

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: PART III
EPHESIANS 6:10-20
MAY 31, 2009

Questions for Study & Reflection

1. In order to understand the glory of substitutionary atonement and the imputed righteousness of Christ, we must first understand several things about our sin: (a) God is infinitely holy and will not tolerate sin; (b) to the extent that we allow the weight of our sin to land on us we will be able to see the glory of these doctrines; (c) sin is profoundly relational which means that when we sin we don't just break God's rules we break the heart of God.
2. Read Hebrews 9:22 in context and think about why the shedding of blood is necessary to forgive sins. What does this tell us about the nature and seriousness and consequences of sin?
3. Read all of Hebrews 9 and think about why God thought it possible to give the lives of unblemished animals as a sacrifice for sins. How could their blood cover our sins?
4. Now read Hebrews 10:1-14 and think about the limitations of animal sacrifices. Why could the blood of goats and bulls and such not provide a permanent sacrifice for sins? Why could the blood of Jesus Christ accomplish this seemingly impossible task?
5. The Bible teaches that faith is the simple mechanism that causes Christ's atoning work to be valid for anyone who believes (see, for example, Eph 2:1-10). How can this be? How does it work? Why did God choose faith to play such a vital role in salvation?
6. Read 2 Cor 5:17-21 and rejoice in the glorious grace of God!