

July 2015

From the Pastor



## Doing the Right Thing

As most of you know I've been commenting on the Armor of God found in Ephesians 6:13-18. We are to put on this armor and use it in our spiritual war. This month I come to the breastplate of righteousness.

Being righteous is the act of doing the right things. The right things are the things God would want us to do. Jesus had a lot to say about righteousness in His Sermon of the Mount.

Christ encourages us to hunger to do the things that God wants us to in our lives.

**Matthew 5:6** *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

The one thing we are to desire first in our lives is to do what God commands.



# Breastplate of Righteousness

(over)

**Matthew 6:33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)*

There are some warnings that we need to follow when it comes to living out the commands of God. One warning is that others will not appreciate your lifestyle.

**Matthew 5:10** *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)*

Another warning is that we can actually try to show off when we are following God.

**Matthew 6:1** *Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)*

As we follow God's commands, it doesn't mean we will go to heaven. We can't be righteous enough to be good enough for God.

**Matthew 5:20** *For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (ESV)*

The only way to live the right way is to begin by trusting in God. We can then in faith, by God's power, live as He commands. It is this righteousness, based on faith that we are to live out.

**Romans 1:17** *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (ESV)*

How does righteousness protect us? First, it keeps us from doing wrong, because we are busy doing right. Therefore, we will not be entangled in sin, because we are entangled in God's commands. Second, we have to trust God to live righteously. Righteous living keeps us depending on God.

Therefore, put on the breastplate of righteousness, so you are ready for battle.

In Him and for His glory,

