

***“The Breastplate of
Righteousness: Part I”***

Ephesians 6:10-20

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Hebrews 10:31

*“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands
of the Living God.”*

Exodus 34:6-7

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...”

John 3:36

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

Romans 2:6-8

“He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.”

Eph 5:6/Col 3:6

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience...On account of these the wrath of God is coming.”

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

“This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.”

Revelation 19:11-16

“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

Revelation 19:11-16

From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Romans 5:9

“Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.”

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

“For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

1 Thessalonians 5:8-10

“But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.”

The Meaning of “Righteousness”

- The Hebrew word for “righteousness” is *tsadik*, and the Greek word is *dikaiosune*.
- Both of these words basically mean the same thing: “to conform to a moral or ethical standard and thus to be innocent, to be guiltless, to be in the right.”
- The righteousness of God flows out of the very being of God, and therefore the righteousness of God reveals the being of God to us.

The Meaning of “Righteousness”

- In calling people to righteousness, God was inviting them to participate in his character and in the visible demonstration of his holiness for all to see.
- Therefore, we can say that for us righteousness is about obeying God’s laws, yes, but more profoundly it’s about conforming to his very nature and thereby displaying the beauty of who he is.

The Meaning of “Righteousness”

- Righteousness is fundamentally about being in a right relationship with God.
- To be righteous before God, is to be right with God, and to be right with God is to be in fellowship with him.
- Righteousness in God is a display of his holiness; righteousness for us, then, is being in a right relationship with God by doing all that he requires.

The Depth of our Sin...

- When Adam and Eve broke the commandment God had given them, they did not merely violate a rule—they broke covenant with God.
- Given this reality, just think about how many times you've sinned in your life.
- And now think about how many times God has forgiven you and you sinned again.
- This is why the doctrine of righteousness is so important and why it's worth every ounce of effort it will take to get your mind around it

A Summary of the Doc of Righteousness

- In order to make a way for us to be reconciled to himself forever, God the Father had to accomplish two things: he had to remove our sins and the penalties thereof, and he had somehow to make us righteousness as though we had never sinned.
- He accomplished the one by sending his only begotten Son to die on the cross so that all who believe in him might be forgiven all their sins—past, present, future.
- He accomplished the other by sending his only begotten Son to live a perfectly righteous life so that all who believe in him might be looked at as though they were the ones who were perfectly righteous.