

## **Putting on the Armor from God** (Eph. 6:10-17)

- I.** Stand by The Faith (1 Pet. 5:9).
  1. Use of The Faith implies:
    - 1) Knowledge of The Faith's content.
    - 2) Knowledge of when and how to use it.
  2. Applying The Faith requires the Holy Spirit's enabling.
  3. The Armor from God is a mental process (Eph. 6:12).
  4. First the loins of truth are wrapped around (Eph. 6:14).
    - 1) Truth as measured by Scripture.
    - 2) Truth as a logical defense—not emotional.
- II.** "Stand . . . having already clothed yourselves with the breastplate of righteousness" (Eph. 6:14).
  1. "Righteousness" means to act right, correctly.
  2. No human self-effort is righteous (Is. 64:6).
  3. There are two forms of righteousness.
    - 1) Positional righteousness refers to how the Father see us in Christ at His right hand.
    - 2) Practical righteousness describes our activity down here when empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- III.** The distinction between positional and practical righteousness.
  1. Positional righteousness, not earned, always exists:
    - 1) It is a grace given gift (Rom. 5:17).
    - 2) At salvation we were constituted as righteous (Rom. 5:19).
    - 3) Our righteousness is in Christ (1 Cor. 1:30 *cf.* Jn. 14:20).
    - 4) At salvation we were crafted a quality of righteous in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21).
    - 5) Our righteousness is counted because we are in Christ (Eph. 4:24).
  2. Practical righteousness, conditional, a potential:
    - 1) The Christian has two potentials regarding righteousness (Rom. 6:13).
    - 2) We can order our life by dark or light (Eph. 5:8-9).
    - 3) Righteousness dependent on relationship with Christ (Phil. 1: 10-11).
    - 4) Righteous acts are by faith (Phil. 3:9).
- IV.** The reason for putting on the Armor is to act righteous when Satan attacks. Therefore, we clothe ourselves positionally in order to perform practical righteousness. The Breastplate: *all righteousness comes from dependence on God, not self-effort*. This is in direct opposition to attacks of independence from God and pride.