

Session #2 “The Belt & Breastplate”

See Eph. 6:11–12.

Satan is ...

A lion _____ (1 Peter 5:8).

A snake _____ (2 Cor 11:3).

A wolf _____ (John 10:12).

See Gen. 3:15.

The promise is fulfilled in three successive stages:

Stage #1: _____ (Col. 2:15).

Stage #2: _____ (Eph. 1:20–22).

Stage #3: _____ (1 Cor. 15:24).

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” (Rom. 16:20). Until then ...

We must _____ (2 Cor. 2:11).

We must _____ (Eph. 4:27).

We must _____ (Eph. 6:11).

See Isa. 11:5; 59:17.

“As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27).

Christ is the _____ by which the baptism occurs.

The Holy Spirit is the _____ in which the baptism occurs.

_____ in “one body” (i.e., the church) is the purpose for which the baptism occurs.

1. The Belt of Truth: Overcoming Hypocrisy with Sincerity

What is truth? See John 1:14, 17; 1 John 5:20.

We must follow the truth (Christ) in _____ and _____.

Hypocrisy:

See Matt. 15:8; 23:38.

“The sin of hypocrisy will take hold when other sins leave a person.”
– William Perkins

Sincerity:

See 1 Tim. 1:5.

(1) We remember that _____ (1 Chron. 28:9).

(2) We remember that _____ (Eccl. 12:14).

(3) We humble ourselves _____ (James 4:10).

The question is not whether hypocrisy exists within us. It does. The question is whether it reigns freely within us.

Do I _____ (Ps. 119:104)?

Am I _____ (Matt. 5:3)?

Is _____ (Matt. 6:21)?

Is _____ (Matt. 6:33)?

Do I _____ (Acts 24:16)?

Do I _____ (Rom. 7:22)?

Do I _____ (1 John 4:20)?

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness: Overcoming Iniquity with Purity

“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt. 5:48).

- We are perfect in terms of _____ because God reckons Christ’s righteousness to us.
- We are perfect in terms of _____ because God regenerates us, and thus we possess in principle what will one day be ours in completion.

Together, these two constitute true righteousness.

“I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:19–20).

They seek “to establish their own [righteousness]” and refuse to “submit to God’s righteousness” (Rom. 10:3). God’s righteousness is Christ:

- The _____ of His _____
- The _____ of His _____
- The _____ of His _____

This righteousness is made ours through faith alone. Now, we express our love for God in seeking to obey Him in sincerity of heart. In that way, our righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees.

Justification:

“It is most necessary that we should know this article well, teach it unto others, and beat it into their heads continually.” – Martin Luther

(1) We _____ (Gal. 3:10).

This debt was placed on us at creation, and it’s required in the law.

(2) We _____ (Gal. 2:16; 3:2, 5, 10)

“Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you” (Ps. 143:2). “Those who are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom. 8:8).

(3) We _____ (Gal. 4:4)

Because of our inability to obey God's law, we need of someone to do what we can't do. Christ was "born under the law, so that he might redeem those who were under the law" (Gal. 4:4–5).

(4) We _____ (Gal. 2:16; 3:2, 5, 7–9, 11, 14, 22)

Faith is the instrument by which we embrace Christ. "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13).

(5) God _____ (Gal. 3:8, 11, 24; 5:4)

Justification is the opposite of condemnation (Rom. 8:1, 33–34). To condemn is to declare guilty. To justify is to declare not guilty. God's verdict of "not guilty" on the Day of Judgment is announced in advance for those who believe in Christ. God puts sinners into a right relationship with Himself. God changes the verdict from condemned to justified, and He changes the sentence from death to life.

Sanctification:

See Gal. 2:20. According to Paul, the key to the Christian life is (1) believing Christ was crucified for me, (2) believing I've been crucified with Christ, (3) seeing myself hanging on the cross, and (4) living accordingly.

We were baptized into Christ when we believed in Him (Rom. 6:3). The implication is that we're one with Christ. His death is our death, meaning God reckons it to be ours. In effect, God says to me: "You believe in Christ, and you are one with Him. When He died, you died. When He rose, you rose. Act like it!"

"Be killing sin or it will be killing you." – John Owen

See Gal. 4:19.

(1) Conformed to His _____. To gain Christ is to know Him and the power of His resurrection (Phil. 3:10). It's to forsake sin.

(2) Conformed to His _____. We submit every area of our lives to the Word.

(3) Conformed to His _____. We put on the mind of Christ: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

(4) Conformed to His _____. "For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, despising the shame" (Heb. 12:2).