

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Ephesians 6:14b - Righteousness

Lesson 16

When Jesus died on the cross, He made His *righteousness* available to all who would be His. All who are His have been declared to be *righteous*. Yet, being declared *righteous* does not insure *righteous* behavior. That is a choice. That must be *put on*. The benefits of wearing *righteousness* are many, among them being an ability to stand in the warfare lunged against us by the devil who loves *unrighteousness*. May you sense His strengthening as you consider this powerful *breastplate*.

DAY ONE: Read Ephesians 6:14-19

1. This week we will concentrate on Ephesians 6:14b. Read all of verse 14 and record it below.

2. Review Ephesians 6:14-17. List the six pieces of armor by filling in the blanks:

having your waist girded with _____

having put on the breastplate of _____

having shod your feet with the preparation of the _____

taking the shield of _____

take the helmet of _____

(take) the sword of the Spirit, which is the _____

3. After *girding your waist with truth*, you are to *put on the breastplate of righteousness*. Using a Bible Dictionary (or a regular dictionary) define:

breastplate:

righteousness:

DAY TWO: God's Righteousness

1. One of the attributes of God is that He is *righteous*. God's holiness is expressed through His righteousness – Because God is holy, He does what is right. Look up the following verses and record what they reveal about God's *righteousness*.

Genesis 18:25

Job 34:10

Psalms 7:9

Psalms 33:5

Psalms 71:19

Psalms 119:142

- a. Using what you learned from these verses, describe the *righteousness* of God.
2. The fact that God judges in *righteousness*, may make Him appear to be harsh. List some of the other words used to describe God in the following verses:

Jeremiah 9:24

Psalms 116:5

Psalms 145:17

- a. How does knowing this about God help you to better understand His *righteousness*?
3. David loved the fact that God is *righteous*. How did He respond to God's *righteousness*? See Psalms 7:17 and 92:15.
 - a. What would you declare to others about God's *righteousness*?

DAY THREE: God's Righteousness Requirement

1. The following verses compare how *righteousness* can be obtained. One is written of Abraham; the other is quoting the intentions of the Israelites. What do these verses say?

Genesis 15:6 (said of Abraham)

Deuteronomy 6:25 (said by the Israelites)

- a. Which of the two means of obtaining *righteousness* do you prefer to rely on? Why?

Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer

3. God's *righteousness* demands perfection. How is Jesus described in Hebrews 7:26?

4. Since Jesus is *righteous* and we are not, what did God do for us? See 2 Corinthians 5:21.

- a. What does Romans 3:21-22 declare about how we can obtain the *righteousness of God*?

5. Read the following Scriptures and reflect on what Jesus did to reconcile us to a Holy God:

1 John 3:5

1 Peter 3:18

6. *For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us. God was being entirely fair and just when he did not punish those who sinned in former times. And he is entirely fair and just in this present time when he declares sinners to be right in his sight because they believe in Jesus. (Romans 3:25-26 NLT) God is righteous. Yet, He declined to punish your sin knowing that it would be paid for by Jesus. God calls that fair and right. What do you call it?*

7. Because Jesus reconciled us to God, we have access to the Holy Spirit Who enables us to walk *righteously*. What does 1 John 2:29 say about those who *practice righteousness*?

- a. Describe how you personally experience this in your life.

DAY FOUR: Unrighteousness and Righteousness Contrasted

1. Since we have been counted *righteous*, what is our obligation? See Romans 6:13.
 - a. How does a person present their members as instruments of:
unrighteousness to sin

righteousness to God

2. *...and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness* (Ephesians 4:24). Read through Ephesians 4:25-32 and list some of the behaviors that are not part of the *new man created in righteousness*.
 - a. According to these verses, what behaviors do reflect the *new man created in righteousness*?
 - 1.) What part is God's part in this and what is the responsibility of the believer?

3. *...being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God* (Philippians 1:11). *Fruits* are a result. A life lived in response to the *righteousness* granted through Jesus Christ produces *fruit*. Describe the *fruit* of a life lived *righteously*.
 - a. Describe the *fruit* of a life lived *unrighteously*.

 - b. Too many believers settle for somewhere in between the two. Describe that life.

DAY FIVE: The Breastplate of Righteousness

1. The breastplate covered the body of the soldier from the neck to the thighs. It was used to protect the heart. How does living *righteously* protect the spiritual heart?
 - a. What kind of "heart" damage can be caused if our hearts are unprotected?

2. Paul described his battle in ministry using the phrase *by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left* (2 Corinthians 6:7). In paraphrasing this verse, the New Living Translation refers to the *right hand* and *left hand* as using the *armor of righteousness* offensively and defensively. In what ways is the *armor of righteousness* an offensive weapon?
 - a. In what ways is it a defensive weapon?

3. Paul knew that *righteousness* was armor the Christian could not be without. What did he write to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:11 and 2 Timothy 2:22?
 - a. Notice that 2 Timothy 2:22 indicates that Timothy pursue these things along with other believers who *call on the Lord out of a pure heart*. What are the benefits of pursuing *righteousness* with other believers?
 - 1.) What do you think it means to *call on the Lord out of a pure heart*?

4. Read 2 Timothy 3:16. In what ways is Scripture profitable for instruction in *righteousness*?

5. A person who desires *righteousness* in their life will learn from their mistakes. *Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it* (Hebrews 12:11). How might God's *chastening* for unrighteousness produce *righteousness*?

DAY SIX: Review

1. God alone is truly *righteous*. Why doesn't the believer need to fear God's *righteousness*?

2. Romans 3:10 declares *There is none righteous; no, not one*. What did Jesus do to change that for you?
 - a. How can an *unrighteous* person, become *righteous*?

3. Righteousness is both being right and doing right. How might over-emphasis of one and neglect of the other cause a person to inappropriately wear their *breastplate of righteousness*?

4. Explain what it means practically to *put on the breastplate of righteousness*.

5. What have you learned from this lesson that has challenged you to live in the *righteousness* God has provided for you?

*Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,
- 2 Corinthians 9:10*