



Chest out! Righteousness

Read:

Eph 6:14

What do you know about RIGHTEOUSNESS?

This is a word that is used frequently without full understanding of what it means. It's also used in the context of a negative expression - "He is so self-righteous"

So what does it mean?

Was it any different to the Hebrew or Greek thinking?

On the armour itself:

- 1) A breastplate had one function
- 2) To be effective it had to be kept in pristine condition

Starting in the Old Testament:

Noah - **Genesis 6:9; 7:1**

Read Genesis 18:22 - 33

Why was it so hard to find righteous people?

What does this say about people and society today?

Read Psalms....

1:1-6

7:10-11

11:1-7

34:17-22

37:5-6; 16-17; 25-26; 30-31; 39-40

What do these passages reveal to you about Righteousness?

Cleanliness is NOT next to Godliness, but you could say that Righteousness is.

The primary, if not sole purpose of the breastplate was to protect the heart (and the other major organs) so maybe it's no accident that Paul links heart protection with Righteousness.

What was Paul's perspective on Righteousness?

Read Romans...

3:5, 21-26

4:1 - 15

Really the first 8 chapters of Romans could be looked up as Paul's Understanding of Righteousness. But with this snapshot what would you say about Paul's view?

Righteousness can be defined as:

Conformity to a certain set of expectations... expectations in any relationship, whether with God or other people.

This is limited, but gives us a flavour of what is happening.

Is it possible for us to fulfill all expectations of the relationship between God and man?

Let's come to Jesus

Read Matthew

5:1 - 12; 20

6:25 - 34

There is a lot in these verses, but try to spot one thing to bring your comfort and one thing to bring you a challenge.

Righteousness is not attained by self, it can only be given.

Discuss!

If we understand this, then we will realise that the breastplate we wear is not our own.