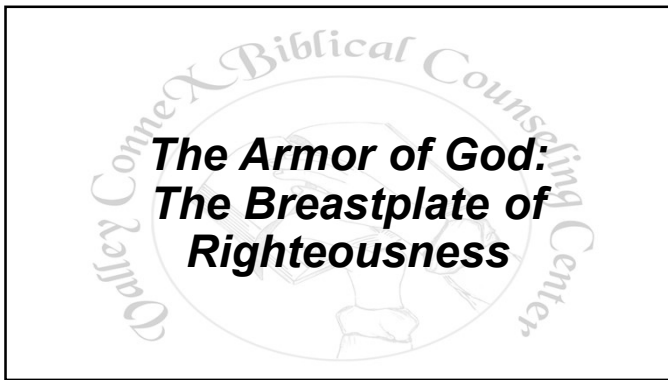
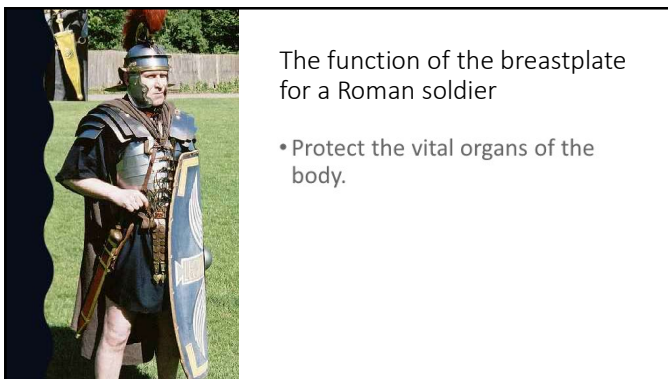


1



2



The function of the breastplate for a Roman soldier

- Protect the vital organs of the body.

3

The Armor of God

• *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

4

The Armor of God

• *Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”* (Ephesians 6:10–18, ESV)

5

Observations

- Our strength to live and minister effectively comes exclusively from our Lord Jesus Christ.
- People are not the enemy.
- We must always factor in the opposing spiritual activity in our lives and the lives of those we are serving.

6

Conforming to a standard

δικαιοσύνη

dikaïosynē
righteousness


Doing what is right based on God's instruction

7

The two aspects of righteousness

- What we have in Christ. Romans 5:17; Philippians 3:8-9
- What we do because of what we have in Christ. 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22

8



The righteousness of Christ imparted to us gives the confidence to wage the war against the enemy.

- “And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” (Revelation 12:10–11, ESV)*

9



Our inclusion in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ Jesus positions us to practice righteousness.

- Romans 6:1-11

10



The practice of righteousness protects us from the dominion of sin.

- Romans 6:12-14

11



Effective righteousness follows the standard of our Lord.

- *“But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to **the standard of teaching to which you were committed**, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.” (Romans 6:17–18, ESV)*

12



Effective righteousness comes from wholehearted obedience

- *“But thanks be to God, that **you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.**” (Romans 6:17–18, ESV)*

13



The practice of righteousness positions us to grow stronger in the Lord.

- *“I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, **so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.**” (Romans 6:19, ESV)*

14



Lessons for biblical counselors

- Always have a keen sensitivity about God’s assessment of your practice of righteousness.

15



Lessons for biblical counselors

- Understand that the person coming for counsel may need instruction in righteousness.
- God's provision of righteousness through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Positional righteousness
 - Practical righteousness
- Instruction in righteousness found in God's Word.

16



Lessons for biblical counselors

- Bring the person you are counseling to the Word of God to reveal unrighteousness.
- Use the teaching on the armor of God to drive home the indispensable place of righteousness in living victoriously.

17