

The Whole Armor of God (Part 2-The Breastplate)

Scripture

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;” (Eph 6:13-17 NKJV)

Devotion

Righteousness like the breastplate of a soldier protects its bearer from the ill-fated arrow that finds its way past the shield of faith. That positional righteousness, the imputed righteousness of Christ, is impenetrable, and so believers stand confident.

However, I don't believe Paul refers only to positional righteousness, but like most of the armor there is a practical element. Many Christians have been tarnished because they made provision for their flesh with some secret, un-confessed, and unrepentant sin.

Remember the mighty David who walked his rooftop at night. Seeking to satisfy the lust of his eyes, he gazed upon Bathsheba. This one sin led to all manner of wickedness including murder.

Do not think that you can keep even one pet sin. The devil will find it, feed it, and exploit it. He will pry open your breastplate and make a devastating blow to your heart. Therefore, you must keep yourself from sins my dear friends.

“And [do] this, knowing the time, that now [it is] high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation [is] nearer than when we [first] believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to [fulfill its] lusts” (Ro 13:11-14 NKJV).

“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds [the righteousness] of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:20 NKJV).

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world” (1Pe 5:8-9 NKJV).



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