

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

January 19, 2018

## **A Holy Armor with a Heavenly Cause**

The prophet Isaiah described our redeemer as a great warrior preparing himself for battle. Through his eyes we see this warrior arise to put on his armor. Isaiah says, *"...he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head."* Isaiah 59:17. There was never a time Christ lacked either righteousness or salvation. He is the eternal WORD who was with God and was God. He is *"the Christ,"* eternally filled with righteousness. So why then would he put on a breastplate of righteousness or a helmet of salvation?

The armor Christ took upon himself actually speaks of his purpose for coming into the world. Consider that His *"cause"* was our salvation. Jesus Christ came *"to seek and to save that which was lost."* Luke 19:10. The *"helmet of salvation"* tells the oppressed not to be afraid because this *"warrior"* has come to bring *"...deliverance to the captives."* Luke 4:18. Sin was the *"captor"* from whom Jesus Christ came to deliver us. As the angel told Joseph: *"you shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."* Matthew 1:21.

When Christ *"put on righteousness as a breastplate"* he was not adding righteousness to himself. The Hebrew word translated *"righteousness"* means *"rightness"* or *"justice."* In this passage, Christ is presented as a warrior who goes to battle for the *"cause"* of justice. God's

justice is extended to deliver the oppressed, but that same justice comes to destroy the oppressor. Paul takes this up, telling us the *"righteousness (justice) of God"* is revealed in the gospel of Christ. Romans 1:16-17. Adam's transgression brought a great injustice upon all humanity. Because of his actions we were all brought under cruel bondage to sin and death Romans 5:12, and oppressed by the god of this world, Satan. II Corinthians 4:4. God's justice (righteousness) determined that this was not *"right."* His divine justice declared that since *"...by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."* Romans 5:19. This is the reason Christ came.

Jesus described how he would institute salvation and justice. He said, *"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."* Matthew 11:12. Christ did not come to make an agreement with sin, Satan, or death. He came to "violently" destroy it all. The violence he spoke of was what he accomplished through his death upon the cross. God had promised vengeance upon the Serpent Genesis 3:15, and that day was now at hand. A week before his crucifixion Jesus said, *"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."* John 12:31. The apostle would later tell us Christ became *"flesh and blood ...that through death he might **destroy him** that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And **deliver them** who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."* Hebrews 2:14-15. In this passage, can you see Christ fulfilling his mission of *"righteousness"* (justice) and *"salvation"* (deliverance)?

The church is sent forth into the world with the same armor that Christ came with. Paul calls this *"the whole armour of God."* Ephesians 6:11. God sent his Son into the world with it, but now he places it upon us. His *"cause"* is now become our *"cause."* We take up the *"cause"* by putting on the *"helmet of salvation"* and the *"breastplate of righteousness."*

The difference between Jesus and us in this *"cause"* is that Jesus has already won the battle. We are simply his messengers, carrying the news of his absolute victory. He was the *"violent,"* but we are not. We may even be soldiers, but we are not an army. God does not need an army, because the war has already been won! The world was not *"turned upside down"* by those who *"marched in ranks,"* but by those who went forth one by one and two by two. We are his ambassadors of peace!

Everything mentioned in *"the whole armor of God"* is describing our *"cause"* for being in this present world. Salvation and righteousness (God's justice) is what we as ambassadors of Christ have to offer. Truth, the gospel of peace, the word of God, and the faith of Christ are what we carry with us as we go forth. These are synonymous with the glorious gospel of Christ. With these we *"stand against" ...principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* Ephesians 6:11-12 to see souls delivered from the strongholds of darkness.

In the gospel of Christ we find everything we need to fulfill the *"cause"* God has committed to the church. *"The truth"* pulls down every stronghold, the *"gospel of peace"* casts down

imagination, *“the faith”* destroys every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and the *“word of God”* brings every thought into obedience to Christ. II Corinthians 10:3-6.

What is your purpose as you go forth in this world? Is your *“helmet”* called *“salvation”* or is it ambition? Is your *“breastplate”* called *“justice”* or is it personal gain? Do you carry *“the truth”* or do you go with religious philosophy? Do you speak the *“word of God,”* or do you lift up the words of men? Jesus Christ has won the war, yet billions of souls sit in darkness, oppressed by the enemy. They do not need anyone to fight another war, but they desperately need someone to bring them the gospel of peace. Stand up! *“Put on the whole armor of God”* ...and go forth in the name of the Lord!