

## Righteousness that Leads to Peace



### Ephesians 6:14-15

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#### Notice the progression:

Truth → Righteousness → Peace

- Jesus is Truth! How do we know?
  1. By what He said: “I am the Truth” **John 14:6**
  2. By what He did: “believe on account of the works themselves” **John 14:11**
  3. By Who He is now in you and me! (*Foxe's Book of Martyrs*)
- **Hebrews 13:8** – “Jesus Christ is the same...forever”
  - On Christ the solid Rock I stand!

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“Truth is reality. Truth is the sum total of the way things really are. Therefore, truth is the explanation of all things. You know you have found the truth when you find something that is wide enough and deep enough and high enough to encompass all things. That is what Jesus Christ does.”

(Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*, 1999 update)

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“...having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of **peace**.”

#### 1. What does this mean in practical terms?

- Each piece of the armor of Christ in us is completely adequate to defend against Satan's attacks.
- How many of you here tonight...
  - feel unworthy before God?
  - are frustrated with the painfully slow growth in maturity?
  - feel as though you are a failure in His eyes?
  - feel as though your faith has diminished to a mere flicker?
  - doubt God could ever love you?
  - are unsure of His presence in your life?
  - are plagued with the nagging sense of guilt and shame?

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“The breastplate of righteousness is nothing more nor less than your righteous standing before God through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. If you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you already have the breastplate of righteousness on. You can rest secure that your heart and your emotions are perfectly guarded and adequately protected against attack.”

(Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*, 1999 update)

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- If you said yes to any or all of these questions, you've fallen prey to Satan's attack as The Accuser.
  - Each aspect of Christ as the armor deals specifically with an action of Satan:
    - Christ as Truth vs. Satan as the father of lies (John 8:44)
    - Christ as Righteousness vs. Satan as the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10)
    - Christ as Peace vs. Satan as the Serpent
  - It is Satan as the accuser that the Breastplate of Righteousness has been given to defend

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2. What is "righteousness?"
  - "the standard of what is right and just"
  - "the state of being right"
  - "free from guilt and sin"
  - "having worth and value"
3. Where does it come from?
  1. No one in themselves is righteous!
    - Romans 3:10; Job 15:14; Psalm 14:3
  2. None of our efforts lead to righteousness!
    - Isaiah 64:6; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8,9
  3. It did not come by the Law – adherence to God's standard
    - Romans 3:19-23, 28; 5:20; Galatians 3:21,22; 5:6

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3. Where does it come from?
  4. It comes only and always through faith in our position "in Christ."
    - I Corinthians 15:45-47 – first & last Adam, first & second man. (Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
    - Romans 10:4 – "righteousness for everyone who believes"
    - Romans 5:1,2 – "having been justified by faith"
  5. It is ours through a gift of His doing!
    - Romans 3:24, 17 – It is given to us as a free gift
    - I Corinthians 1:30 – "but by His doing..."
  6. Because of our position in Christ, we become the righteousness of God in Him!
    - 2 Corinthians 5:21 – "that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"

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4. What is the natural result and proof of one who has accepting His gift of righteousness?
    - A life and heart of peace!
      - Romans 5:1 – "peace with God"
      - Hebrews 12:11 – "peaceful fruit of righteousness"
      - Philippians 4:6,7 – "the peace of God..."
      - Galatians 5 – a fruit of the Spirit: peace!
- Notice how Paul stands up to an accusation of Satan by using the breastplate of righteousness:
- I Corinthians 15:9,10 – "I am what I am"

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"I don't care what I have been. I don't defend what I am. I simply say that, by the grace of God, I am what I am. What I am is what Christ has made me. I'm not standing on my own righteousness I'm standing on His. I am accepted by grace, and my personal situation does not make any difference at all."

(Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*, 1999 update)

## Be Strong in the Lord!



When a ship goes to sea, there are *three essential* questions its captain must address:

1. Why are we out here?
2. How do we keep from sinking?
3. How do we keep from bumping into other ships?