

Ready

“The Breastplate of Righteousness” Ephesians 6:10-20 – January 11, 2026

New Year’s Sermon Series

READY <i>Ready for Anything with the Armor of God</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Jan 4	The Belt of Truth	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 11	The Breastplate of Righteousness	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 18	The Gospel of Peace Shoes	Ephesians 6:10-20
Jan 25	The Shield of Faith	Ephesians 6:10-20
Feb 1	The Helmet of Salvation	Ephesians 6:10-20
Feb 8	The Sword of the Spirit	Ephesians 6:10-20

Recap

- We are living in the middle of a spiritual battle that is waging all around us in the unseen spiritual realms (Ephesians 6:12). Satan has a battle plan and schemes that he is using to try to steal, kill, and destroy you (John 10:10). Are you aware of his schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11)?

Satan’s Scheme	Scriptures	Armor That Counters That Scheme
Lies & Deception	John 8:44; Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinth 11:14	Belt of Truth
Accusation	Revelation 12:10; Job 1:9-11; Zechariah 3:1	Breastplate of Righteousness
Division	Ephesians 4:26-29; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11	Gospel of Peace Shoes
Doubts & Discouragement	Genesis 3:1-5; John 10:10; 2 Corinth 11:3	Shield of Faith
Fear	1 Peter 5:8; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18	Helmet of Salvation
Temptations	Genesis 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11	Sword of the Spirit

- In order to stand against the devil’s schemes, you must put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20).
- Many of us are memorizing Ephesians 6:10-20 (two verses per week)

The Function of the Breastplate on a Roman Soldier

- A Roman soldier’s breastplate primarily functioned to **protect the vital organs** (heart, lungs, liver, intestines) from strikes by swords, spears, and arrows thus preventing fatal injuries.
- Arrows and swords would bounce off of the soldier’s body armor.
- Similar to a bullet proof vest today that prevents bullets from penetrating to the vital organs of a soldier or police officer.
- Similarly, the breastplate of righteousness prevents the accusation bullets and arrows of the devil from striking your heart.
- **Proverbs 4:23** (NLT) – *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

Satan’s Tactic of Accusation

- Revelation 12:10 refers to Satan as “the accuser of the brethren” who accuses humans day and night.
- Satan and his minions are constantly shooting arrows of accusation aiming for the vital parts of your inner life and seeking to damage and kill your heart and vital spiritual organs.
- Two examples from Scripture:
(1) Satan accuses Job (Job 1:9-11)
(2) Satan accuses Joshua the priest (Zechariah 3:1-5)
- **Question:** Which of these arrows of accusation has Satan been shooting at your heart lately?
 - Unforgiveable:** “You are a horrible person who has committed horrible sins! Your sins are beyond forgiving!”
 - Hopeless:** “You have no hope! You are too far gone! You are beyond helping! Your situation is beyond help! You will never change!”
 - Unworthiness:** “You are not worthy of love! You don’t deserve God’s love or forgiveness! God’s promises are for other people, but not for you! God is always mad at you!”
 - Hypocrisy:** “You call yourself a Christian, but look at what you did! You’re a pitiful excuse for a child of God! You’re a hypocrite! You are a fake! If people knew the real you, they would reject you!”
 - Despair:** “Life is not worth living! There is no hope! You are doomed! You are beyond help!”
 - Isolated:** “You’re alone in this! No one else understands! No one else can help! You don’t belong! You’re a burden!”
 - Inadequacy:** “You are a failure! You are too sinful for God to use!”
- How do you protect your heart from all of these arrows of accusation?

How to Put on the Breastplate of Righteousness

1. Receive the **imputed righteousness** of Jesus Christ by faith.

- **Romans 3:21-25a; 4:4-5**
- If you are looking to your good deeds to be right before God and to enter Heaven, then you are doomed! However, if you give up trying to earn your way to Heaven and accept God’s free gift of forgiveness and righteousness through Jesus Christ, then you are declared righteous (justified) before God and may go to heaven.
- Being justified does not mean that you have lived a righteous life and therefore deserve to be declared righteous. No. Being justified means that God has legally declared you in right standing before Him (righteous) by crediting the righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ to your spiritual bank account when you believe.
- Warren Wiersbe: “Justification means that God declares us righteous. Justification is a legal matter. God puts the righteousness of Christ on our record in the place of our own sinfulness. And nobody can change this record.”

- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
- The Great Exchange
- **1 Peter 3:18** – Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.
- John Piper: “Imputation is the act in which God counts sinners to be righteous through their faith in Christ on the basis of Christ’s perfect blood and righteousness, specifically the righteousness that Christ accomplished by His perfect obedience in life and death.”
- **Rock of Ages**: “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling.”
- **Application #1** – Have you received the Great Exchange? Have you repented of your sin and run to the cross for your salvation to have the righteousness of Christ imputed to your life?

Jesus, I repent of my sins, and I run to the cross! Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Your cross I cling for my salvation. I receive Your complete forgiveness of all of my sins – past, present, and future. **And** I receive your righteousness imputed to my spiritual bank account. I receive and put on Your breastplate of righteousness. Thank You! I choose to follow You.

- **Application #2** – After receiving Christ, the next step is to go public with your faith decision through public water baptism. Our next baptism service is Sunday, March 1, at 12:45pm. More info and sign up at WhatIsGrace.org/Baptisms
- **Application #3** – Once you have received the righteousness of Christ, let Satan’s accusations bounce off of your armor! You are forgiven! You are righteous in Christ!!
- **Romans 8:1** – There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- The story of Stypulkowski in WWII.

2. Cooperate with the **imparted righteousness** of Jesus Christ by faith in your practical, everyday life.

- **Romans 6:1-19**

JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION
Righteousness imputed	Righteousness imparted
Our sins are forgiven, and the righteousness of Jesus Christ is credited to our account such that the holy requirements of heaven are fulfilled. God sees us as righteous because of His Son.	By the power of Jesus’ Spirit indwelling us, we can live more and more righteous lives NOW. We are becoming more righteous through a sanctifying process.
Our position in Christ	The condition of our walk with Christ

- **Philippians 2:12-13** – Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

- Jerry Bridges: “Paul said, ‘Train yourself to be godly’ (1 Tim 4:7). You and I are responsible to train ourselves. We are dependent upon God for His divine enablement, but we are responsible; we are not passive in the process. Our objective in this process is godliness – God-centered devotion and Godlike character. Training in godliness requires commitment, the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit through His Word, and practice on our part.”
- **Application #4** – I will do my part as I trust God with His part (divine power) in putting on the imparted righteousness of God in my practical, everyday life. Specifically, I will...
 - ☐ Train myself to be godly (“train” = *gymnazo*)
 - ☐ Abide in Christ through prayer
 - ☐ Abide in Christ through the Word
 - ☐ Abide in Christ through fellowship in Christ’s church
- Bruce Wilkinson: “Abiding is all about the most important friendship of your life. Abiding doesn’t measure how much knowledge you have. In abiding, you seek, long for, thirst for, wait for, see, know, love, and respond to a **person**. More abiding means more of God in your life, more of Him in your activities, thoughts, and desires. In our Western-style rush to do and perform for God, we often falter at the task of simply enjoying His company, yet that is what we were created for.”
- Andrew Murray: “Believer! Would you abide in Jesus, be very careful to keep His commandments. Keep them in the love of your heart. Be not content to have them in the Bible for reference, but have them transferred by careful study, by meditation, by prayer, by a loving acceptance, by the Spirit’s teaching, to your heart.”
- Andrew Murray: “Abiding in Christ is simply weakness entrusting self to a Mighty One to be kept – the unfaithful one casting self on One who is altogether trustworthy and true. Abiding in Him is not a work that we have to do as the condition of enjoying His salvation, but a consenting to let Him do all for us, and in us, and through us. It is a work He does for us – the fruit and power of His redeeming love. Our part is simply to yield, to trust, to wait for what He has engaged to perform.”

My Application Today – With God’s help and power, I am going to...

- ☐ Memorize Ephesians 6:10-20 (ESV) by memorizing two verses per week during this series. [On January 18, we will recite vv.10-13 together.]
- ☐ Put on the whole armor of God daily through prayer.

Father, thank You for making Your armor – the very armor that You Yourself wear – available to me through the merits of Jesus Christ. Right now, by faith, I put on Your armor: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the Gospel of peace shoes, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is Your Word. Protect me from the evil one and use me to advance Your Kingdom. In Jesus’ name.

- ☐ Put on the breastplate of righteousness by...