he argues based upon the Greek tense translated "having on" "that believers are to be those who have put on the breastplate of righteousness." This implies that Paul does have imputed righteousness in mind not practical righteousness.

The Breastplate of Righteousness

- Sadler argues for the practical righteousness view when he writes, “We believe the breastplate is a practical righteousness which emanates from the new nature that is said to be “created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24).” The breastplate has to do with our morality, that is, performing that which is right by living a life of good works. . . . The breastplate of righteousness is a safeguard against the enemy’s attempts to discredit us and the message we proclaim.
- For the record, Keith Blades, J. Vernon Magee, and H.A. Ironside seem to agree with Sadler that Paul has practical righteousness in mind when speaking about the breastplate.
- In order to try and understand what is going on here I would like to focus on the word breastplate for awhile. The word breastplate occurs 28 times in 24 verses in the King James Bible. Twenty five of those times are in reference to the breastplate of Israel’s high priest and they don’t have anything to do with righteousness.

The Breast Plate of Righteousness

- Exodus 25:7 (100)—the first time the word breastplate occurs in your Bible it is used in connection with Israel's tabernacle and religious system of the law.
- Exodus 28:1-4—the breastplate was one of the holy garments that those who ministered in the priest's office would wear.
- Exodus 28:15—the breastplate of the high priest is specially called the breast plate of judgment.
- Exodus 28:16-21—twelves stones were to be set into the breastplate of judgment one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel.



The Breastplate of Righteousness

- Exodus 28:29-30—when Aaron the high priest entered into the holy of holies he bore the sins of the nation and the breastplate of judgment protected his heart from the judgment of God upon the sins of the nation.
- Ephesians 6:14—we are to have on the breastplate of righteousness because our sin issue has been settled and judgment and justice have been satisfied by the word of Christ. The word righteousness occurs 64 times in 57 verses in Paul's Epistles.
- II Corinthians 11:3 (1237)—remember that the winds of doctrine are designed to corrupt our minds from the simplicity that is in Christ. The winds of doctrine are going to say and do to primary things: 1) complicate matters, 2) cause you to think that Christ is not enough.
- I Corinthians 1:30—Christ is our righteousness. Just as Christ was the truth last week when we studied the belt of truth, this week we learn that Christ is our righteousness.

The Breastplate of Righteousness

- II Corinthians 5:21—we have already been made the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ.
- Romans 3:21-25 (1194)—God is now in the righteousness business. He declaring his righteousness and that sin has been dealt with and paid by the sacrifice of his son Jesus Christ.
 - Hebrews 9:26—Christ “put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”
- The breastplate of rightness is our defense against the following three questions.
- Romans 8:33—Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect?
- Romans 8:34—Who is he that condemneth?
- Romans 8:35—Who shall separate us form the love of Christ? Remember that the breastplate of judgment stood between, separated, and protected the heart of the high priest as he entered into the holy of holy to offer sacrifice for the sins of the nation. When did the breastplate of judgment become the breastplate of righteousness?

The Breastplate of Righteousness

- Isaiah 59:1-2 (764)—Israel's iniquities separated them from God. Just as the breastplate of judgment protected the heart of the high priest. Israel needed to have the judgment and justice of God against their sin satisfied. Notice the contrast here between Israel's condition and Paul's third questions in Romans 8:35.
- Isaiah 59:12-16—when the Lord looks at Israel's condition it displeased him because there was no intercessor there was no way for judgment to be satisfied. Therefore, in verse 16 the Lord himself is going to have to take up for Israel and for her what she could not do for herself.
- Isaiah 59:17—the Lord Jesus Christ put on righteousness as a breastplate and contended for Israel. Upon the cross Christ suffered the judgment of God against sin and stratified the offended justice of God. It is here the breastplate of judgment became the breastplate of righteousness.

The Breastplate of Righteousness

- I think that the breast plate of righteousness is the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. In Christ no one can lay anything to our charge, condemn us, or separate of from the love of Christ. It is righteousness of God manifest at Calvary that once and for all time defeated the adversary. Therefore, I know it will allow me to stand against the wiles of devil now as we withstand in the evil day.