

EPHESIANS - Ephesians 6  
Message 100  
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INTRO: We are looking at the Christian soldier in Ephesians 6:10-20. In the last two messages we looked at the belt of truth. Truth is under attack today more than it has been for around, I would say, 500 years. Our modern nations have become reprobate. They cannot discern between their right hand and their left. They do not know the difference between a man and a woman, literally. It is unthinkable!

For the Christian to stand against the wiles of the devil and to be able to stand in the evil day, he will have to wear this belt. In verse 11 Paul says, "Put on the whole armor." In verse he says, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God." We have looked at one piece, the very first piece. And now we come to the second piece, the breastplate of righteousness.

Where the soldier of worldly kingdoms wore a breastplate, the soldier in the kingdom of God is to wear righteousness. What a book is the Bible! It is God's special revelation to man teaching him how to get right with God and how to live right. And before one can get right with God or live right, one must have the truth as to what is right. So it is truth before righteousness.

Picture a soldier in the Roman army. They have come to fight toe to toe. And there is a soldier whose belt has come undone. His tunic is flowing and tangles with his arm, and as he thrusts his sword, the robe wraps around his arm in the wind and he is done.

Now picture a Christian who has a flimsy stand on truth, what a hay-day does Satan have with him? He might even let him live and talk him into coming over to his side. Truth is the benchmark of the Christian life.

But picture this soldier now with his belt in place, but he has no breastplate on. His enemy is well covered. What will his enemy do as soon as he sees this soldier so defenseless? Well, his eyes will light up with glee and in a short time his sword will find a soft spot to sink into, and the battle will be over.

Picture now the Christian who is living in sin. What does his breastplate look like? There are holes, which if the enemies sword hits there, it may sink into a vital, and the battle is over.

b) The breastplate

-Definition

Our first task then is to define righteousness. Righteousness is simply doing right. It has to do with all one does whether in thought, word, or deed.

But there is more to it here. We next ask, which righteousness is spoken of here? There are two main kinds of righteousness for mankind in the Bible. There is imputed righteousness and there is actual righteousness.

Go to Romans 4. This chapter is about justification. To be justified means to be declared righteous. We begin in verse 1:

*1 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?*

*2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.*

*3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."*

Abraham's faith was imputed to him, that is it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Verse 4:

*4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.*

5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

Here is a righteousness given to man that he has not actually done himself. It is like someone going to the bank and depositing money into our account. We did nothing for it. It is imputed to us.

Verse 7:

7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered;

8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin."

9 Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness.

10 How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised.

11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also,

When anyone repents of their sins and

trusts Christ for salvation, Christ's righteousness is imputed to them. They didn't actually do that righteousness, but it was deposited into their account. Christ takes their sin upon Himself, and He gives His righteousness to them. This is imputed righteousness.

There are teachings that say something like this: "Oh, you are having such a battle with sin. But you must realize that when God looks at you, He sees you in Christ. He sees Christ's righteousness and that is what is important." Now there is truth in that. That speaks of our standing with the Lord. But what this teaching can easily degenerate into is that one can be comforted into thinking that sin is that our sin is not a big thing, it is Christ's righteousness imputed to me that is all important. One can comfort sinners in their sin with this teaching. Jesus did not primarily die for us to give us a right standing, He died primarily that we would come into a right state. By that I mean that if I have trouble with a particular sin, He wants to deliver me from that sin so that I overcome that sin and live right.

So, there is a second kind of righteousness and this is actual righteousness. It is when we overcome any sin and learn to live right. This is actual righteousness, not imputed righteousness. So our question is, this righteousness that is a breastplate to us, is it imputed or actual righteousness? And I am firmly convinced it speaks of personal, actual righteousness. There may be a sense in which imputed righteousness protects the believer, but that which protects us is actual righteousness.

Jesus Christ came to save us from our sins, not in them. He wants us to gain the victory over sin and live actually righteous. In imputed righteousness we are not yet saved from our sinfulness. Imputed righteousness happens at justification; actual righteousness happens in sanctification and that is what is in view in our passage.

Now I want to read some verses on righteousness but before I do that let me clarify one matter with regard to righteousness. We do not live right or do righteousness so that we will be saved. One cannot do any righteousness to be saved. Salvation is a gift that comes by grace, or freely, and it comes by faith.

Righteousness does not bring about salvation, but salvation brings about righteousness. I have often given you Ephesians 2:8-10 to show this. It says:

*8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*

*9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Those are the two verses usually memorized. But listen now to verse 10:

*10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

When we are in Christ, that is we are saved, we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works. God always planned that the Christian should live right. He does not live right to get saved, but because he is saved.

But let me read a few verses on righteousness in the NT. Jesus said this in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:6, 10:

*6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

Ah, you hunger and thirst for righteousness, and when it comes, verse 10:

*10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Righteousness wants to attract trouble and that is because we live in a sinful world.

Then there is that great verse we all know in Matthew 6:33 where Jesus said:

*33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Now doing right is righteousness. But it is righteousness is not only when we do that which is right. It is also when we don't do what we should not do. It is failure to do right in this very case that brought mankind into sin. Listen to Genesis 2:16-17:

*16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;*

*17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

Adam and Eve were not to eat of one tree. Of all the other trees they were free to eat. Every day when they bypassed this one tree, they did right. Not eating of it was doing right.

-The picture

Now I want you to notice what the breastplate of the warrior pictures. It pictures righteousness. When the believer lives right, it is as important as the breastplate for the warrior. Picture now one warrior standing toe to toe with a warrior who does not have a breastplate. What will the opponent immediately seek to do? Without doubt, he will seek to put his sword right there.

What conclusion can we draw from that? The moment we do that which is wrong, some demon will seek to put his sword right there. No doubt many a Christian loses the battle right here.

But picture now a Christian who has a hole in his armor because of sin. He has failed in righteousness. Right there the devil will seek to put that believer down.

Picture now a soldier with all the armament except the breastplate. What chance does that soldier have? You can well imagine the first thing is the devil would do in such a case and that the battle would be short. That is a picture of a believer living in sin.

-What areas does the breastplate cover?

So we ask now, what areas of the body does the soldier's breastplate cover? Well, it covered the front of the body from the neck to the abdomen. Anything

above the belt was covered. So that covers the lungs, the heart, the liver, the spleen, the bowels, and the kidneys. How easily could the sword not puncture any one of these vitals if there was no breastplate?

-Why would the breastplate be used here?

That gives us now also the reason why Paul uses righteousness as the breastplate. It covers so many vitals. We shall see just how important this piece of armor is. In a study of the makeup of the soul, from which we get the word *psychology*, has very vital parts for the Christian. So the physical parts of the body are used to illustrate important areas in the soul.

#### The heart

We begin with the heart. You will remember that the heart in the Bible used in this sense speaks of what part? The mind. I was amazed when I came to this study that with all the study I have done on the heart in the Bible that I never asked this question: Why does the Bible speak of the heart when it speaks of the mind? Why does it not speak of the brain? Why does it not even mention the brain? Well, we'll look at that later. We note here that the breastplate covered the area of the heart, and the heart pictures the mind. The mind is as vital to the soul as the heart is to the body. Both God and the devil go for the heart. That is why God requires repentance and faith to be saved. Both occur in the mind.

The heart pictures the place where we think and ponder and store information. Here we do all our thinking. So the Bible says, "As a man thinks in his heart...? So



is he." Now we will not take time to cover the parts of the heart and what each of those does in this message, as it would require another message and I have told you much about it already. But when you destroy a person in his thinking, as is being done in our schools, colleges, and universities today, you destroy a nation. The destruction of healthy thinking has always been a threat to the Church and is there in a very big way today. So the heart is a vital that must be protected at all cost. And what protects our mind? Living right!

Matthew 22:37 says: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." The word translated "mind" here is not the word mind but a word meaning something like thinking things through. In this verse we see how important the process of thoughts are.

Now I ask you, how many of Satan's dart strike a Christian in the mind? The more we live right, the less chance he has of striking us in our thinking.

#### The bowels

-The emotions; bowels

How many a dart from Satan punctures our emotions? How many times do our emotions want to mislead us? When we live righteously, even this area will be protected. Some time ago I gave you seven evidences of the crucified life. Listen to the first two:

1. When you are forgotten, or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight but your heart is content and restful in Christ, THAT IS AN EVIDENCE OF THE CRUCIFIED LIFE.

2. When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient loving silence, THAT IS AN EVIDENCE OF THE CRUCIFIED LIFE.

Oh it is so easy to get our feelings hurt and we can let our thoughts go wild. When we live righteously it will help us overcome so many of these kinds of things. Our feelings and emotions can take off like a run-away train.

### The kidneys

Closely related to the heart are the kidneys. They too are protected by the breastplate. The kidneys have to do with the blood.

The kidneys are also closely related to the liver. There is a saying that goes like this, "So and so is liverish today." The liver affects the moods. One's moods can become a danger to one. I went online and read this in a site called, "The Liver Doctor":

"If your liver is sluggish, you are not only more likely to struggle with your weight, you are more likely to be moody and out of balance with life in general. This is because the liver will be unable to break down toxins and hormones efficiently, which can cause a "leaky gut and leaky liver sieve" and this can lead to brain inflammation.

"Suffering from this makes you irritable, foggy, tired and just plain "out of sorts". Remember the saying "He/she is liverish today - so stay away"!

"The relationship between the liver and moods is an interesting one. Metaphysically the liver is known as the seat of anger and the Chinese say that

too much fire in the liver makes you feel aggressive and too reactive.

"The relationship between the liver and hormones is an interesting one as well. The liver does not make many hormones itself, as these are mainly made in the many different glands in the body.

"However, the liver plays a significant role in hormonal imbalances because the liver breaks down or metabolizes the hormones once they have done their work in the body." End quote.

<https://www.liverdoctor.com/your-liver-can-affect-your-mood-and-hormones/>

Since the breastplate covers this area as well, we can overcome great struggles related to moods if we live righteously.

### The spleen

There is another saying that goes like this: So and so was venting his spleen. It means to be angry and one gives vent to that anger by letting it out in bad speech. How many sins take place in this? How does one overcome this? Live righteously.

Let me mention something I have mentioned in other places. The most powerful way to overcome such areas is by full repentance. Let us say I vent my anger, and I have sinned doing so. How do I overcome that? Repent. If it is a parent to a child, oh no, that never happens. Let me find another illustration. Well, if it does happen, what is the best cure? What if it is a child to a parent? Again, I know of no better cure than full repentance.

Well, talking about venting the spleen, what do we use to do that? Well, our lungs. We vent our anger through our lungs by words. You cannot speak without breath. Have you ever noticed how Satan can throw a dart and it gets through in this area of anger? Or in the area of the emotions? Or in the area of thinking?

Our question was, what area does the breastplate cover? Well, here are some of the main things it covers. How important is righteousness in the life of the believer then if it can protect us from those things?

-The purpose of the breastplate

So we ask, what is the purpose of the breastplate for the warrior? It is to protect his vitals. The word "breastplate" occurs only twice in the NT. Both times it speaks of it as the Roman soldier's breastplate.

So we ask, just what does righteousness protect the believer from? Does righteousness protect one from physical trials? Does it protect one from sickness? Does it protect one from death? No! Righteousness can bring great trials. It can bring death. When you do right regardless of the circumstances, it may be the cause of death. It does not protect from death either. Does it save us from the devil? No, it does not save us from the devil either. The devil will attack a believer and so will demons and sometimes even bring death to them.

Now let me qualify some of those. One may be spared certain physical trials because one lives right. Let us say you do not drink and smoke, that can save you from sickness and death. It can save you from

many trials as well. It can also keep the devil at bay in many things. There are some things the devil cannot do to someone who lives righteously. He cannot tempt a believer with many things because the believer may not be in places where the devil could tempt him. But this kind of protection is not what is in view here.

So we ask again, what does righteousness save one from? Here it is: It protects us from going down in the battle because one has been hit in the vitals. The devil cannot take this area. If we live righteously, the devil will never take us down with sin. We may die because of righteousness. We may endure much opposition because of righteousness. We may come under huge demonic attack, but if we keep our breastplate in place, the devil will not take us down by striking our vitals.

But as soon as we sin. As soon as we fail in some area, our breastplate may have a hole and we are in danger of having a sword pierce our heart. The mind of man is the most vital part of the soul.

The devil may hit us in some area through some person, even a friend, and we are hurt or we become angry. And then, if we let things go, we can become bitter and in the end, we can go down to defeat. I observed this this past summer. I went to see where my mom and dad are buried, and a brother as well.

Then I drove through the country where I grew up and visited a man I had known when I was a boy. And when I talked about the Lord to him, he got quite irritated. And we began to talk about covid and he ran our town down because he thought we

were a whole bunch of ignoramuses. The real reason was to ridicule Christianity. And at a certain point he said I had a brain of excrement.

It was a Satanic dart. If I had become angry I would have lost our discussion right there. But behind him was the devil, standing in the shadows. You see, the breastplate protects a very vital area from Satanic darts. The dart glanced off and never even left a mark. Thanks be to the Lord.

So let us consider this righteousness. You see, righteousness takes place in thought, in word, or in deed. It is no little feat to learn to think right. For me, very little time is lost if I cannot sleep. But I have to watch what I think of. Right now, very often I go over these verses in memory. But often I can pick up some topic, and then think it through until I fall asleep again. Very often I think of what it means that God is love, or any of His other attributes I can recall.

Then there is righteousness in words. How do I talk? What things do I say in talking to others? Do I keep my words pure? It is very easy to fall into useless thinking or using useless words. Greater yet is the danger of using bad words. When you watch things you shouldn't or hear things you shouldn't or listen to things you shouldn't, they want to creep in where you don't want them.

Then there are deeds. One should do right. How much of life is taken up in doing things, deeds. And how easy is it to slip into deeds that should not take place. You see, when we think what we should not, and speak what we should not,

and do what we should not; we are missing the mark of God's perfect will and character, and that is called sin. And then we fail of righteousness, and then we are in danger from our opponent!

There are sins of commission and omission. When I do what I am forbidden to do, that is unrighteousness. But when I don't do that which I am bidden to do, that is also unrighteousness. The Lord may call us to do something, and if we disobey that and don't do anything, that is sin. It is unrighteousness.

Listen to Ezekiel 3:18-20:

18 *"When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.*

19 *"Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.*

20 *"Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.*

21 *"Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul."*

Those are sobering verses.

Then there are very difficult things required of the believer, and because few others obey those, we feel justified in not obeying those either. For example, such matters as are brought up in 1 Corinthians 5. There was a man in the Corinthian church who committed a grievous sin. And the Church was proud of its liberties and did not mourn about this. And Paul said they were to hand this man over to the devil.

But it goes further than that and instructs individual believers.

*9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:*

*10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.*

*11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

There is hardly a more disobeyed commandment to believers in the NT. But to exercise this command is highly costly. Those who obey this will come under fire by other professing believers. Many are not even aware what this means. If they would read 2 Thessalonians 2 and understand it and obey it, they would find that 1 Corinthians 5 is not as hard as this one.

But, to obey is better than to sacrifice.



Obedience to the Word of God is key to righteousness.

Turn to Isaiah 59 once more. In the previous message on truth we looked at this passage. Our subject was truth. We will read it to make another point, as we are now looking at the breastplate. This breastplate is spoken of in this passage:

*1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.*

*2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.*

*3 For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity.*

*4 No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.*

*5 They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out.*

*6 Their webs will not become garments, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; Their works are works of iniquity, And the act of violence is in their hands.*

*7 Their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; Wasting and destruction are in their paths.*

8 The way of peace they have not known,  
And there is no justice in their ways;  
They have made themselves crooked paths;  
Whoever takes that way shall not know  
peace.

9 Therefore justice is far from us, Nor  
does righteousness overtake us; We look  
for light, but there is darkness! For  
brightness, but we walk in blackness!

10 We grope for the wall like the blind,  
And we grope as if we had no eyes; We  
stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are  
as dead men in desolate places.

11 We all growl like bears, And moan  
sadly like doves; We look for justice,  
but there is none; For salvation, but it  
is far from us.

12 For our transgressions are multiplied  
before You, And our sins testify against  
us; For our transgressions are with us,  
And as for our iniquities, we know them:

13 In transgressing and lying against  
the LORD, And departing from our God,  
Speaking oppression and revolt,  
Conceiving and uttering from the heart  
words of falsehood.

14 Justice is turned back, And  
righteousness stands afar off; For truth  
is fallen in the street, And equity  
cannot enter.

15 So truth fails, And he who departs  
from evil makes himself a prey. Then the  
LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That  
there was no justice.

That is as far as we read last time.  
Truth fails. But look now at the next

verses. When it talks about "He" it is the Lord that is referred to.

Verse 16:

*16 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.*

I see this verse as prophetic. Verse 15 gives us the time of the close of the 400 silent years. God has let man go for a long time and man has failed to bring about salvation. Man has failed God. I have spoken on why did it take 4,000 years before the Messiah was born. I have said that the time had to be right. If God sent Him too soon, it would be fatal; and if He sent Him too late it would be fatal as well. Lloyd Jones has said that mankind had reached his zenith in human wisdom in the Greek thinkers, and they had failed to come to truth. And when man was at his finest in thinking he failed and it was then that the Redeemer came.

At the end of the 400 silent years, God wondered that there was no intercessor. There was nobody to stand in the gap. God saw that there was no one to stem the tide of evil. Man was an utter failure. So verse 16 says, "Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; and His own righteousness, it sustained Him."

Verse 17:

*17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.*

18 According to their deeds, accordingly  
He will repay, Fury to His adversaries,  
Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands  
He will fully repay.

19 So shall they fear The name of the  
LORD from the west, And His glory from  
the rising of the sun; When the enemy  
comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the  
LORD will lift up a standard against him.

20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And  
to those who turn from transgression in  
Jacob," Says the LORD.

21 "As for Me," says the LORD, "this is  
My covenant with them: My Spirit who is  
upon you, and My words which I have put  
in your mouth, shall not depart from your  
mouth, nor from the mouth of your  
descendants, nor from the mouth of your  
descendants' descendants," says the LORD,  
"from this time and forevermore."

This one of those prophecies that has  
dual fulfillment, referring to both  
Christ's first coming and His second  
coming. He put on righteousness as a  
breastplate when He came the first time.  
We see this in the four Gospels that  
record His life. And His main purpose was  
to bring salvation.

I am happy to be able to tell you on the  
authority of the Word of God that soon  
Jesus for the Church. After 7 years He  
will come back down to earth and He will  
put on the garments of vengeance and His  
clothes will be splattered with blood.  
His tunic will be zeal and He will meet  
out justice to mankind. He will save the  
righteous and cast the wicked into hell.  
If you want to see how He will execute  
righteousness on the earth, read the book  
of revelation.

You see, today we see a Jesus who is all love. But turn to Isaiah 63 for a look at this same Jesus when He returns at the end of the tribulation. Here we see a Jesus with clothes splattered blood and with anger on His face and this picture is so foreign to us that those who mention these truths may well be viewed as false teachers. But look at verses 1-4, where the Lord Jesus comes down to earth at the end of the tribulation:

*1 Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength? —"I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."*

*2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?*

*3 "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.*

*4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.*

Who is this? This is Jesus Christ. And our passage says He had put on the breastplate of righteousness. At the end of the tribulation truth will have fallen farther than ever before. And the Lord will tread them underfoot in anger, and trample them in fury. Their blood will be sprinkled on His garments and stain all His robes!

So listen again to Isaiah 59:17-18:

*17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.*

*18 According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay.*

How foreign is this Jesus to today's Christian? He is unrecognizable. But He is wearing a breastplate of righteousness. The words of Scripture so common in the Church and even in the world, "Judge not that you be not judged," must be interpreted in light of the command to judge righteous judgment (Jo. 7:24).

To judge right, is righteousness. It is to be part of this breastplate.

CONCL: And so, in concluding let me mention Noah. The NT says he was a preacher of righteousness. We can say literally that the whole world of that time was against him, but he preached righteousness. The Christian is to wear the breastplate of righteousness. He is to actually live right.

Now we ask, what does righteousness protect us from? Does it protect from battle? No, it protects us in battle. Does it protect us from persecution? No, it may well bring us persecution. Does it protect us from death? No, it may bring death. So what does it protect us from? It protects us from compromise on truth. It protects us from giving in on things we should not give in on. It protects us in the battle, in persecution; and even in death. It protects us from denying our Lord, be it ever in such small ways. It keeps us spiritually safe in our vital spiritual areas; the mind, how we think. In not letting anger overcome us.

Oh, that we might truly hunger and thirst for righteousness. Oh that we might pant after it and live it, no matter what it costs

us. In the long run it will keep us safe in the Lord.