

May 4th, 2025

Ephesians 6:14b - Breastplate of Righteousness (Sermon Transcript)

Did you guys know today is a national holiday? Everybody's like, wait. Today is May the fourth, which is a Star Wars holiday. May the fourth be with you. Okay. Alright. Any, any Star Wars fans in here? I am. All right. All right. There's like half. How many of you have seen the movies?

You're not like. Geeking out of over them, but you, you, you're aware of what Star Wars is. All right. How many of you actually saw Star Wars in theaters when they first came out? See, that's fascinating to me. Okay. All right. Because I, I was, I only got to watch the what, one, two, in three in theaters, which was awful.

So. I'm not a big Star Wars fan. I couldn't tell you. They people start talking about planets. I don't, I don't know what's going on except I know two people, pretty much Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker. Okay. Which is pretty much what the entire series is about. There is this scene in. The second movie, which is the fifth movie.

All right? Yes. You following me? Okay. It's very confusing. There's this scene where Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker are, are fighting and they're going back and forth and Darth Vader chops off spoiler, Luke Skywalker's arm. You know this scene? Yes. Luke Skywalker dramatically is like, no. Right, and he's hanging on.

Just a few moments later, Luke Skywalker is just hanging on for dear life and he's like, you killed my father. And Darth Vader famously said, no, I am your father. Which has gotta be just very traumatic since he just cut off his arm of his own son. Right? I don't like this. This is a, it's gotta be weird for Luke.

Okay. I don't understand. But in this scene, there's this back and forth where Darth Vader is trying to bring Luke over to the dark side, and Luke is struggling. You can see it come to the dark side, the the force is strong in you and there's this back and forth going on. And Luke eventually is like, no, I'm not going to do that.

And I think that scene really just kind of pictures the ongoing struggle of the Christian life. We are pulled back and forth of following the Lord in righteousness or giving into unrighteousness and sin. This is what Paul says, oh, and we're gonna reference this verse, these verses in, uh, Romans chapter seven.



I do what I don't want to do and I don't do what I do want to do, meaning I wanna follow the Lord, but then I sin and then I keep sinning and I don't wanna do that anymore. I wanna follow Jesus. Anybody else fill that struggle? On a daily basis, we just wanna long for those in Christ. We wanna follow him with our whole hearts, and yet we're constantly fighting and we have an enemy that wants to invite us over, but at the same time doesn't care if he just starts chopping off arms.

Today as we talk about the breastplate of righteousness, we're gonna talk about this struggle and this fight. All of us have every day as we seek to follow Jesus. We're constantly fighting this. Do I walk in the Lord or do I walk in the ways of the world? And this is why we need the breastplate of righteousness.

The old song hymn come, thou found, it says this, oh, to Grace, how great a debtor daily, I'm constrained to be. Thy goodness. Like a Fedor or like a chain binds my wondering, heart to thee prone to wander. Lord, I feel it prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart. Take and seal it. Seal it for thy courts above my prayer is that even in our wondering hearts, that we will plead for the Lord.

Man binds chain me to yourself today. And what grace? He says, I'm going to equip you in your fight against sin by giving you the breastplate of righteousness. Without any protection and unprotected heart will be put to death. But with Christ, we are covered with his righteousness, and now we're encouraged to live in it.

As we seek to follow him, let's read Ephesians six, 10 through 20 together this morning. I'll read it for us as I read along, maybe just in your close your eyes and just in your, your own head. Just follow along in memorization with me and we'll read the whole armor of God together this morning.

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 and 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 and as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the spirit with all prayer



and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me that my, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.

For which I'm an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly as I ought to speak. This is the word of the Lord. Father, open our eyes to behold the wonderful truths from your word. I pray that we will see the perfect righteousness that you've given us, and then the call to live in that righteousness daily.

Help us to stand in your strength as we fight our sin and pursue you. It's your name we pray. Amen. Now with the armor of God, are we just putting on one piece or we're putting on the whole armor? Whole armor. Whole armor, right. This is a all or nothing. It's not just, Hey, I got, I got my belt on. Let's go. No, we are, we are putting on the whole armor of God.

So even as we look at these individual pieces of the armor, we are still no understand that I need all of it. It's all or nothing. It's in order of how the, the Roman soldiers would've put on their armor. They would've started with the belts like we talked about last week, and then they would put on the breastplate and it would just go from there.

Now you can look at this and say, man, the, the breastplate for the, the soldier is probably the most important parts of the, the armor. It's going to protect your hearts. Your vital organs, right from sword attacks, from spears, from arrows. And so this is a picture of what it would potentially have looked like in Paul's day and age.

You see, this whole material here is likely what Paul is referencing when he talks about the breastplate of righteousness. Look how it wraps around. You got your kidneys, your, your, your whole heart, your lungs. It's protected. There's also a, another picture that it could possibly look like, and depending on, uh, the, just the, the, the role in which you served in the Roman Army.

It could be this, this chain mail of sorts, but still, look how much it's covering. This is a vital part to the armor. No Roman soldier would ever head into battle without his breastplate. It protected him from everything. And it was close combat too, meaning you might get a dagger into the side, so you got, you gotta protect yourself.

This was an important piece of the armor. And just like the Roman soldier, no Christian should ever enter into spiritual warfare without the breastplate of righteousness. It is needed. To protect us from attacks from the enemy. Before we



get into the whole putting on the breastplate of righteousness, we, we need to understand that word righteousness.

Y'all say righteousness for me. Righteous. Righteousness. That word is used 644 times in the Bible or the variations of it. That's a lot of times. In fact, it's one of the Apostle Paul's favorite words. If you read through his letters to the churches, he talks about righteousness a lot. In fact, it's one of the most important topics in all of scripture, all of scripture.

Paul uses it 81 different times, 81 different times. He's talking about righteousness. He is wanting his, his readers to understand the importance of this word. Righteousness is a legal term. It talks about the, the right standing of someone. In this case, it is the A person standing before a just and holy God.

So every person, every man, every woman, every child, American, Ethiopian, everywhere that's ever walked this earth, they stand in one or two positions. We stand before God as either righteous. Or unrighteous. There is no in-between. There is no gray area. This is where every human being stands before God, righteous or unrighteous.

But when we look at this word, the only reason we know about righteousness is because God is righteous. Truth. We don't create truth. We don't create what is true. We don't create what is righteous. God establishes what is righteous. If God were not good, if God were not righteous, then we wouldn't even know what good was.

If God did not exist, there would be no righteousness. Psalm 145, 17 tells us, and we're gonna be reading a lot of verses today. In fact, if you notice in your church program, we even put 'em all in there for you, okay? Because we're gonna be moving fast. All right? The Lord is righteous in all of his ways, which ways?

All, all of his ways. Kind in all of his work. The Lord is righteous in all of his ways. When he deals with you, he does it in a righteous way. When he deals with the world, he does it in a righteous way. It is good, which is what we are not according to scripture. We are unrighteous, so automatically we are compared to who got us.

He is righteous and holy and just, and scripture says that we are unrighteous. There's quite a bit that Paul talks about when it comes to unrighteous. Look what he says in Romans 10 12, as it is written, referring back to the Old Testament, none is righteous. No, not one. It's as if Paul is writing this, Hey.

Nones, right? None is righteous. And if you see this comma, it's as if someone's saying, Hey, what about me? No, not one. Just to clarify, doubling down here, who is



righteous? None. No one understands. No one seeks for God. All I've turned aside together, they have become worthless. No one does good. Not even one.

This is the state of mankind in birth, in conception. We are born in sin unrighteous 'cause of the sin that Adam has passed onto us. Isaiah 64 6 says, we have all become like one who is unclean and all of our righteous deeds are like polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf in all of our iniquities, like the winds.

Take us away. So you can say, well, pastor, man, I'm not that bad. I did this good thing. I went to church today. Awesome. Without Jesus, you're a polluted garment. Like that's not pleasant. This is how God views a sinful heart. Unrighteous. Legally speaking, you stand before a judge, a holy judge. Guilty. Guilty, and no one going back to that passage in Romans.

No one is seeking after God. No one. We don't wake up one day and just say, you know what? I'm gonna go seek after God. Scripture says, who is seeking after God? Nobody. So what does God do? Well, Jesus says this and, and Luke, I came to seek and to save the lost. It is God who's doing the seeking. He is after the heart of the unrighteous person.

We are prisoners to sin. Jeremiah 17. This whole chapter is just talks about the heart of mankind. Here's just a few verses when we talk about this, this whole we talked about it last week, this follow your heart idea, follow your truth. Well, this is contrary to scripture, contrary to the ways of God, the heart is deceitful above all, all things, and desperately sick.

Who can understand it? I mean, the heart is wicked.

I the Lord search the heart and I test the mind to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds. It is not pleasant how Scripture reveals and talks about the sinful heart, polluted garments, deceitful. God is not beating around the bush. Here he is, direct and to the point.

Mankind is unrighteous. Not a single one is righteous. No, not one.

And here's the bad news. As we just saw in Jeremiah, God knows your heart. You can't hide it. Can't hide it. You can't try to cover it up. You could cover it up and hide it from everybody else. God looks and sees. The deceitful sin in your heart. But here's the good news. God wants to change it, and he's gonna do it through his son, Jesus.



And Isaiah, there's this passage of scripture, Isaiah 59, 14 through 20. We're gonna read this chunk here, okay? And it's incredible how it's written. Is God who it is written as if God is looking down and he is seeing just the wickedness throughout the entire world. He does this with Noah. He does this in multiple parts where he is like this.

He's like, enough, I'm done with this. I'm gonna deal with it. Let's read what God says in Isaiah 59, 14 through 20, kind of picking up in the middle of the context here. Justice is turned back and righteousness stands far away, meaning righteousness is not close to the people For truth has stumbled in the public, squares in uprightness cannot enter.

We see the word truth there as well. Truth is lacking and he, he departs from evil, makes himself a prey. It's not very good, is it? 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. He's looking around and saying, there's no one here to help.

There's no one here to deal with it, but the verse keeps going. Then his own arm brought him salvation and his righteousness upheld him. He put on a righteousness as a breastplates and a helmet of salvation on his head. Have we heard these words before? He put on garments of vengeance for clothing and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak according to their deeds.

So he. Will he repay wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies, to the coastlands he will enter. He will render repayment 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. I love this passage of scripture. I've read it like a handful quite a few times this past week. I wi like there's a part of me that just looks at this and there's just chaos and murder and sin. It's everywhere. And God is in heaven saying enough and then very dramatic action packed.

Music starts playing and he starts putting on the own breast plate of righteousness in the helmet of salvation. He says, I'm gonna go and defeat it. No one else is gonna do it. I will do it. How does God make unrighteous people righteous? Through his son, Jesus Christ alone. That's the only way. He is the one who is initiating this defeat of sin and wickedness.



He is the one who put on his own breastplate of righteousness, his own helmet of salvation, who went and proclaimed the truth as a reminder that Jesus is our perfect righteousness, our perfect righteousness.

Isaiah 53 11 out of the anguish of his soul, he shall see and be satisfied by his knowledge, shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted, righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Here's what Jesus did for us. Think of the wonderful grace of this. Jesus lived righteously so that we might become righteous, perfect life. Jesus never cursed in traffic, right? He did not angrily yell at his kids if he had kids. He didn't when he was tired and worn out and they were just, they just looked at him wrong.

Okay. He was hungry and he didn't sin like that's a miracle in and of itself, right? He was perfect. He was never greedy. He never lusted after he was never prideful perfect. He is our perfect righteousness. And yet, here's what Paul says in two Corinthians five. For our sake. He made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him, in Jesus, we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus lived a righteous life so that we will become righteous.

And so he came to do this and in one John one, nine we see. That if we confess our sins, if we confess our unrighteousness, he is faithful and just a legal term there to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from what? Alright, let's try that again. Okay. And to cleanse us from what all unrighteousness. All unrighteousness.

Which unrighteousness? All of it. All of your unrighteousness. He is faithful to cleanse. Yes. That thing you did 20 years ago that you were stuck on that you can't, that has weighed you down, that you know has been against God. He is faithful to forgive you faithful. If you're a Christian and you're still going back to that, that's the lies of the devil saying you're worthless.

Instead of trusting that God is faithful to forgive you of that and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Jesus came the one who knew no sin became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God and those who look at Jesus and realize the Savior has found the one who is lost. We call and believe in him, in his finished work on the cross and the life that he gives through his resurrection.

He is faithful and just to forgive us of all of our unrighteousness. And then what happens? Well, the righteousness of Jesus, his perfect righteousness then covers us. Philippians three, nine.



And that we will be found in him not having a righteousness of our own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God. That depends on faith. One Corinthians one and because of him. You are in Christ Jesus who became to us. Wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that as it is written, let the one who boast, boast in the Lord.

There's so much more we can talk about this, that the righteousness of Jesus covers the one who, by faith, believes in the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, the fancy theological term for this. The imputed righteousness of Jesus. It is his righteousness that covers us. Meaning when before we stand before God is either righteous or unrighteous, that because of Jesus when we stand before a just and holy God, he looks at us and sees the perfect righteousness of Jesus.

If you have by faith believed in Jesus, this is your standing before God that he doesn't look at you as some worthless sinner. He looks at you as his own son, his own daughter, because not of your, is it because of your righteousness? No, absolutely not. Because our righteous deeds are what? They're like filthy rags, filthy garments.

But we stand before a righteous God, clothed and covered in the righteousness, the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ alone.

Praise be to God for that, right? Amen. So now this is who we are. This is our identity. We are in Christ. But this imputed righteousness, this covering of righteousness is not what Paul is talking about in Ephesians chapter six, when he says, put on the breastplate of righteousness. We can't put on Jesus's righteousness.

Only Jesus can do that. And if we can put on something, it also means we can put off something and it's not biblical, nor is it not good at all if we can just take off the righteousness of Jesus. Think of that for a moment. We are in good standing with God and then out of good standing back and forth, back and forth, and we don't know what to do.

So what is this righteousness? Paul is referring to in Ephesians chapter six, verse 14. Well, it's practical righteousness. We have positional righteousness. This is who we are in front of God because of Jesus. We are the righteousness of God in front of him, but we don't always live that way, do we? We don't practically, we're not always righteous, but this is who we are called to be and called to live in obedience to the Lord.



Righteousness of Jesus leads us to live a righteous life. The righteousness of Jesus leads us to live a righteous life. One John 2 29.

Hey, do you know that Jesus is righteous? Alright, lemme ask again. Okay, you guys with me? All right. Do you know that Jesus is righteous? Yes. Yes. So if you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. So if you know that he is righteous, then that righteousness of Jesus leads you to practice righteousness.

This is who you are positionally that can't be taken away and praise the Lord for that. And this is how we are to live practically all the days of our life.

Jesus died not just to save us for all of eternity, but he died so that we will live righteously one Peter 2 24 through 25. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.

We're two weeks removed from Easter. I hope we never lose sight of all that Jesus has done for us on the cross as he hung there, beaten and bloodied and nailed, unrecognizable, bearing our sins on the cross. I take this, and I read this as that lie that you told last week, Jesus wore it on the cross. All of your sin, and I don't know about you got a lot of it.

Okay. And you think about all the sin in here, and then we talk about of all mankind just laid on Jesus. No wonder. No wonder it was just this devastating, heartbroken moment. For Jesus to cry out. Do not forsake me. But we also know that in that crying out that he knows God would never do that,

bearing our sins in the His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree so that here's the purpose that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds, you have been healed for you are like straying sheep, but have now returned to the shepherd and overseer of your soul.

Why would we ever wanna leave the good shepherd prone who wander? Lord, I feel it prone to leave the God I love. I know how good you are. Jesus. I know how wonderful you are. Why do I want to walk away from that?

We are to put to death any unrighteousness in us. Colossians three, five states put to death, therefore. It's earthly in you. Sexual immorality and purity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. We've talked about this in this series. The Christian life is spiritual warfare. This is violent language here.



Okay. Which I think a lot of ladies are like y. All the men are like, yes. I don't know. Right? It is a put to death. Your sin. Put it to death. This is violent language in the Christian life. The other day I was out doing some yard work and I was walking and something squirmed over my foot. All right. Ooh. So I looked, I didn't jump, was a miracle 'cause I thought it was a lizard.

I looked down and it was a little snake about this long. All right, this long. Now y'all know how I feel about snakes. It's what the devil used in the garden, so if you're picking that, they're all bad. All right? I don't know what type of snake it is because it's tiny, and how you identify a snake is by looking at its eyes and I just don't wanna get that close.

Okay? So I killed it. We can, I don't know if we can edit this outta the podcast later if that's gonna be a problem. Right. So I wasn't sure it was add. I mean, it was, it could, it could eventually be a black snake, which is fine. It could be a rattlesnake. I don't know. So I wasn't gonna take any chances, so I stomped on it and I kept stomping on it.

Right now it's still squirming and I didn't go like, it's fine. It's pretty much all gone. No, I stomped on it some more. And then just to circle back, I had my shovel and I chopped the head off just in case. This is what it means to put to death our sin, and we think that if I just stomp on it once or twice, it'll be fine.

No, chop it off. Put it to death, is what Paul says. It should not dwell within you. Put to death your sin. Don't give it a chance to rear its ugly head again, put it to death. And so in order to do this, the Lord knows

we're gonna need something to cover and guard our hearts as we fight sin. And he gives us his breastplate of righteousness. Now, the reason for this breastplate. Is that the, in Roman warfare, it was a lot of close hand to hand fighting swords, arrows. I mean, arrows aren't flying super far. Most of it was combat.

So you think of how close you are to fighting, and we already talked about we do not wrestle. Against flesh and blood, and that word wrestle is hand-to-hand combat here. Okay? This is not current day. Someone flying a drone and the warfare is distant on the other side of the globe. Our warfare is close.

It's hand to hand. And so yes, if we're going to fight against our sin and we're gonna put it to death, would we not want to be equipped with God's righteousness? To guard and protect our hearts. Do you see the importance of this piece of armor Here? We're gonna take blows. The devil comes out, swinging our flesh, comes out swinging.



So we must guard our hearts because we are in a close battle with the war raging within us. Romans 7 22 referenced this earlier. For I delight in the law of God and my inner being, but I see in my members another law, waging war against the law of my minds and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

I love that Pa Paul man, when he was a kid, he played with like those little green Army men. That's I, because he talks about this warfare so much. There's this war waging within him that goes against God, wretched man that I am. You ever feel like this? You're not alone. Every one of us in here is waging war against sin who will deliver me from this body of death?

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So then I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh, I serve. The law of sin is this, this reminder that we guard our hearts because we are fighting sin and the heart is important, not just to the, the physical body. It's important to the spiritual life as well.

Proverbs 4 23 says, keep your heart with all vigilance. Some translations say, guard your heart for from it flows the springs of life. Everything we do comes from the heart. Every time you lash in anger, every time you are unloving, every time you do not reflect Jesus. It is not a because of your circumstances.

It is because of your heart, how you live in joy for the Lord, how you proclaim the gospel, how you put to death. It's also not because of your circumstances. It's the overflow of a heart that's been transformed. By the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus. So that's why as Proverbs 13, six says, righteousness guards him whose way is blameless.

We wanna live a holy night life. It is a pursuit of righteousness that guards the heart. 'cause how easily do we see sin that overthrows the wicked, righteous people don't live and dwell and stand. In unrighteousness. This is all of Psalm one.

The righteous man pursues the righteous woman pursues righteousness and the righteousness of Jesus. This is everyone's reality in here. I mean, I, I know from various conversations, each of you struggle with something different. For some of you, it's been ongoing fight. The joy of what? Like I love, this is what I love about one of my favorite things about pastoral ministry and those who stick in a local church for a very long time.

It is a joyful thing to watch the Lord's sanctifying work over the years to watch some of you who had deep anger issues come now and just are freed from that. That's that's not because Grace life is super awesome. 'cause Jesus', and to see that, hey,



there are things, man. If this thing happened to you five years ago, that response would've been much different.

But praise be to God that your heart is being transformed and made like Him every day. This is the righteousness of Jesus that's changing us. And look, the more we follow Jesus, the more we pursue his righteousness, the more we chase after him. Man, it's just gonna continue to grow year and decade and decade after decade

should this not be our posture that I wanna be more like Jesus each and every day. But we're gonna have to guard our hearts if we wanna pursue that as we just read, everything we do comes from the heart. Temptation is always present, always present.

We know this, right? You get back out in just the middle of nowhere, and the temptation to steal something comes out of nowhere, right? You're like, I know I'm not gonna do that. Devil's gonna take a shot. Okay? Maybe you will. The temptation to lie. The temptation to lust, greed, all right? They come out of, it's just everywhere when you least expect it too.

Just sitting in the car in traffic and you're like, boy. People knew what I was just thinking. They would not let me serve in kid life, man. They wouldn't want me handing out guest bags or whatever. Okay? If you guys knew my heart, y'all wouldn't be letting me preach every Sunday. Probably that, right? Like, man, this is the grace of the Lord that protects us from temptation.

It's luring us in. Hoping to see the, the enticing nature of it. And like a fish, as soon as we bite onto that temptation, it only leads to death. Temptation is always present.

And the devil, our enemy is after your heart. He is. We've already talked about this multiple times in the series, seeking whom he may devour. In Acts chapter five, Anani and Sapphira, they sold their property and then they, and they were going to give it all to the church, but then they lied about it and said, this is all of it.

And they lied and kept some, which was fine. They just didn't have to lie about it. And the apostles said, why has the devil filled your heart

even in Luke eight 12?

Jesus is telling this parable of these seeds. He's just going out and sowing and some seeds land and take root and they thrive and grow and how the gospel changes. And some of it, it's someone's like interested and they're like, yeah, I think this Jesus



thing is good. And then they fall away. The ones along the path are those who have heard.

Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts. So that they may not believe and be saved. You don't think guarding our hearts is important? Now, here's the good news. The devil can't take away the righteousness of Jesus that covers us,

but our enemy seeks to make us not live in that righteousness. That's why John Owen, the old Puritan, 400 years ago said, be killing sin or sin will be killing you. We put it to death. So what do we do in this fight against sin and temptation to stand firm? We must put on the breastplate of righteousness.

In ancient Greek culture, clothing was not only a NEC necessity, right? It is. You need it. Okay. But also it was a symbol of status, identity, and role to put on a garment could signify a change in one's social status or role. The use here reflects this cultural understanding, emphasizing a transformation or adoption of a new identity.

The other day, Colton played a game against one of our other teams in our park, and they didn't have enough players, so they borrowed a player from another team and this player comes over and is not wearing the same jersey as the rest of the team, and it stood out for one. Nobody likes this kid. Okay?

That's a different story, right? He stood out 'cause he is not wearing the same uniform. There's a difference there. If he puts on the same uniform, he just looks the same. Right? This is what it looks like when we, when the righteousness of God covers us and we're putting on the breastplate of righteousness, we look different than the world.

We recognize that, hey, we really don't belong on the, the teams, the world's team. We're on a different team. And that's team Jesus. Stand out. It shows our status that we don't belong to this world. We belong to a greater kingdom. A kingdom that's ruled by an eternal king. A kingdom that's forever and lasting is when we put on the breastplate of righteousness.

We're showing who we belong to. We're putting on who we are. We're putting on that we are righteous before a holy God. So let's work through four things quickly. We can't cover every sin and every issue, but let's hit four.

Are you anxious? You're fighting, anxiousness, and worry about anything about your health, about your job, about your kids, about the future?



Are you anxious and worried? What's gonna happen tomorrow? What am I gonna wear? Where am I gonna get the money? I can't pay for this. Well, what do we do? We seek after righteousness, Matthew 6 31 through 33. Therefore, do not be anxious saying, what shall we eat? Or What shall we drink? Or what shall we wear for the Gentile seek after these things?

Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all, but seek first the kingdom of God and what his righteousness and all these things will be added to you. You wake up in the morning, you're in the middle of work, and that anxiousness and worry and fear starts to overwhelm and you're this temptation to not trust in the Lord.

What do we do? We seek after righteousness. No. This is not the way of the, of the Christ follower I can trust holy in a sovereign God, who Colossians one says holds all things in his hand. The all things meaning the the stars, a part of the universe that we will never see are in his hands. And Jesus even reminds us that nothing can pluck you out of the father's hands.

You are secure, you are secured in there, nothing's taken you out. So yes, a temptation to be anxious and worried. And listen, I know we're all dealing with this. This is a conversation where I'm having on a weekly basis, and I'm not saying that's ridiculous. Get over it. There's nothing to worry about what we tell our kids when it's 1130 at night and it's dark.

Okay. Hey, no. Seek after righteousness. Seek after the goodness and grace of Jesus 'cause you're safe and secure. Don't believe those lies, that God doesn't have it all together. No seek after righteousness. What about maybe you're fighting dissatisfaction, right?

That's a very broad term here. Okay. Dissatisfied at work. You hate your job. If you're there all day, clock in, you get your paycheck. Realize the government takes way too much money than they need. Okay? And you're frustrated. There's no promotion in sight. Ever been dissatisfied at work? Listen, in my job here at Grace Life, I've never been dissatisfied, just to be clear.

Okay. But even then, yeah. Have you ever been dissatisfied in your marriage? Finance, like we can keep going. Dissatisfaction is a part of life. Some of us are gonna eat lunch today. If you've ever eaten a meal and you're like, uh, it was not good, and I would like some more. Right. Our culture is teaching our kids instant gratification too.

That's why. Walmart Grocery Order has saved so many different conversations at the checkout aisle. Right? Can I get this piece of candy? Can I get this? I did this



growing up, and when I was told no, I thought, Hey, I can just steal it. Nobody would know. Somehow Dad found out I don't understand the Lord's faithful and just to forgive us of all unrighteousness.

Okay? Amen. But we've been dissatisfied in a host of areas. So what do we do to fight this dissatisfaction? Hunger and thirst for righteousness. Matthew five, six. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied

every time your stomach growls and hunger. I think is a gift of the Lord's reminder. What we should really be hungering for. Think about this. All right. What a beautiful thing the Lord's given us. Like my stomach. I'm hungry now. I don't eat breakfast on Sunday mornings or ever. Really? I don't. I mean, it's not just a Sunday thing, but it's so, I'm like, I'm hungry.

Anybody hungry right here? Right? And your stomach's growling. I truly believe the Lord and His grace gave that to our bodies to remind us that there's something more satisfying than food, that we should hunger and thirst for righteousness.

'cause when we do, we will be satisfied.

Are you fighting sexual sins? Are you fighting just this, the urge to give into pornography or affairs and all the sexual sin that the world throws at us? What do we do? We pursue righteousness two Timothy 2 22. So flee youthful passions and pursue what? Alright, you started thinking about food and you get disconnected here from the sermon.

What are we purs to pursue? Righteousness. Righteousness, faith, love and peace along with those who call on the Lord with a pure hearts. Youthful passions. It's anything. I mean, this is the, the urge to make as much money as you can and be greedy. It is sexual sins. You the youthful pa. Don't pursue those youthful passions, pursue righteousness.

Or maybe are you fighting self-righteousness? Look how good I am. I got my life together. I know so much about the Bible. I got it. I can argue with anybody about the Bible. I'll be right every time.

Look at me. That's like the Pharisees who would pray in public. Look how awesome I am the Lord. I'm the Lord's chosen. This is a practice of self-righteousness. Obviously, we should know as much about the Bible as we can, and we should be able to defend what it says, but we do it from a pure and righteous heart.



Not a heart that says, I got it together.

What do we do? We boast into righteousness of the Lord and because of him, you are in Christ Jesus who became to His wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that as it is written, let the one who boast, boast in the Lord, I'm not righteous because I've got it together. I'm righteous because of Jesus alone.

Of this, this pursuit of holiness, this pursuit of righteousness, this pursuit of living after Jesus. Can we be honest for a second? It's easier said than done, is it not? Yeah. Have you ever been, I mean, some of you I pray, will leave today's gathering and you're just rejo like, Lord, I'm on, I'm this, I'm all in on you.

You wake up from your nap and you do something, you're like, what have I done? You been there. You have the greatest morning devotion. Is this as if the presence of the Lord is sitting right next to you physically worship music all day? You get an email and then you're, it's out the window and you're like, oh my goodness.

That's why Paul said, wretched man, that I am good grief. Easier said than done. This is why sanctification is not a microwave life. It's crockpot meal that's gonna be a long time cooking. In fact, it's so long that when we close our eyes and death and we wake up, there'll be Jesus standing there and saying, well done.

Lord willing, through his grace, my good and faithful servant, I am going to complete the good work in you that I started. So we do not give into the temptation that this is all on us because here's the joy. Jesus is lovingly leading us to righteousness

during covid. My Facebook this time of year is just fascinating to me. 'cause Facebook is all about the covid five years ago and what we were doing as a church and different things. And so. At some point during 2020, our first time as a family where we really like, we went back on vacation. We went to Georgia.

I couldn't even tell you what we did, but we stopped by Bucky's, right? Man, you have to stop at Bucky's. Gas is a little cheaper. The brisket sandwich is good. Merit is five. All right? And so we get the Buckys. It's chaos. It's it's nuts, right? And so what do I do? Because I'm like, someone here is gonna snatch my kid.

I just know it. 'cause for one, I'm gonna get covid. Now I know that because it's, you're just like this for the first time in like a year. And so this is strange, but I'm grabbing merit's hands. I've got that hand gripped. She's not going anywhere and she's not leading the way. I'm kind of dragging her along.



'cause all she sees is what in the world is going on. She doesn't see the level that I see. She can't see the restrooms from where she is. She can't see the gummy bear aisle that she really wants to. What is she prone to do? Wonder, and so what do I do? I grab that hand as tight as I can and I said, this is where we're going.

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me besides still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of what? For his namesake. Even though I walk through the valley of shadow of death and I can't see anything, I fear no evil. For your, with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Jesus is the one who is leading us in righteousness and he has staked his name and reputation on it, so trust. That the breastplate of righteousness is worth putting on and know that you are covered by him. Owe to grace how great a debtor. Daily I'm constrained to be thy goodness like a fedder Binds my wondering.

Heart to thee prones. Who wander. Lord, I feel it. Prone to lead the God I love. Here's my heart. Who take in, seal it. Seal it for thy courts above Father.

