

Remnant Life Church
Sunday, February 10, 2013

“Everyday Armor -
Part 2 – The Breastplate of Righteousness”

Ephesians 6:14(b)

*“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,
with the breastplate of righteousness in place”*

Introduction -

1. Six pieces of armor
 - a. The first three – belt, breastplate, shoes – are defensive in nature
 - b. The second three – shield, helmet, sword – are offensive in nature
2. The belt is the center of the armor holding it all together just as truth is at the center of our victory over sin
3. Paul is writing from his knowledge of the prophet’s writings regarding the breastplate and the helmet – Isaiah 59:17

Righteous – anything that conforms to a standard; acting in accordance with divine or moral law : free from guilt or sin

- Something is righteous if it conforms to the right standard
 - The world has its standards and anyone who conforms to those standards they call righteous
 - Shown by the deeds of what they do
 - In Isaiah – God says they are filthy rags in His eyes
 - The most important question is what is the standard
 - The standard is the truth and truth is God
 - His Word gives us that truth
 - Important to note that Paul is writing in the assumptive tense that the breastplate exists and the soldier puts it on –
 - We do not create the righteousness ourselves
 - It is God’s truth, His standard that we put on
4. Another term for breastplate is body armor
 - a. Most common we think of is the Kevlar vest
 - b. Catcher’s equipment in baseball
 - c. All protective body equipment is designed to protect the organs
 - d. The most central is the heart also referred to as the soul

5. When we are fighting in this battle we are fighting the control of sin in people's lives – for the soul
 - a. First in our own life – **Phil 2:12** - “...continue to **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling,”
 - b. Second in those around us – Jesus told His disciples to take His message of love everywhere they go
 - i. We are still under that directive today
 - ii. Be a light in a dark place
 1. **Mark 16:15** - “He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”
 2. **Isa 49:6** - he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”
 - c. Satan wants nothing more than to keep a person bound to their sinful nature – **Gal. 5:17** - *For the **sinful nature** desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the **sinful nature**. They are in conflict with each other...*
 - i. What would be even better for him would be to ensnare a Christian again
 1. Caution especially to those areas of weakness
 2. If God has delivered you from alcohol it is wisdom to avoid that completely
 - a. We can never justify wrong behavior by claiming we are doing God's work
 - b. (example) Killing abortion doctors because they perform abortions is not justified it is sin
 - ii. **Jude 1:23** – “Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives”
 - iii. BUT – your area of weakness that God has delivered you from can allow you to identify with what another person is going through – not the same but points in common
 1. God will many times use your past point of greatest failure to minister to someone else who is where you once were
 2. But you still must be very careful!!!
 - d. The breastplate will guard your heart and prevent Satan from taking you back to the place you once were.