

Study Questions

1. *Righteousness* is a major theme in Scripture, with over 500 references to it.
 - a. In your own words, how would you define righteousness?

 - b. How can a person obtain the righteousness they need to be holy before God (Phil 3:9; Rom 1:17; 3:21-23; Gal 2:16)?

 - c. What does Jesus say about the priority of righteousness in the life of a Christian (See Matt 5:6; 6:33)?

2. Theologians speak of righteousness as *objective* and *subjective*. The objective being something that is outside of ourselves and given to us by God through faith (1 Cor 1:30; Phil 3:9; Rom 1:17; 3:21-23; Gal 2:16). The subjective is the righteousness that is produced in us through the Holy Spirit that manifests itself in righteous thoughts and actions (2 Cor 6:3-8; Phil 1:11; Rom 6:13; Eph 2:10; 4:24; Tit 2:14; Jam 3:18; 1 Pet 2:24).
 - a. Does this distinction mean there are two *kinds* of righteousness?

 - b. Which sense of righteousness does Paul intend for us to put on like a breastplate?

 - c. Describe the danger in spiritual warfare if either sense is lost when arming ourselves?

3. The verse commands us to *put on* the “breastplate of righteousness.” This metaphor indicates that God’s righteousness protects our vital spiritual organs.
 - a. How would you teach this to someone who has difficulty understanding it?

 - b. How can we encourage people to depend on the righteousness Christ has earned for us for encouragement and strength in the battle?

 - c. How can we encourage each other to pursue righteousness in our daily lives to protect us from the assaults of the enemy (Heb 3:12-13; 10:24-25)?