

EPHESIANS 6:14 TRUTH & RIGHTEOUSNESS PART 2

INTRO/REVIEW: Be strong in the Lord.....TRUTH 2 Branches.

- On 18 April, Luther, saying that he had prayed for long hours and consulted with friends and mediators, presented himself before the Diet. if he could be shown by Scripture that his writings were in error he would reject them. Luther concluded by saying:
- Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. "Here I stand, I can do no other," May God help me. Amen.

PUTTING ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- It was a sleeveless piece of armor that covered his full torso, front and back.
- Sometimes made of leather, heavy linen or metal molded or hammered to fit his body.
- This important piece of armor was to protect the vitals, heart, lungs, kidneys and gut. etc.
- No Roman soldier would ever set foot on the battle field without his breast plate armor.
- In battle this armor gives a measure of confidence to the soldier.
- Now for our protection God has given, and we must put on, this breastplate of righteousness.
- Righteousness is to be taken and wrapped around our whole being.
- The Greek word is an "imperative" and is in the continuous tense.
- Righteousness it to influence all we think and do.

BRANCH 1:

a. Imputed, reckoned or gifted righteousness.

- This is imputed righteousness, given freely by God to the believing sinner, at conversion and it is not earned.
- Imputed: something unearned that has been attributed to my account.
 - A credit rating, a line of credit, a clean, unblemished standing before the law.
- This righteousness is the righteousness of God given or granted to the believer.
- **HOW DID WE RECEIVE THIS IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS?**
- It is the fruit of Justification.
- Given at the time of the new birth.

JUSTIFICATION:

- Justification is the legal act of God which is an unearned gift to His people.
- A showing to be just or conformable to the law.
- It includes absolution or acquittal and eternal acceptance.
- That is pardon of sin and an admission into the favor of God which includes a title to eternal life.
- It denotes an act of God, for it is God which justifies. (Rom. 8:30 & 33)
³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies.
- It denotes a privilege of God's people for by it we have peace with God. (Rom 5: 1) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- Justification is an act that is completed at once at the time of conversion and it is not a work that is gradually accomplished.
- Justification is a declarative act by which the sinner is declared to be free from sin and guilt and the eternal consequences of sin. (Acts. 13: 38, 38)
 - Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; ³⁹ and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.
 - **Rom. 3:24-26**
- In this judicial act the believer is translated into a state of justification which is stable and enduring and which is, "the grace wherein we stand. (Rom. 5:2)
- Justification is an immeasurable efficacious act of grace by which a holy God constitutes a guilty sinner legally righteous and accepts him as such.
- There is a complete reversal of God's attitude and relation toward the sinner because of his new relation in Christ.
 - Rom. 8:1; *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
- We who were once enemies have been brought near by the justifying blood of Christ.
 - (Rom. 5:8-10) ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
- One who moments prior to this was not righteous, but guilty and stood condemned before God.

- It is an immediate and complete change in the sinners standing and relation to God; from accursed, condemned, to acceptance, and adoption. From an enemy to son ship.
- Reconciliation and imputed righteousness is the outcome of justification, even as justification is the outcome of the Atonement.
- All who have been justified through the gift of faith in Christ were once "dead in trespasses and sins. (Eph. 2; 1), and had fallen short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)
- And they continued in that state until the decisive moment when, by a free act of divine grace, they were taken out of death and placed in a state of pardon, purity and peace by the Spirit of God. **Rom. 5:17-19;**
- This Justification bestows full and free pardon of sin and translates the sinner at once from a state of condemnation into a state of favor and peace.
 - Col. 2:13, 14, ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
- The enlightened Christian rejoices and rises in the reality of this gift.
 - Phil. 8b-9, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;
 - 1, Cor. 1:30, 2 cor. 5:21, Rom. 3:22.. 4:22-24.
- This imputed righteousness saves us from hell and gives us a standing with God in Christ, but it does not protect us from the enemy's attacks.
- Imputed Righteousness is our breast plate and this is the basis of our standing.

BRANCH 2:

b. Personal, practical, righteousness.

- We must also know a personal, practical righteousness, an outworking of all that God has worked in us by His Spirit. (SANCTIFICATION)
- Imputed righteousness makes practical personal righteousness possible,
- Practical and personal righteousness testifies to the imputed righteousness.
 - **1 JN. 3:2 - 7**
- Be aware and alert to the evil presumption of the enemy that God is all grace, that it doesn't really matter how we live,
- That God is just all love, and loves me so much and is so forgiving that I can live as I want, even in sin and yet retain God's approval.

- This unscriptural argument Paul counters in **Rom. 6:1, 2, 11-13**.
- God grants to us, puts on us His imputed righteousness, but we must take it up and work out this personal righteousness
- We are charged to "bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. 2 Cor. 10:5
 - See Col. 3:1, 2, If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.
- In this world ruled by satan the prince of this world, his kingdom where what is right is wrong, where wrong is right.
- Where the whole world lieth in the evil one. And all that is in the world is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. **BE PUTTING ON CHRIST!**
 - Col. 1:10 Eph. 4:24 put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. **A CHOICE.**
- Emotions cannot be trusted.
- This righteousness is never self-righteousness.
- This would do us no good in the battle against our enemies. Satan himself fell using this breastplate.
- Our righteousness is but filthy rages. Isa. 64:6
- We need a righteousness that exceeds that of any religious man or woman could ever achieve. Matt. 5:20; For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

CONCLUSION: WRAP UP- SO WHAT?

- The great apostles pursuit. **Phil. 3:8, 9, 12-14**
- By these two phrases, "girded with truth" and put on the breastplate of righteousness," Paul means a soundness and holiness of life.
- Using the word "truth" Paul condemns all hypocrisy, anything that is lip service.
- By putting on the breastplate of righteousness, Paul intends to show us the absolute need of personal holiness.

Col. 1:10; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;