

Oxford Baptist Church – February 9, 2020 – Pastor Robin W. Pifer Sermon Series –

Ephesians – Transformed for Christ's Glory
Winter Series – Spiritual Warfare – Eph 6:14
Message: The Breastplate of Righteousness

The Roman Soldier's Breastplate... "with the Breastplate of righteousness in place."

The Problem with Self-Righteousness. Matt 5:6, 10,20; Rom 3:22-26

Wrap yourself daily in a moment by moment obedience in the Righteousness of Jesus Christ. Prov 21:21; Matt 6:33

- Positional Righteousness in Jesus. Eph 1:4; 1Peter 2:24
- Practical Righteousness in Jesus.

"Imputed (positional) righteousness makes practical righteousness, possible, but only obedience to the Lord makes practical righteousness a reality." John MacArthur

"Righteousness and holiness preserve the main part of the Christian – his soul and conscience... Righteousness and holiness are God's protection to defend the believer's conscience from all wounds inflicted by sin... But when you act in an unholy manner, Christian, you are sinning against the very life of God in your heart." William Gurnall – The Christian in Complete Armour.

Put on the New Self. Eph 4:24

Produce the Fruit of Righteousness. Eph 5:9

Present yourself as a slave to righteousness. Rom 6:17-20

Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 2Tim 2:22; 1Cor 15:33

The Promised Discipline of the Lord. Hebrews 12:11

- Discipline comes as a result of disobedience.
- Sickness and Trials are not necessarily disciplines. Luke 9

- Life happens and God is to be glorified. 1Cor 10:31
- Consequences happen to get our attention.
- Righteousness happens as we turn away from sin and turn to God in holiness.

Is discipline happening in your life? What is the disobedience God is calling you to turn away from today?

What are you tolerating that is not producing the fruit of righteousness? "Not Today." – Rosa Parks

Life Group Questions

1. Discuss the Breastplate of Righteousness and why the Apostle Paul would use it as a symbol of Righteousness in Christ.
2. Take time to discuss the difference between positional and practical righteousness in Jesus Christ.
3. What does it mean to put on the new self in Jesus Christ?
4. Why is the fruit of righteousness important evidence that we are wearing our Breastplate?
5. How important is it to distinguish us in Christ as a slave of righteousness rather than a slave to sin?
6. The Spirit-filled results in us pursuing righteous living. How does this show up in our life?
7. Why is the discipline of the Lord so important in our Christian lives? Discuss the points related to Hebrews 12.
8. What discipline is happening in your life?
9. How does "life happening" teach you to trust the Lord?
10. What is your greatest take away from the message today?