

Ohana Group Study Questions

(Everyday Battles Week 2)

The Breastplate of Righteousness

QUICK REVIEW

1. In the message from this weekend, what Scripture or particular point Ben made, encouraged you, challenged you or stood out most to you? Why? (Or from the video)
2. Last week we talked about the belt of truth and the importance of staying in truth everyday. Go around and share how you put on truth, or stayed in truth this last week. How did it go?

DIGGING DEEPER

Isaiah 59:15b-17 ¹⁶ He (The Lord) saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

Ephesians 6:13,14 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

3. Last week, Ben told us that the “belt of truth” was the key element in holding the rest of the armor in place. Why is that important as we look at the “breastplate of righteousness”?
4. It’s easy to see that this metaphor is not new by way of Paul, but rather a picture from the OT (Is.59) of some of the characteristics of God. How does this inform us in terms of the nature of God and our own identity in Christ? What are the implications as we “stand” against Satan’s accusations?
5. As we learned Satan wants to attack our thoughts and emotions. What are the common accusations that Satan throws at you in your thoughts? How do your emotions follow? How do you defeat them or find victory over them?

TAKING IT HOME

6. Ben’s last point was “**We never out grow the Gospel**”. One danger of thinking we outgrow the gospel is a tendency towards self-righteousness or having a religious view. What does “religion” (man made rules) tell us versus what the gospel tells us? Spend sometime going over the chart below “Religion Vs The Gospel” and share what areas of your life do you need to have more of a gospel view? What areas do you lean towards Religion?

(See Below for “Religion Vs The Gospel” Chart)

7. With everyday battles coming our way it is so important to remember the Gospel. To remember who God is, what He has done and who I now am. When we are struggling with a certain issue or attack...ask yourself these questions. Like in the video pick one issue that may be common to what our society is struggling with or what you are currently struggling with? (i.e. The pandemic) Then go around answering these 3 questions in light of the struggle, or situation.

•**Who is God?** *(God is all powerful and has a plan for each of our lives. He has our days numbered and there is nothing that can thwart His plan.)*

•**What has He done?** *He has sent His son as the Savior of the world to forgive sin, to heal people from their wounds. He also sent His Holy Spirit to comfort and guide His followers in all of life.*

•**Who am I?** *I am a new creation. My eternal destiny is secured by the work of Christ on the Cross.*

This can be a helpful exercise to get in the habit of doing in our lives.

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES

Religion vs. The Gospel Tim Keller

| Religion | The Gospel |
|---|--|
| I obey—therefore I'm accepted. | I'm accepted—therefore I obey. |
| Motivation is based on fear and insecurity. | Motivation is based on grateful joy. |
| I obey God in order to get things from God. | I obey God to get to God—to delight and resemble Him. |
| When circumstances in my life go wrong, I am angry at God or my self, since I believe, like Job's friends that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life. | When circumstances in my life go wrong, I struggle but I know all my punishment fell on Jesus and that while he may allow this for my training, he will exercise his Fatherly love within my trial. |
| When I am criticized I am furious or devastated because it is critical that I think of myself as a 'good person'. Threats to that self-image must be destroyed at all costs. | When I am criticized I struggle, but it is not critical for me to think of myself as a 'good person.' My identity is not built on my record or my performance but on God's love for me in Christ. I can take criticism. |
| My prayer life consists largely of petition and it only heats up when I am in a time of need. My main purpose in prayer is control of the environment. | My prayer life consists of generous stretches of praise and adoration. My main purpose is fellowship with Him. |
| My self-view swings between two poles. If and when I am living up to my standards, I feel confident, but then I am prone to be proud and unsympathetic to falling people. If and when I am not living up to standards, I feel insecure and inadequate. I'm not confident. I feel like a failure. | My self-view is not based on a view of my self as a moral achiever. In Christ I am "simul iustus et peccator"—simultaneously sinful and yet accepted in Christ. I am so bad he had to die for me and I am so loved he was glad to die for me. This leads me to deeper and deeper humility and confidence at the same time. Neither swaggering nor sniveling. |
| My identity and self-worth are based mainly on how hard I work. Or how moral I am, and so I must look down on those I perceive as lazy or immoral. I disdain and feel superior to 'the other.' | My identity and self-worth are centered on the one who died for His enemies, who was excluded from the city for me. I am saved by sheer grace. So I can't look down on those who believe or practice something different from me. Only by grace I am what I am. I've no inner need to win arguments. |
| Since I look to my own pedigree or performance for my spiritual acceptability, my heart manufactures idols. It may be my talents, my moral record, my personal discipline, my social status, etc. I absolutely have to have them so they serve as my main hope, meaning, happiness, security, and significance, whatever I may say I believe about God. | I have many good things in my life—family, work, spiritual disciplines, etc. But none of these good things are ultimate things to me. None of them are things I absolutely have to have, so there is a limit to how much anxiety, bitterness, and despondency they can inflict on me when they are threatened and lost. |