

Armor of God-Breastplate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ ***Put on the whole armour of God***, that ye may be able to stand against the ***wiles of the devil***.

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ ***Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God***, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, ***and having on the BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS;***

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

In this section we will uncover the glorious truth of the Breastplate of Righteousness in relation to the spiritual armor we wear for our doctrinal fight with Satan. There are 2 types of righteousness: One is legal with obedience to the Law for Israel, and the other is by faith for the Body of Christ which is the righteousness of God.

Righteousness of the Law (Israel):

Jesus Christ was a minister to the “circumcision” ***(Israel)***. Israel received the law of righteousness from Moses and was commanded to keep it:

Revelation 22:14

¹⁴ ***Blessed are they that do his commandments***, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

And:

Matthew 5:19

¹⁹ Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: ***but whosoever shall do and teach them***, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

This is the righteousness of the Law (***Commandments***) that Israel is to follow. In Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7, Jesus lays out the constitution of the Millennial Kingdom which is centered on the Law. This is further verified in the following verse:

James 2:24

²⁴ Ye see then how that ***by WORKS a man is justified, and NOT by faith only.***

As we can see, Israel righteousness is faith plus the works of the Law. Contrast this with the message given to the ***Body of Christ:***

Romans 3:20

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.

And:

Romans 3:28

²⁸ Therefore we conclude that ***a man is justified by faith WITHOUT THE DEEDS OF THE LAW.***

As we can now clearly see, Israel has a righteousness of the Law, but the body of Christ has a different righteousness. The righteousness of the Law is self-righteousness.

Philippians 3:3-8

³ For **WE (Israel) are the circumcision**, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have **no confidence in the flesh**.

⁴ Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I **(Paul)** more:

⁵ Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

⁶ Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; **touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless**.

⁷ But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Paul is telling the Body of Christ believers here that if any man should have confidence in the flesh to fulfill the Law, he should more so than anyone. Here he lays out his credentials for a man who was pure in the law having been circumcised the Eighth day, pure blood, and knew the Law inside and out and kept it to the letter. Having done this, he counted it all worthless so that he might “win Christ” or as he says in verse 9 not having his **OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS (Which is of the Law)**:

Philippians 3:9

⁹ And be found in him, **NOT having mine own righteousness, which is of the law**, but that which is through the faith of Christ, **the righteousness which is of God by faith**:

Our righteousness in the body of Christ is **JESUS CHRIST RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and not our own. God hates self-righteousness because:

Romans 3:23

²³ For **ALL have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

And:

Romans 3:10

¹⁰ As it is written, ***There is none righteous, no, not one:***

Righteousness of God (Body of Christ):

The body of Christ has access to the righteousness of God by faith in Jesus Christ and the finished work of the cross. This is our righteousness (***Jesus Christ Righteousness***), not our own. Israel has their righteousness, which is the righteousness of the Law, to which they will keep because God will write the Law on their inward parts:

Jeremiah 31:33

³³ But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, ***I will put MY LAW in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;*** and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

And thus, Israel will fulfill the righteousness of the Law having it written on their inward parts by God Himself.

To have this imputed righteousness of Christ we ***MUST*** believe as Abraham did to the promises given to him by God:

Romans 4:19-25

¹⁹ And being ***not weak in faith***, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

²⁰ ***He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;***

²¹ And being ***fully persuaded*** that, ***what he had promised, he was able also to perform.***

²² And therefore it was ***imputed to him for righteousness.***

²³ Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

²⁴ ***But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;***

²⁵ Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Abraham's faith in what God promised him according to the Abrahamic Covenant (*Genesis Chapters 12-15*), never wavering, not weak in faith, staggering not at the promise through unbelief, but was strong in faith, being fully persuaded that whatever God promised, he was able to deliver earned him **IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS** as an example to us. As the body of Christ we need to have this type of faith in the finished work of the cross, and thus we get Jesus Christ's imputed righteousness placed on ourselves. (*Romans 4:24*)

But even more, Jesus was raised for **OUR (Body of Christ)** justification.

Romans 4:25

²⁵ Who was delivered for our offences, and ***was raised again for our justification.***

There are 2 sides to this justification. One side of this justification is forgiveness of sins:

Ephesians 1:6-7

⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, ***wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. (When we believed the Gospel of Grace)***

⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, ***THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS***, according to the riches of his grace;

Colossians 2:13

¹³ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened (***Made alive***) together with him, having ***FORGIVEN YOU ALL TRESPASSES;***

2 Corinthians 5:19

¹⁹ To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, ***NOT IMPUTING THEIR TRESPASSES UNTO THEM;*** and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

The second side to this justification we receive is that God declared us ***RIGHTEOUS:***

Colossians 2:10

¹⁰ ***And ye are complete in him***, which is the head of all principality and power:

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ ***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:***

⁹ ***NOT of works***, lest any man should boast.

Yes, we are declared righteous by simply believing in the finished work of the cross and the righteousness of God is imputed to us. We are then *declared* righteous by God being complete in Jesus Christ. This is the gift of grace that is sorely misunderstood today. All we do is simply believe as Abraham did and God accounts it to us ***(The Body of Christ)*** as righteousness, but not of the Law ***(Israel)***, but by the grace of God. The Breastplate of Righteousness is understanding that the righteousness we have is the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. Understanding this doctrine, as we will be going forward, is what Satan tries his mightiest to deceive people of by mixing up things that were designed for Israel and placing them into the Body of Christ. May the light of the truth in understanding whose righteousness we wear be shed abroad in your hearts....

