



“How We Are Identified”

Carry the Light
Eph. 6:14

Eph. 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and **having on the breastplate of righteousness;**

Review

Our theme for 2017 is “Carry the Light.” We must “carry the light” while engaged in spiritual warfare.

The conduct of a true Christian, one who is genuinely “born again,” is the outcome of a doctrinal foundation. We are **“living out our faith,”** and our testimony indicates the quality of it, be it good or bad.

As I believe, therefore I live.

We need to believe that spiritual warfare is real, face it, fight it, & live victoriously!

I. THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

II. THE REASON FOR SPIRITUALWARFARE

III. THE RUSE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

IV. THE RESPONSE TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. A Word of Encouragement, 6:10

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

B. A Word of Enlightenment, 6:11

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

C. A Word of Enablement, 6:12-17

Eph. 6:12 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*.

1. The Arena, 6:12

a. The Opportunity – 12a “For we wrestle...”

b. The Opposition – 12b-e “...against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.”

2. The Armor, 6:13-17

a. The Demand, 6:13

Eph. 6:13 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.

b. The Description, 6:14-17

(1) What we sow, 6:14a “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...”

- **The Prominence of the girdle.**
 - All truth is God's truth.
- **The Principle of the girdle**
 - The girdle's location – "loins" – represents the power of reproduction.
 - The believer needs truth in order for spiritual reproduction.
 - The believer needs truth to enable stamina for the battle of life.
- **The Purpose of the girdle.**
 - 1) The girdle was used for advancing, to be fit for the battle.
 - 2) The girdle was used for attacking, to support the other weaponry.
 - 3) The girdle was used for attaching, holding everything together.



Luke 12:35 Let your **loins be girded** about, and ***your* lights burning**;

This morning we continue looking at the armor of God. Note that regarding the whole armor, six pieces, are listed – five are defensive and one that is both defensive and offensive. There is nothing for the backside. We are to face our enemy and engage him. Our goal is to be victorious through Christ!

The description of the armor began with the command to put on TRUTH. The next article depicted is RIGHTEOUSNESS. The location of the next defensive armor is the breastplate. The breastplate protects the vital organs, especially the heart.

The Jewish mindset was that the heart was the center of man's being, and the bowels were the location that is center of emotions.

Psa. 22:14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: **my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.**

Col. 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **bowels of mercies**, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

The mind and emotions need to be protected. Wrong thoughts produce wrong actions.

Prov. 23:7 For **as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...**"

The breastplate of righteousness is for our spiritual protection over the world, the flesh, and the devil. If we attempt spiritual warfare without this breastplate, it is just as dangerous and vulnerable for spiritual fatality as law enforcement would be in a firefight without a bulletproof vest!

(2) What we show, 6:14b “...and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”

- The Protection by Having on the Breastplate of Righteousness



<http://www.freebiblestudyguides.org/bible-teachings/armor-of-god-breastplate-of-righteousness.htm>

- The Breastplate is designed to protect the heart.

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart with all diligence**; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Mt. 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

19 For **out of the heart** proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Psa. 51:10 **Create in me a clean heart, O God**; and renew a right spirit within me. ...

17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psa. 139:23 **Search me, O God, and know my heart:**
try me, and know my thoughts:

Jer. 17:10 **I the LORD search the heart,** / try the reins,
even to give every man according to his ways, *and*
according to the fruit of his doings.

- The Breastplate Symbolizes the Righteousness of Christ.

θώραξ

thórax; of uncertain affinity; the chest ("thorax"), i.e. (by implication) a corslet:—breast-plate.

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G2382&t=KJV>

Original Word: δικαιοσύνη

Transliteration: dikaiosuné

Definition: (usually if not always in a Jewish atmosphere), justice, justness, righteousness, righteousness of which God is the source or author, but practically: a divine righteousness.

dikaiosýnē ("divine approval") is the regular NT term used for *righteousness* ("God's

judicial approval"). *dikaiosýnē* ("the approval of God") refers

to **what is deemed right by the Lord (after His examination),**

i.e. what is approved in His eyes. <http://biblehub.com/greek/1343.htm>

As I believe, therefore I live.

Rom. 14:17 For **the kingdom of God** is not meat and drink; but **righteousness**, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

- The Breastplate of Righteousness Symbolizes Salvation.

Isa. 59:1 Behold, **the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save**; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But **your iniquities have separated between you and your God**, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear. ...

15 Yea, truth faileth; and he *that* departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw *it*, and it displeased him that *there was* no judgment.

16 And he saw that *there was* no man, and wondered that *there was* no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

17 For **he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head**; and he put on the garments of vengeance *for* clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke. ...

20 And **the Redeemer** shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

- Man's self-righteousness is a snare, and is not for safety.

Rom. 10:3 For they **being ignorant of God's righteousness**, and going about to establish their **own righteousness**, have not submitted themselves unto **the righteousness of God**.

4 For Christ *is* the end of the law for **righteousness to every one that believeth**. ...

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Phil. 3:9 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**:

- The righteousness of man is insufficient for salvation.

Isa. 64:6 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.

Titus 3:5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done**, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

- Salvation is completely dependent upon the Righteousness of Christ!

Rom. 4:3 For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God**, and **it was counted unto him for righteousness**. ...

6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom **God imputeth righteousness without works**,

...

11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had yet* being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; **that righteousness might be imputed unto them also**: ...

13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, *was* not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, **but through the righteousness of faith**. ...

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

Jas. 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness:** and he was called the Friend of God.

Gal. 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and **it was accounted to him for righteousness.**

Rom. 3:22 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:

Irwin Lutzer – “Imagine a book entitled *The Life and Times of Jesus Christ*. As you open the book and begin reading, you discover an account everything that Jesus ever did. Along side that book is another book entitled *The Life and Times of _____*. In that book is a detailed description of every wrong action you ever committed, and every evil thought you have ever had. When you trust Christ as your Savior, Almighty God exchanges the covers of those two books.”

2 Cor. 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; **that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

Eph. 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

Conclusion

2 Cor. 6:3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

4 But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, **by the armour of righteousness** on the right hand and on the left,

8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;



9 As unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

1 Thess. 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, **putting on the breastplate of faith and love**; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

