

## Breastplate

*“Stand therefore, having girded your loins about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness”*

### **Ephesians 6:14**

**Breastplate**—Today we need a nice easy Greek word. “Breastplate” is the Greek word *thorax*. It’s the same in English *thorax* is a transliteration a word that comes from one language to another without changes. It means “chest”, a part of the body. In Greece, *thorax* was one of several kinds of armor. It was the piece of armor that was used to cover the chest. There were two types. One was made of leather with metal studs; the other was made of bronze. In battle, this piece of armor protected the vital organs. It was essential to sustain life when the battle raged.

Paul uses it in a metaphorical sense. Righteousness is the armor that surrounds us. Righteousness protects life. Righteousness is the Greek word *dikaiosyne*. It comes from the idea of justice. When we acknowledge that God’s view of our life was the right one, that we needed forgiveness and cleansing, we understand that we would receive His justice. But Jesus stepped in to become our advocate. He took the blame on himself so that we could be counted as if we were not guilty. God’s justice became our protection. Now that God sees us as His chosen children, His armor surrounds us. No wonder Paul can say, “If God is for us, who can stand against us?”

When a soldier goes to battle, he has to put on armor. If he leaves his Kevlar vest behind, there isn’t much to stop the bullets. It’s the same with us. Paul tells us to “put it on.” That’s a deliberate act, something we have to do. We are not X-men. The breastplate of righteousness does grow on us like skin. So, the big question is “How do I put on this body of armor?” Fortunately, our instruction manual comes complete. “Putting on the breastplate” is accomplished by staying in contact with God through prayer, study and fellowship. Want to survive the battle? Get out the Kevlar of God’s forgiveness and put it to use. Load up the ammunition from the Bible. Slip into bulletproof prayers and prepare. Stay on the radio with God and your buddies. You won’t win this war sitting in the barracks.