

### THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

*Philippians 3:4-9*

#### MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. WE NEED TO TAKE OFF OUR OLD RIGHTEOUSNESS
2. WE NEED TO PUT ON THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick two or three of these to talk about as a group

1. What was most helpful for you from this week's message? Why?
2. A breastplate protects the heart. When the Bible talks about the heart it is referring to the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, and endeavors. If that is what the heart is, then what are some of the symptoms that might appear in our lives if our heart is exposed and under attack?
3. The definition of the word "righteousness" is "the state of him who is as he ought to be." When we understand righteousness this way, we can see that everyone wants it. And yet, every human heart carries a deep, painful awareness that we we need fixing and that we are not what we ought to be. Where do you feel this need to be "fixed" in yourself?
4. Just like Paul before he met Jesus, we can try to find righteousness in all our "good" activities and attributes that make us feel like we are enough. What are the best things in your life? What are your best attributes, accomplishments, etc.?
5. In Philippians 3:4-9, Paul isn't repenting of areas where he'd broken the law. He is repenting of his self-made righteousness. What does it mean to repent of your righteousness?
6. How do we put on the righteousness of God?
7. **HOMEWORK:** If we want to find where we are looking for our righteousness outside of Jesus then we need to trace our most uncontrollable emotions back to their source. These emotions arise when our sense of "righteousness" is threatened. **So this week, ask someone close to you this question, "What brings out the most uncontrollable emotions in me?"** Then, trace those emotions back to their source and take what you find to your community and to God in prayer.

**A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU:** We can wear the breastplate of righteousness with confidence because our righteousness is not a list of things we do, our righteousness is a person, Jesus Christ.