

Discussion Questions

LifeGroups



Date: October 25, 2020
Sermon Series: Overcoming Evil: The Victory
Sermon Title: The Protection of Righteousness
Sermon Text: Ephesians 6:14

Bottom Line

Only by faith in Christ and the righteousness he has clothed us with, can we experience the perfect approval and acceptance our soul longs for.

Scripture

Ephesians 6:14 (ESV)

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

Isaiah 64:6 (ESV)

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Romans 3:10 (ESV)

10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;

Philippians 3:4-9 (NLT)

4 though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! 5 I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6 I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. 7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

Romans 5:1-2, 8-11 (NLT)

5 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory...8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. 9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. 10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Gratitude, Prayer and Accountability

What happened this past week that you are grateful for? What would you like to prayer for today? How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

Let's Start

This week, Pastor Dale talked about the breastplate of righteousness. This piece of armor was so important because it protected the heart. What are some of the enemies of the heart? What are those thing that can wage war against our spiritual lives?

Let's Talk

1. In his message, Dale said, "The most vulnerable part of our lives is our beliefs and feelings about our worth." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why or why not?
2. How can we "put on the breastplate of righteousness" described in Ephesians 6:14? What are some ways that we can protect our hearts?
3. Read Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:10 and Philippians 3:4-9. What do these passages teach us about God? What do they teach us about humanity? What do they teach us about what Christ is doing in us?
4. Read Romans 5:1-2, 8-11. What do these verses teach us about Christ? What do they teach us about ourselves?
5. In the sermon, Dale said, "Only by faith in Christ and the righteousness he has clothed us with, can we experience the perfect approval and acceptance our soul longs for." How have you experienced this reality in your life? What difference does it make?

6. Dale talked about the importance of putting on the breastplate of Christ's righteousness when:
 - a. You are feeling bitter.
 - b. You are struggling with guilt.
 - c. You are working too hard.
 - d. You are feeling shy or self-conscious.

How would placing on Christ's righteousness in these moments make a difference?

Let's Act

This week, Pastor Dale encouraged us to get a bath robe that you can drape over yourself. Once a day find a place to sit or stand and put on that robe as a symbol and reminder that no matter what you say about yourself or what others say about you, no matter what you think of your worth and value or how others have made you feel about your worth and value, the truth is in Christ you appear and have been approved as perfect in God's sight. As you wrap yourself up in that robe let go of your own efforts, confess your sins, and surrender yourself to Abba's embrace.

Continue reading the 30-Day Bible plan we started last week. You can download your own copy here: <https://408yle338kwf19b7gu1otj3z-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Wooddale-30DayBibleReadingPlan-2.pdf>.

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