

Armor Up: The Breastplate of Righteousness

(Ephesians 6:14b & Various Texts)

The Breastplate

- Breastplate (*thorax*): A piece of armor covering the chest to protect it against blows & arrows

Righteousness

- *Dikaiosune*: Righteousness & Justice
- Positional righteousness: Right standing before God
 - Justification which comes as a result of Christ's death (Rom. 3:21-26)
- Ethical righteousness: Acting rightly towards others (Job 29:14; Mic. 6:8)

Righteousness as Armor

- Positional righteousness acts as armor because we are relying on the work of Jesus
 - It is putting on the righteousness of Christ to protect us (Isa. 59:17; 61:10)
- Ethical righteousness acts as armor because it is us living out the transformation that our new standing in Christ brings us (Eph. 4:24; 5:9)
- Like every other piece of armor, it is our character being made more like God (Eph. 5:1-5)
 - Which is directly reflected in:
 - Our inner life
 - Our external actions
- When we live out this transformation:
 - We do not let the Devil have an opportunity to attack us (Eph. 4:27)
 - Nor do we allow others an opening (1 Pet. 3:13-14)

When the War is Won

- When the battles are all won, we will still be garbed in righteousness
 - Not as armor, but as a wedding dress (Rev. 19:8)

So What?

- Are we guarded by our relationship with Jesus?
- Are we living out the transformation He is working in us?

Meditation Verse: *Ephesians 4:24*