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THE ARMOR OF GOD lesson 3— Breastplate of Righteousness

Review:

1. There is a battle between good and evil, and I am the prize
2. What are Satan's 2 goals? (keep people out of heaven & keep people from glorifying God)
3. So, what can Satan do to the Christian? (tempt you from the outside)
4. The first area to guard BEFORE going into battle is what? (the mind)
5. What does it mean to "gird up your loins"? (put away anything that would "trip you up")

-The second piece of armor also was not used physically in battle, but was vital to be put on beforehand.

-Last week we learned how Satan will first attack our mind. Once he has attacked our mind, the next thing to fall is our actions.

**James 1:14-15 ~ But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.*

I. What Was the Roman Breastplate?

- A. The soldiers wore a leather or metal "plate" that covered their chest to protect VITAL organs such as your heart and lungs.
- B. To be struck by an arrow/sword in this area without protection would probably lead to DEATH

II. What Does This Have To Do With Being Righteous?

- A. Righteousness is walking and living according to what is right before God (**Rom. 2:13**)
 1. your beliefs, attitude, thoughts, & behavior are in line with God's commands/principles
 2. you are also a walking EXAMPLE of who Christ is (**Ephesians 4:24 & 5:1**)
- B. By obeying God's commands and living a righteous life, you gain God's PROTECTION
***Psalm 34:15-22**
- C. When we choose to live an unmoral life or choosing not to obey God, deadly results happen
 1. Satan wins his battles as you have lost your testimony
 2. Satan uses your faults to win battles in other's lives (because of your bad testimony)
 3. You ultimately choose to give up GOD'S PROTECTION

*Illustration: Kiley playing with dog...I finally let her be rough and she got bit as I warned

*In Romans 1, we learn that eventually God gives people over to their sins.

Why? It is the only way we can learn and because God can't approve a sinful lifestyle.

D. Good Example...Bad Example

Question: What do you think of when you hear: T. Woods, B. Clinton, OJ Simpson, L. Lohan, C. Sheen?

*Regularly, we hear about people who once seemed to have it all, but then took a big fall. Often, we hear these stories of Christians and religious leaders. All of these have 1 thing in common, thinking we can fight a battle against Satan choosing to not live a life that God can protect.

1. David & Bathsheba (bad example)
2. Joseph & Potiphar's wife (same situation, but right outcome)

Question: What are the similarities in how Satan attacked these 2 "men of God"?

Question: How did each of these "men of God" handle these situations differently? (Joseph RAN from the temptation and God blessed his life)

Do Something...

We have spent 3 weeks talking about Satan wanting to keep us from being an effective witness for Christ and him keeping us from living a life that God can bless. So, in what areas are you giving Satan victories?

What radical steps will you take TODAY to give Christ the victory again in your life?

*When David realized his sin, he finally came to a point in his life when he OPENLY confessed his sins (actually publically) and asked God to give him a new heart in **Psalm 51:10**.

Take It Home...

Tonight, take time to reflect on David's repentance in Psalm 51 and the "righteous life" in **Ephesians 4:17-5:21**.

***Ephesians 4:22-24** ~ You took off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires; you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds; you put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.



VERSE FOR THE WEEK

I Corinthians 6:19-20 - Don't you know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.