

## RIGHTEOUSNESS 11/20/11



## TAKE UP THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD



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

## RIGHTEOUSNESS

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

1. 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"
2. What is *righteousness*?
  - Derives from the Hebrew *sedeq* (SDQ), which was usually translated in the LXX as *dikaioσύνη*.
  - 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 – *having value or worth*

## RIGHTEOUSNESS

3. 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**
    - The Law – my efforts or me doing it?
      - 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?

## RIGHTEOUSNESS

4. 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:
    1. Our ransom was paid with the blood of Christ (**Rev 5:9; 1 Pet 1:18,19**)
    2. Our removal from the demands of the Law (**Gal 4:5; 3:13**)
    3. Our release from the bondage of sin into the freedom of grace.
      - **Colossians 1:13,14** – "He delivered us"
5. What does the gift of rightness mean?
  1. PEACE WITH GOD – **Rom 5:1**
    - He moves from Sovereign Judge to Loving Father – **Rom 8:15**
  2. THE POWER TO REIGN IN LIFE – **Rom 5:17**
  3. NO CONDEMNATION – **Rom 8:1**

## 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.*
- A proper understanding of our righteous state before a Holy God will keep us thriving on our journey – the abundant life!