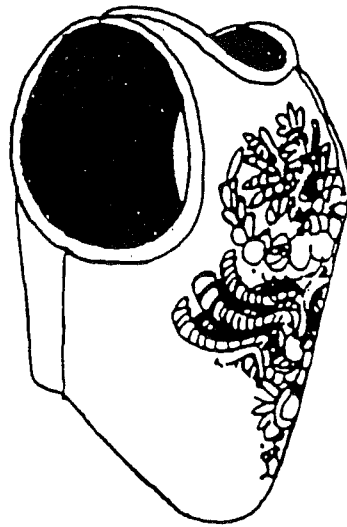


# THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

(How Christ Has Freed Us From All Condemnation)



## Grace Much More Abounds

- ◆ The Groping For Righteousness
- ◆ The Gift Of Righteousness
- ◆ The Grace Of Righteousness

*“For As By One Man’s Disobedience Many Were Made Sinners, So By The  
Obedience Of One Shall Many Be Made Righteous”  
(Romans 5:19)*

Bill Kirk

## “STANDING VICTORIOUSLY AGAINST THE ENEMY”

(Message #2)

**Text:** Ephesians 6:10-18

**Subject:** “The Power Of The Breastplate Of Righteousness”  
(v. 14)...and having on the breastplate of righteousness”

### (Remember From Message #1)

**Fact:** God has revealed to us that every believer is in a warfare.

**Fact:** God has declared, that, there is an enemy to overcome.

**Fact:** God has made known to us, we can live victorious. (How)?

#1. “Be Strong In The Lord” (v.10) (or)

- A. Participate in the strength of Jesus.
- B. Receive strength from outside of ourselves.
- C. Be endued with power from the hand of God.

#2. Put On The Armor Of God” (v.11) (or)

- A. Learn what these divine resources are in Ephesians 6.
- B. Apply the Word of God personally to your life.
- C. Ask God to give you grace to walk obedient.

#3. “Stand Against The Wiles (methods) Of The Devil” (or)

- A. Hold your position when under attack.
- B. Stand firm when assaulted by the evil one.
- C. Regain the ground given over to the enemy.

### Last Week We Discovered

(Divine Resource #1: “The Shield Of Faith”)

- ◆ The priority of the shield (Is to protect us and to preserve us in battle).
- ◆ The purpose of the shield (Is to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked hurled your way).
- ◆ The power of the shield (Is to overcome every stronghold the enemy could use to sideline you).

### (How Does Faith Act As A Shield?)

- #1. Faith enables you to embrace God when you haven't got answers to your questions.
- #2. Faith enables you to embrace God when your feelings, senses and reasonings break down.
- #3. Faith enables you to look beyond your difficult days of battle to the victory afterward.
- #4. Faith enables you to overcome the world (the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life).

### Remember:

What a shield is to the soldier, Faith is to the believer.

### (This Morning)

“The Power Of The Breastplate Of Righteousness”

(Don't Raise Your Hand, But...)

- Question:** How many of you have ever felt guilty over past sin?
- Question:** How many of you have ever felt unworthy to approach a Holy God?
- Question:** How many of you have ever been intimidated by someone?
- Question:** How many of you have ever struggled with inferiority and poor self-esteem?
- Question:** How many of you know that the devil is a liar and the father of all lies to our minds (our thinking) and our hearts (our feelings)?
- Question:** How many of you know that feeling distant from the Lord is not the will of God?
- Question:** How many of you know that God has provided a “Breastplate” to defeat every fiery dart of the wicked one against you?

**Question:** What Is The “Breastplate Of Righteousness”?

**Answer:** In Paul’s day the picture was simple:

1. A Breastplate was worn by Roman soldiers to protect the vital organs of the body.
2. It covered the soldiers front and back.
3. It reached from the neck to the waist.
4. It was a piece of armor made with metal plates and chains for flexibility.
5. It was necessary to save the soldier from being mortally wounded in battle.

**(But Pastor, What About Us Today?)**

◆ The Breastplate of Righteousness for you and me now is very clear:

- #1. It is the **righteousness we receive** from Jesus at the moment of our conversion.
- #2. It is the breastplate of “**right standing**” before a Holy God.
- #3. It is the joy of knowing that Jesus has **satisfied God’s righteous demands** of a sacrifice for our sins.
- #4. It is the **armor that overcomes** the accuser of the brethren who tells you that you are still guilty, shameful, unworthy and distant from God.

**(All Read: II Corinthians 5:21)**

“For He hath made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”.

- Question:** But pastor, why do I feel condemned at times?
- Question:** Pastor, why don’t I feel righteous and in “perfect standing” before God?
- Question:** How does the “accuser of the brethren” defeat so many in the battle Frey?
- Question:** What is the truth of righteousness that sets us free and preserves us from the fiery darts of the wicked one?

**(All Read: Romans 5:12-14)**

**I. The Groping For Righteousness (v. 12-14)**

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”. (v. 12)

**Fact:** Sin came into the world by one man (and death as the consequence).

**Fact:** The whole world was condemned because of one man’s disobedience (Adam’s sin).

**Fact:** Because of Adam’s sin, all of us are under condemnation and death.

**Fact:** But, because of Christ’s obedience on the cross, we now are afforded righteousness and justification.

**Question:** Was it fair for God to condemn the whole world just because of one man's sin and disobedience?

**Answer:** It was not only fair, but it was wise, gracious and compassionate on God's part:

- #1. If God would have tested us all individually, the result would have been the same (disobedience).
- #2. By condemning the entire human race through one man (**Adam**), God was then able to save the human race through One Man (**Jesus Christ**).
- #3. We all are racially united to Adam, and his deed affects us all.
- #4. Because we were lost in Adam (our racial head), we can now be saved in Christ (our Spiritual Head).

**Question:** How do we know that we are all racially united to Adam?

**Answer:** Because of the truth of Romans 5: 12-14: (**Read it slowly**)

- #1. We know that all men die.
- #2. Death is the result of disobeying the Law of God.
- #3. But, there was no law from Adam to Moses, yet men still died.
- #4. The cause of death can only be one thing: The disobedience of Adam.
- #5. When Adam sinned, he died as well as all of his descendants. (Genesis 5)
- #6. Yet, the Law had not yet been given.
- #7. Thus, we must conclude, they died because of Adam's sin.

**Fact:** "For that all have sinned" in (v.12) means "all have sinned in Adam's sin".

**Fact:** In other words, we do not die because of our own acts of sin (otherwise babies would not die).

**Fact:** We die because we are united racially to Adam:

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive". (I Corinthians 15:22)

**(That's The Bad News - Now The Good News)**

## II. **The Gift Of Righteousness** (v. 15-18)

"But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many". (v.15)

**(It's A Contrast Between Adam and Christ)**

#1. **Adam's Offense** (v's) **Christ's Gift** (v. 15)

**Fact:** The word offense means "fall" in (v.15).

**Fact:** It means the fall, or, the first sin of Adam.

**Fact:** It refers to the fall from obedience to condemnation.

**Fact:** The "free gift" is the life Christ brings to us all.

**Fact:** The word "free" means:

**"Without Merit On Our Part, And Bestowed On The Undeserving"**

**Fact:** We were dead under the dark and gloomy reign of death,

**Fact:** But "much more" are now found in the abounding mercy of God (oh what a gift).

#2. **The Effect Of Adam's Sin** (v's) **The Effect Of Christ's Obedience** (v.16)

**Fact:** Adam's sin brought judgment upon us.

**Fact:** Adam's sin brought condemnation upon us.

**Fact:** When Adam sinned he was declared unrighteous and condemned (so were we).

**(But Look At Christ)**

- A. Christ's work on Calvary has brought justification.
- B. Christ's work on Calvary has made us righteous.
- C. Christ's work on Calvary has more than counterbalanced for the ills which were introduced by the sin of Adam (Praise God!!!)
- D. Christ's work on Calvary has set you free!!!

#3. The Reign Of Adam (v's) The Reign Of Christ (v. 17)

"For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ" (v.17)

**Fact:** Because of Adam's sin - death reigned.

**Fact:** But because of Christ's obedience - we now reign in life through Christ's power.

**(In Fact) We Reign "Much More" (v. 17) Which Means:**

- A. Our spiritual reign is far greater than Adam's earthly reign.
- B. We now share the "Abundance of Grace and the Gift of Righteousness". (v. 17)
- C. We now "Reign in life" which means:
  - #1. We are free from **all guilt**.
  - #2. We are free from **all condemnation**.
  - #3. We are free from **Adam's crime**.
  - #4. We are free from Adam's curse **because of the work of another!!!**

"But pastor, I've done a lot of bad things in the past".

"But pastor, You don't know the times I went to prison".

"But pastor, too many people have been hurt by me".

"But pastor, I still remember the rotten me before salvation".

"But pastor, I was a rebel for such a long time".

"But pastor, I wasted too many years (drugs, drinking and disobedience).

"But pastor, How can I quench the fiery darts when I still see my wretchedness?"

**III. The Grace Of Righteousness (v. 20,21)**

"Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound". (v. 20)

**Question:** Why was the law given?

**Answer:** To show us that we couldn't keep it and that we needed grace!

**Question:** What did the law accomplish?

**Answer:** It revealed our sin and caused it to surface, be seen and now crowds us to Christ (who is our only Hope)

**Fact:** As the law made our sin increase in our sight, God's grace has abounded even more.

**Fact:** As the law was effective in declaring us guilty, God's grace is more effective in declaring us innocent.

- (It Means)**
- #1. That the pardoning mercy of the gospel triumphs over sin.
  - #2. That the superabounding grace of God is sufficient with every sin of your past.
  - #3. That when God declares you righteous, you are righteous and justified in His sight.

### (In Fact)

- ◆ It has nothing to do with your feelings!
- ◆ It has nothing to do with your sin!
- ◆ It has nothing to do with your past record!
- ◆ It has nothing to do with your efforts for relief!

- (Why Not?) #1. Because it is God's grace that has cleared you!  
#2. It is God's plan that has spared you!  
#3. It is God's Son that has declared you free, innocent, not guilty and white as snow!

### Conclusion

(What's The Glorious Result Of The Second Adam?)

- #1. "As far as the East is from the West, so far hath **He removed our transgressions from us.**" (Psalm 103:12) East and West are infinite distance apart. God has removed our transgressions an infinite distance from us.
- #2. "Thou hast cast **all my sins** behind thy back". (Isaiah 38:17) When something is behind our back, we cannot see it. God says, "I have put your sin there" The devil says God can see them. God says, "I can't see them anymore".
- #3. "I even I am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and **will not remember thy sins**". (Isaiah 43:25) God has blotted out our sin (removed it from the record). God remembers them against us no more!!!
- #4. "God has tread our sins underfoot and hurled **all our iniquities** unto the depths of the sea". (Micah 7:19) "If this is true, and it is; stop allowing the enemy to keep you fishing in the sea!!
- #5. "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way, and the Lord hath **laid on Him** the iniquity of us all". (Isaiah 53:6) Christ's sacrifice was sufficient to pay for the iniquity "of us all"! It was His idea to take the place for our sin! He became sin for us!
- #6. "And their sins and iniquities will I remember **no more**". (Hebrews 10:17) How? Why? Because He (Jesus) has offered one sacrifice for sins forever and sat down at the right hand of God". (Hebrews 10:12)
- #7. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from **all unrighteousness**". (I John 1:9) Our job - confess, God's job - forgive, How much? All our sins!
- #8. "For thou, Lord, art good and **ready to forgive**; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee". (Psalm 86:5) God is plenteous in mercy and ready to forgive!
- #9. "Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be **white as snow**, though they be red like crimson, **they shall be as wool**". (Isaiah 1:18)
- #10. "To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath **made us accepted** in the beloved". (Ephesians 1:6) God has accepted you, because you have accepted His Son.

### (Put On The Breastplate Today)

- ◆ If you ever feel unworthy as a believer (in Christ), you are declaring that the blood of Christ was not sufficient to satisfy God's justice and atone (cover) your sin!
- ◆ If you ever feel unworthy as a believer (in Christ), you are slapping God in the face!
- ◆ If you ever feel unworthy as a believer (in Christ), you are falling prey to satan's trap!
- ◆ If you ever feel unworthy as a believer (in Christ), you are living below God's intended purpose!

AMEN!

Pastor Bill Kirk