



TAKE UP THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD




"And now Edgar's gone....
Something's going on around here."

THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Ephesians 6:14 – "Having put on the breastplate of righteousness"

- The breastplate: protected the vital organs during the battle
 - Righteousness* will protect the vital axioms of our faith!
 - "The just (declared righteous) will live by faith"
- What is *righteousness*?
 - Derives from the Hebrew *sedeq* (SDQ), which was usually translated in the LXX as *dikaioynē*.
 - English translates this semantic field with two different roots: 'right', 'righteous', and 'righteousness' and 'just', 'justice', 'justify' and 'justification'.
 - In Heb. and Gk., however, these ideas all belong together linguistically and theologically.
 - The innate character or quality of something or someone that is right in God's sight.

THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- How do we obtain rightness in God's sight?
 - By keeping the Law – or God's moral standard?
 - Why was the Law given?
 - Romans 3:20; 4:15; 5:20** – the Law was given to reveal our unrighteousness (total depravity) and our desperate need for redemption (rescue).
 - Keeping the Law does not bring righteousness – **Romans 3:28; 4:13; 10:4; Galatians 2:21**
 - By my efforts?
 - No! – **Isaiah 64:6** and **Titus 3:5**
 - Then how? – By faith in the free Gift of His doing!
 - Romans 5:1** – "having been justified by faith"
 - Romans 3:24; 5:17** – "the gift of righteousness"
 - 1 Corinthians 1:30** – "but by His doing"
 - Ephesians 2:8,9** and **2 Corinthians 5:21**
 - The test: how's your karma today?

THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- On what basis are we declared right before God?
 - By the blood alone! – **Romans 5:8,9**
 - Ephesians 1:7** – "redemption through His blood"
 - Three ideas are involved in the doctrine of redemption:
 - Our ransom was paid with the blood of Christ (**Rev 5:9; 1 Pet 1:18,19**)
 - Our removal from the demands of the Law (**Gal 4:5; 3:13**)
 - Our release from the bondage of sin into the freedom of grace. (**Colossians 1:13,14** – "He delivered us")
- What does the gift of rightness mean?
 - PEACE WITH GOD – **Rom 5:1**
 - He moves from Sovereign Judge to Loving Father – **Rom 8:15**
 - THE POWER TO REIGN IN LIFE – **Rom 5:17**
 - NO CONDEMNATION – **Rom 8:1**

THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

How do you *feel* before God?
Distant? Unworthy? A failure? Like He's angry with you or disappointed in you?

- Then you have believed the attacking lies of Satan and need to put on the Breastplate of Righteousness.
- Remember: YOU DO NOT STAND ON YOUR OWN MERITS. YOU NEVER DID AND NEVER WILL!
- You never had anything worthwhile, in yourself, to offer God and never will!
 - 2 Corinthians 3:4-6** and **4:7!**
- Doing right doesn't lead to being right; being right will lead to doing right.
- Righteousness will protect the vital axioms of our faith!
 - God never alters the robe of righteousness to fit man; He changes the man to fit the robe.