

“THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”

I. The Message Needs a Messenger

Acts 26:17–18 – ¹⁷I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.

Romans 10:13–14 – ¹³For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” ¹⁴How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Acts 8:30–31 – ³⁰So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.

II. The Message Needs a Receiver

- How hard is it to CHANGE a mind – To replace their thoughts with God’s truth?

2 Corinthians 6:11–12 – ¹¹O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. ¹²You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections.

1 Corinthians 9:19–22 – ¹⁹or though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; ²¹to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; ²²to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

- Three Hurdles to Changing a Mind

1. Cognitive Change – Our “Go To” Method for Change

2. Emotional Change – *The Reality “Under the Surface” of Change*
3. Social Change – *The “Unconsidered Factor” in Change*

III. The Messenger Needs a Testimony

1. What is a breastplate for? – *To protect us from a FATAL wound*
 2. What is a breastplate made of? – *Metal, an impenetrable substance*
 3. What is the metaphor telling us? – *Our righteousness must be impenetrable*
 4. What is righteousness? – *Alignment with God (Word, Truth, motivation, intent)*
 5. What does it look like in everyday life? *Our testimony/reputation, which gives credibility to our profession of faith*
- You won't be concerned with your testimony until you accept your identity.

Matthew 5:13–16 – ¹³*“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

- Your testimony helps you live purposefully in the world.

Philippians 2:14–15 – ¹⁴*Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.*

- Your testimony expands your scope of influence.

Acts 24:15-16 – ¹⁵*I have hope in God, which they also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. ¹⁶This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.*

Romans 14:17–19 – ¹⁷*For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸For he who serves Christ in*

these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

- Your testimony protects you from the attacks of the Devil.

1 Timothy 3:7 – Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

1 Thessalonians 2:19–20 – ¹⁹For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰For you are our glory and joy.