

The Breastplate of Righteousness | Eph 6:14

If you have your Bibles, turn to Ephesians 6. We're going to be looking at B of verse 14, but we'll start in verse 10. Ephesians 6 starting in verse 10. *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 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 firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.*

Let's pray.

Dear Lord, we know every day is a battle. Some days, You give us rest from the front lines, it seems. But we know, dear God, You're calling us back to fight at the front lines and fight we must. And if we don't go to the front lines, we know Satan will come to us on the back of the lines. We're thrust into a battle and the battle is raging. There's much evil in the world, in this present day there is a lot of darkness. And Lord, sometimes it feels like our little light flickers and we are not much of a difference in this overwhelming evil. And dear God, sometimes we feel like the evil is within us so thick that we will be crushed by the weight of our own sins. Dear God, we have to fight without, fight within. And Lord, we realize the fight is not with flesh and blood, it's not something that we can just win through ordinary means of waging warfare. But it's a spiritual battle, Lord, it takes spiritual armory, spiritual weapons, spiritual defenses. And dear God, as we think about this breastplate of righteousness, help us to never leave home without it. Help us to never want to be without the protection of our heart, the protection of the most important part of who we are. Lord, help us to put on the whole armor of God and, after we have put on the belt of truth, to put on that breastplate, dear God, that's going to protect us from the fiery darts that are aimed at us to destroy us. So, we pray, dear God, that you would give us the grace to do so and we pray that, even today, for those who do not have any armor on, those who are basically ill-equipped, exposed to the powers of evil, that they would see their great need to bow down before the Lord Jesus Christ and ask for His armor. This we pray in Your Son's name, Amen.

We have two questions we want to answer today out of this text. Very simple outline, easy for you to follow. We want to know whose righteousness this is that we need to put on. Is it our righteousness or is it the righteousness of Christ? That's the first question and the second question is: why do we need this breastplate of righteousness? Why is it so important that we have it? Those are the two questions that we want to look at out of this text. So, let's get right into it.

Whose righteousness is this? Whose righteousness do we need to put on? There is some sense that this is our righteousness. But we realize that our righteousness is filthy rags. That we don't need our own righteousness. In fact, that's part of the problem. We almost need protection from our righteousness. We don't just repent from our sins if we come to the Lord Jesus Christ. We have to repent of our righteousness because our righteousness is not real righteousness.

Our best deeds, our best efforts, come short of the glory of God. The Bible says all of us have sinned. All of us have fallen short. All of us have turned aside. The Bible says there is none righteous, no, not one. The Psalmist says, *do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one alive is righteous before you*. All your good deeds put together accumulate to nothing. If you do not know the Lord, you have nothing to offer the Lord. If you're here by yourself and you think that you're going to merit or earn your way into God's favor, and that you're going to be able to withstand the evil one because of your good deeds, you're greatly mistaken. You're fooled.

You need protection from your own sins. Now, you may be thinking, "Well, that's prior to salvation. Now that we're saved, we have a righteousness. We have a new nature, a new heart, we're good people now. We're not the same. All things have been made new. I'm a good person now that I've been born again." I'm going to tell you, even in your new state – and you're not like you were. There is a difference. There's no doubt that you've been made new. You're a righteous person in Christ Jesus. You are a saint, that is true, but let me be honest with you. You don't want that righteousness either. You need that but it still has a lot of holes. That breastplate is not yet perfected. There's no such thing as perfection on this side of glory. We don't really understand what it means to be perfect. People who believe in perfectionism this side of glory, they downgrade righteousness and minimize their unrighteousness to get some type of balance that I can live a little while without sin.

There's not a moment you can live without sin. You say, "Well, I can live one second without sin." No, you can't. We don't understand what it means to love God with all, *all*, of our hearts. I mean, you don't even use all of your minds. How do you love God with all of your mind? It's like, "Well, I'm doing a good job." No, you're coming short. Your righteousness, even as a Christian, has to be filtered through the righteousness of Christ. God does reward you for your good deeds, but that has to be filtered through someone else's righteousness to compensate for your imperfection. All of your heart, all of your mind, and all of your soul. I was reading in Isaiah where he's rebuking the people of Israel saying, "You've eaten and drank for yourselves." And I thought about how I may say a little prayer, saying, "Lord, thank you for this food" and I gobble up the food and say a little prayer, but how often have I simply eaten and drank for myself? Who truly wants to say, "I can truly do all things at all times for the glory of God perfectly"?

I don't want that. I don't want my own righteousness as a barrier. You say, "Well, I have a clean conscience before God. My conscience is clean." Let me tell you, a good, clean conscience is good but it's just not good enough. The Apostle Paul had a clean conscience but he said, "That doesn't justify me. That doesn't clear me of guilt." He says, *With me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I don't even judge myself*. And we're trying to judge ourselves all the time. "I'm a good person. I've done right." No, Paul says, "I can't even do that to myself." He goes on to say why. *For I am not aware of anything against myself*. The NASB says *My conscience is clear*. Paul had a clean, clean conscience and right now, I have a clean conscience too. But does that clear me? No, I'm sinning even while I preach. I can't even clear myself even though I have a clean conscience. You think I do everything perfectly motivated for the glory of God? You don't think there's some mixture of self-desire to be appreciated and loved and to be thought of as a great preacher? You don't think I have

mixed emotions and feelings and motivations why I preach? Who of us can say, "I do all things perfectly motivated for His glory and I want to decrease so He can increase in everything that I do"? Who wants to raise their hands on that one? Not me. Where is Jesus at? I want to hide behind Him.

He goes on to say, *But I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.* You see, our clean conscience is good. I should strive and you should strive to have a pure, clean conscience before God. Don't go to bed with sin and guilt laying on your heart. Clean that conscience. Live within a clean conscience but that is not sufficient to be a breastplate to protect you. We need better protection than our own imperfect righteousnesses. Even as a Christian.

You see, it's not our own righteousness that we need to put on. There are two reasons the text demands that this is the righteousness of Christ. For one, it's His armor, not our armor. *Put on the armor of God.* And two, this is past tense. *Seeing that you have put on...* If you're saved, you've been justified. You've put on an alien or imputed righteousness. This is something you have done, not something that you're working towards. This is the righteousness of Christ. And we see this in Isaiah 59. We see how all these pieces of armor are actually the armor that Christ used to overcome sin.

Isaiah 59 starting at verse 14. First, we'll see that there is justiceness or righteousness to be found in the land. *Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.* Now, here's the context. Justice is turned back. Here's the community and they say, "Justice, you're not allowed to come in. Go away. Go home. You can't come in here." It says righteousness stands far away. Truth and justice are not permitted to enter into the public square. This is the day we're living in, if you think about it. Now, this is the craziness of our time. Tell me how just and righteous this is: a man pretends to be a woman and wins first place in the women's competition. How is that just? How is that truth? I mean, where is justice in this? Men are now elected as women of the year. This is our day. This sounds like this would be in the day of Isaiah where there is just no righteousness or truth anywhere. It says he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. If you try to do what's right, you'll be in trouble. If you try to do what's right, you'll be oppressed and victimized and marginalized. You're going to lose your job. You're going to be treated as the enemy. This is what's going on in Isaiah's day.

This was his condition. This was the condition of Israel. There is no righteousness to be found anywhere. There was no man to set things right. Look at verse 15, *The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede.* There was no one who did justice. Everyone, not just the majority, everyone turned aside. Everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Everyone lived for themselves. Now, take Christ out of the equation and this is true of us. This is true with all of humanity. This is true of not just Isaiah's time, it's true of our time. It's true universally throughout history. There is none who does what is right. There is none who is righteous, no, not one.

There was none to establish justice in the land. There is none to appease the wrath of God. There was none who did not turn away from what is evil. There was none to balance the scales of justice. None! Not your grandfather, not his father, none. Not you, not me. The whole human race, there was none. There is no justice, there's no righteousness to be found.

So, what does God do? He sends His own Man. Verse 16 says, *then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.* He equipped Himself for battle to fight evil injustice so that He might bring balance to the scales of justice. Verse 18 shows He brings justice and judgment to those who remain in their sins. *According to their deeds, so he will repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment.* You see, Christ didn't come just to bring salvation to you, He came to bring judgment upon the rest of the world. Without Christ, there will not be a final day of reckoning. Without Christ, there would not be a court system that will deal with all the iniquities and sins. Our court system is flawed. It always has been. You have wicked people ruling over wicked people. What do you expect? And if there's not a great judge, and there could not have been a great judge without Jesus coming to bring, not just salvation, but judgment.

And it is Jesus Christ who will judge the world. Every knee is going to bow to the Man Jesus Christ. But look at verse 19, not only to bring judgment upon injustice, but to bring salvation to those who like us who turn from their sins. *So they shall fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the LORD drives. And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the LORD.* You see, Christ alone by His own perfect righteousness, has established Justice. He alone is worthy to open the scrolls. Who is worthy to sit on the judgment seat? Who among us can say, "Hey, I can judge the world in righteousness and truth"? Who wants to stand in the place of the law and execute justice? Who here volunteers for that position? Are you worthy? He is without sin, you cast the first stone. No, we will be judged ourselves. Who are we to judge others? Who are we to stand in judgment of others when we too need forgiveness? When we too need desperate forgiveness. But Christ, He doesn't need forgiveness. He is worthy. He's worthy to be the judge of the world and He's worthy to be the king of the world. By His own righteousness, He will right every wrong. By this one Man Jesus Christ, I can assure you, justice will win.

And by His own righteousness, He's able to forgive those who turn from their sins. By this one Man Jesus, He offers us a way of pardon. For those of us who repent and believe on Him, there is a way to be forgiven without justice being thrown out. He can be just and the justifier of the ungodly. You see, saint and sinner. We equally stand in need of the imputed righteousness of Christ. Now, I use the word imputed and you need to know what that word means. There are two ways to look at the righteousness of Christ. You can look at it as infused. The Catholic church talks about the infused righteousness of Christ. Think of infusion as something that comes from outside of you, entering into you, and becomes a part of you once it's infused inside

of you. Then, you have the imputed righteousness of Christ. It doesn't come into you; it stays externally outside of you but it's accounted or credited to your account.

To understand the difference between imputed or infused, think about being in great debt. You were born in debt because of Adam, but you've only made matters worse because of your poor spending habits. Every sin accumulates for you a greater and greater debt. Every sin is a debt that you cannot pay because every sin deserves eternal wrath. How can you pay for one sin? To pay for one sin, you'd have to be in hell forever but then you have to pay for the next sin. So you see it is impossible for you to uncover and to undo your indebtedness. You're bankrupt and there's no way out. You're in debtor's prison and you cannot get out. One way of thinking about salvation is the infused righteousness of Christ. I believe that takes place but that's not what brings you justification. Infused righteousness is where Christ's righteousness comes inside of you and that enables you to be a better person. But that does not undo your debt. It cannot undo your sins. Even if you could technically, even if it was hypothetically possible for you to live the rest of your days without sin, you're still in great trouble for all the sins you've already committed.

But even as Christians, we accumulate enough sin every day to send us to hell. The arrogant thought that, "Hey, I've gone five minutes without sin" is enough to send us to hell. He who says he is without sin is a liar. There is no time you can say that phrase, "I am without sin." We need not infused righteousness; we need what we call imputed righteousness. That is you being in great, great debt that you can't pay off, and then some rich man goes to your creditor and says, "Put that on my tab. I will pay it." What did you do to earn it? What did you do to do anything to credit such a great transfer of wealth? You did nothing. This is the righteousness of Christ imputed, transferred, over to your account by grace. It's what the Puritans would call an alien righteousness. It's the righteousness of Christ. It's His righteousness being transferred over to you and your debt being transferred over to Him. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us so that we might be made the righteousness of Christ in Him.

The Bible says *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven. Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD will not count his sin.* What you and I need to cover our heart is a God who says, "I am not going to hold you accountable." That's what we need. That's the only thing that's going to save us. That is the only thing that will protect us. Not your feeble efforts. We need a savior altogether who does it for us completely, entirely, without our help, without our assistance, without our input, without our council, without our advice, without our little good suggestions. We need someone who says, "Just be quiet, sit over there, I've got this." And that's what we have in the righteousness of Christ. We need this if we're going to stand. You cannot stand in your own armor. You cannot fight in your own strength. You need an alien righteousness. That's answering question number one. Whose righteousness is this that we need to put on? Easily, it's the righteousness of Christ.

Secondly, why do we need this so badly? Why is this such an important piece of the armor? A breastplate to cover the heart. Why do we need this? For several reasons. First of all – and I want to really try to focus in on you children who do not know the Lord. I want you to know that

you're in a battle and you don't have any protection right now. You're in your own sins and you have nothing to protect you from them. You have nothing to protect you from temptation and Satan's hateful attacks upon you. And even us Christians, we have put on this piece, but we have to keep, if you would, remembering how vital this piece is to our own safety. First of all, it protects us from our own sins. The devil is so good that he doesn't have to hit you from the outside; he can come from within you and hit you from within.

Think about the danger of just single sin. Children, think about one single sin right now. One of your sins, just pick out one. I know you have thousands to choose from. Just pick out one. I want you to know that single sin, that little slight disrespectful look that you gave to your mother, that alone will undo you. That alone will send you to hell forever. James 2:10 says this, *For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.* You just make one simple mistake. That's all you've done is one simple sin and you become guilty of it all. That's even true for us Christians. Slight ounce of pride ruins the record. How many stains does it take to ruin a perfect, spotless garment? How many stains does it take to ruin it? To spoil a perfect, spotless garment? Christ had to be perfect, right? He needed perfection. One little sin could've ruined the whole thing. He remained perfect, spotless. But your sin, your little sin, has ruined the record and what is the payment for a single sin? The wages, the penalty, the payment for sin is death. You must die now.

That single sin ruins everything. But you don't have a single sin to worry about; you have a whole life of sin. You've been sinning non-stop, constantly, perpetually. And you're still sinning right now as you sit here listening to this. You say, "How am I sinning even today?" Because God says to repent and you say "no". God says to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you say, "I don't think so." You've got a hard heart. You're stubborn. You're wicked. You would rather live for yourself and you say, "Hey, maybe that's tomorrow." You are accumulating more and more guilt, and more and more wrath. You see, you need a covering. You need a breastplate to protect you from your sins. If you don't have a covering, every sin you've ever committed will be exposed for the world to see one day. One day, if you don't have this breastplate, your children will see all your sins openly. Parents, think about that. Think about your children that you love seeing all your wickedness. Can you stand on that day?

Children, I know your parents don't know half of what you've done, but they will know. Jesus put it this way, *Whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light. And whatever you've whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.* One day, your whole life will be naked and exposed before the world. Your sins will be broadcasted for everyone to see. Every little wicked thought. You know those little weird things you've thought about? All that is going to be exposed for the world to see. And you're going to be so embarrassed. So full of shame. The thoughts that you had for the people that you loved. You can't take those back. You can't recall those and say, "I wish I didn't have those thoughts." You have them! They're on your record! How are you going to cleanse your record? How are you going to cleanse the guilt? How are you going to get that off of your record? God remembers everything. You may have forgotten but God's going to recall every single sin.

Not only do you have that, you have your own miserable, guilty conscience. How do you stop feeling guilty? I once counseled someone who committed some awful, awful things. In fact, I can't tell you what he committed because it's shameful. He says, "I can't get rid of the guilt. I've tried to distract myself. I've tried to entertain myself. I tried to dive into it even more but it's there." Jeremiah 2 says this: *Although you wash yourself with lye and use much soap, the stain of your iniquity is before me, declares the LORD.* You say to yourself often, "I can't forgive myself. I know God forgives me but I can't forgive myself." Guilt weighs on you. It's a feeling of dirtiness like you've been defiled. You've been ruined. There's a sense of eternal shame that you have. The Bible says there's no peace for the wicked. How are you going to cleanse yourself from this eternal guilt? Do you know one of the leading causes of depression that gets treated the most with drugs is the feeling of guilt.

You know how they treat this in the world? They blame your parents. They try to undo your guilt by saying, "You shouldn't feel guilty. That's a natural desire. Don't feel guilty there. The guilt comes from misplaced expectations. Your parents put this expectation upon you. They said, 'This is what a male looks like. This is what a female looks like. This is what good behavior looks like.' And because you aren't living up to their expectations, you've got false guilt. Who are they to tell you how to live?" That's how they're trying to fix this but it's not your parents who have told you how to live, it's your conscience. It's God. He has written within your heart what's right and you know what's wrong and you know you've violated it. It doesn't matter what your parents say or don't say and it doesn't matter what your therapist says, you know you're guilty. And who's going to save you from that? Who's going to remove the guilt from your life?

Moreover, who's going to protect you from God Himself? You say, "I can't forgive myself." It's not you you have to be worried about! Isaiah put it this way, *Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear you.* You say, "I pray, He doesn't listen." Of course He doesn't listen to you. Why would He? You come in your own righteousness and it's filthy rags. You come in your own pride and your own arrogance and you think He's going to listen? Why would He? Your sins have separated you from Him. The Bible (Nahum 1) says this, *The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in the whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers...The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it. Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.*

One day, you're going to face this God. And you don't have any armor on. You have no protection. And you'll be utterly undone before the God of this world. One of Jonathan Edwards's most popular sermons is "Sinner in the Hands of the Angry God" and he says in that sermon nothing prevents God from casting you into hell this very moment. You don't have to wait until the day of judgment to be thrown into hell. You could be in hell before the service is over. Do you have the strength to prevent God from unleashing His anger upon you? Jonathan

Edwards says, "We find it easy to tread on and crush a worm that we see crawling on the earth. So 'tis easy for us to cut a slender thread that anything hangs by. Thus it is easy for God when He pleases to cast His enemies down into hell. What are we that we would think to stand before Him before whose rebuke the earth trembles and before whom the rocks are thrown down." You see, justice doesn't object. Justice is on God's side and justice says "guilty, guilty". The reason you aren't already suffering in hell is not because God is not already angry with you. You are among the children of wrath.

Jonathan Edwards says, "It is not because God is unmindeful of your wickedness. The wrath of God burns against you. Your damnation doesn't slumber. The pit is prepared. The fire is made ready. The furnace is now hot, ready to receive you. The flames do now rage and glow. So that is thus you are held in the hand of God over the pit of hell. You deserve the fiery pit," he goes on to say, "and are already sentenced to it. And God is dreadfully provoked. His anger is great towards those of you who are actually suffering the execution of the fierceness of His wrath and hell." Did you hear that? Those who are already in hell, God's anger is upon them in the same degree, God's anger is upon those who are in hell, His anger is upon you. And you have done nothing in the least to appease or abate that anger. Neither is God in the least bound by any promise to hold you up one moment. "The devil is waiting for you. Hell is grappling for you. The flames gather and flash about you. And would love to lay hold on you and swallow you up. The fire is pent up in your own heart struggling to break out and you have no interest in any mediator. There is no means within reach that can be of any security to you." And all the while, Jesus says, "Come to Me and I'll give you a breastplate. I'll give you a covering. I'll give you a righteousness that'll save your soul." And you continue to say no to it. In short, you have no refuge. Nothing to take hold of. Jonathan Edwards says, "All that preserves you this moment is the forbearance of an angry God."

I need this breastplate. You need it. You see, we need it even as Christians It's still our only plea. There for about three years after the Lord converted me, I struggled with assurance. I didn't know if I had faith or not and I struggled and struggled. I finally came to the conclusion that, if the Lord said on that great day, "Depart from Me, I never knew you," if He said those awful, dreadful words, my response would be this: "Lord, I know I deserve hell. And I have no plea. But You have a Man who died and rose again. You have a Man who's perfect in righteousness and that's all I have." And I'd find that Man and I'd cling to His toe and say, "You have to break Your word. You have to un-fulfill Your promise to me because that's all I have." And that's when I realized that's all I need. You see, even as Christians, we're being attacked on a regular basis by Satan himself. He's accusing us daily. Revelation 12 says that he is the accuser of the brethren. He's accusing us. He wants to take us to court and he wants to say, "You're guilty, you're guilty." And when he takes that and says, "You're guilty," we know it's true. We know it's true.

We know there's enough sin in our lives every day to send us to hell and Satan reminds it of us every time. You know what it's like when you sin. You do something and you have an angry thought or you have some time of wicked imagination or you're tempted and you fall into it and afterwards you go, "Man, who am I?" You fall into this despair and hopelessness. "I'll never

become like Christ. I'm defeated." ANd it almost makes you not want to pray because you're afraid to pray because you're not worthy to pray. You shouldn't pray because you're just full of guilt, shame, and wickedness and you just can't pray to God because God is holy, and there's Satan saying, "You can't pray, you can't pray, you're wicked" He's accusing you. You need this breastplate. And in those dark moments when you know you're full of sin, you need to say back to Satan, "No, no, no, Satan. I have access to the Father. Not in my own righteousness. I stand not with that. I stand with the righteousness that's not my own. And there is not now and there will never be any condemnation for me."

Romans 8:34, *Who is there to condemn us?* Is it Satan? Is it our conscience? Is it us? Who is there to comden us? *For Christ Jesus* – He's the only who's the judge. He's the only one who is righteous and worthy to judge us and He has forgiven us – *is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.* As the devil is accusing us saying, "Guilty, wicked worthless, defiled sinner," there is Jesus going to Father, "But My righteousness covers that." Now, that's the only peace we have. We never graduate from this. I don't care how seasoned of a saint we are and how many good works we've accumulated and how far we are in the process of sanctification. We may be touching glory itself in our own holiness but nevertheless, we never get beyond needing the imputed perfect righteousness of Christ and that's going to be all we have to boast on that great day.

You see, it's His righteousness that protects us from our sins. You think, "Well, if all my sins are forgiven past, present, and future then why not sin that grace may abound? I can just do what I want to." No, it doesn't work that way. You see, when you fall into sin, the righteousness of Christ is the only thing that'll get you out of it. If it's about, "Hey, I can do it on my own," then when you fail and realize, "I can't do it on my own," then you'll go into despair and hopelessness. The only thing that will revive you and give you liberty and freedom is knowing that you've got an A+. You've already been given 100% You already are righteous in Christ. You see, that gets you out of the despair. That gets you out of this idea that I have to clean myself up first. Right now, some of you are going to be taking the Lord's supper but you may not need to be taking the Lord's supper because you've been living in unrepentant sin. But listen, right now, you could take the Lord's supper by cleaning your conscience because there is an advocate who takes your place. He who confesses his sins, God is faithful and just because of this Man Jesus Christ, to forgive you of every unrighteousness you've done.

And you can come before God and take communion with the saints and be in fellowship with your brothers and sisters in the Lord and fellowship with God Himself because of the blood of Jesus Christ. This is the breastplate. Now, we're wearing it but we need to remember that we're wearing it. Having put it on, we need to realize it is on and out of His righteousness, we go to war, we fight, we battle.

Lastly, for you who do not know God, don't try to run from that guilty conscience by ignoring it. If you're convicted for your sins and you feel convicted and feel guilty, get it right before Satan comes and distracts you.