

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Romans 1:17 (NIV)

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:21–24 (NIV)

Attempts to make yourself good enough to be acceptable to God leaves you utterly **frustrated**, totally **defeated**, and naked and exposed in your sin.
God has already given you HIS righteousness through Jesus.
STAND FIRM in it.

Stand firm then . . . with the breastplate of righteousness in place.

Ephesians 6:14 (NIV)

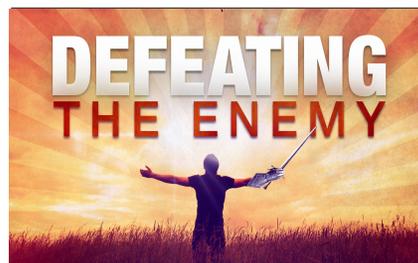
When Satan whispers in your ear that you are worthless, if you are wearing the righteousness of Christ, you can say, “Satan, that used to be true, but all my dirty rags are now in a pile at the foot of the cross. So be gone, you filthy liar. For now I am clean, loved and accepted because I stand clothed in the righteousness of Christ.”

Prayer of Protection

“God, send Michael the archangel to defend me in battle and be my protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. God, rebuke him in my humble prayer. And may he, the prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl throughout the earth seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.”

Want to know more about Michael the archangel? See Jude 9; Daniel 10:13,21; Daniel 12:1; Revelation 12:7.

Sources: “The Breastplate of Righteousness” by Pete Briscoe.



sermon notes

The Breastplate of Righteousness

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Ephesians 6:10–15 (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

- The Breastplate of the Roman Soldier was a critical piece of armor designed to protect the heart from the arrows of the enemy.
- The Breastplate of Righteousness is a very specific solution to a problem we Christians have.

THE PROBLEM

Genesis 3:6–7 (NIV)

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

- They did not cover up because of their physical nakedness.
- They covered up because they became aware of their _____ nakedness.
- They were emotionally and spiritually naked and ashamed.

Genesis 3:8–10 (NIV)

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

- This is the human condition.
- There is an inner sense of nakedness that brings fear and hiding.
- When our sin is exposed, our objective is to _____.

Romans 3:9–12 (NIV)

What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! . . . “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away . . . there is no one who does good, not even one.”

- And that’s our problem. Because of our sin, no one is right before God. None of us—in our own strength and power—is good. In other words, there is no way that we save ourselves.

THE SOLUTION

Hint #1: God speaking to Satan, “*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”* Genesis 3:15 (NIV)

Protoevangelium

“Proto” = _____

“Evangelium” = _____

- When Jesus went to the cross, it was as if Satan struck at Jesus’ heel. It appeared that Satan’s evil venom had killed the Son of God. When Jesus rose from the dead on Easter, it was a death-blow to Satan. His head was crushed.

Hint #2: “*The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.*” Genesis 3:21 (NIV)

- God covered them with a garment he made.
- To make a garment of skin for them, something innocent had to die.
- What is that new garment?
- _____.
- God is saying, “I will cover you in my righteousness.”