

Dove – North Shore – April 2020 Speaker – Jane Thomsen

Theme: The Breastplate of Righteousness

### Summary of the talk

Jane Thomsen gave a teaching on the BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. Righteousness is a spiritual gift, a basic charismata, a manifestation of grace. There are two spiritual gifts – righteousness and eternal life. We all have received these gifts.

Without righteousness, there is no eternal life for us. Paul has put righteousness as the second part of the armour after the BELT OF TRUTH because after the truth of believing in Jesus, we need the righteousness of Christ. Romans 5:12 *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned*— tells us that Adam sinned once and brought condemnation on the whole race. We have sinned many times but Jesus through one act of righteousness has brought righteousness on us all. A righteousness which has never known sin, no shadow of sin, no past to be forgiven. If we want this righteousness of God which is given to us on the basis of our faith in Jesus, we must say “yes”. We don’t have to do anything but believe.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> gift of eternal life – Scripture says...the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thank God for removing the old life of sinfulness and tell God you accept this robe of righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ. You will find yourself learning to think and speak and act like Jesus Christ.

We are constantly in a daily battle of evil. In saying ‘yes’ to the gift of righteousness, Satan does everything he can to attack you. But God is a loving Father. He will not send you into battle without giving you an armour and training. The gifts He gives us are tools not toys. Use these gifts and tools. In Rev 19:8 it says...*to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure*— *for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints*. This is an outward righteousness – they are acts based on our individual behavior in responses. These righteous acts are robes which we are going to wear in eternity.

God has given us guidelines – to do spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Build up your robe first as Matthew 6:33 says *But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well*. Jesus wants us to pray first before taking on these works. The more you pray, the more you ask, He will walk with you these paths He wants you to go on with these righteous acts.

What is the breastplate of righteousness? Romans wore them when fighting in wars to protect their hearts. But Paul means it is to cover our innermost being – our souls that is a vulnerable part. The soul is divided into 4 areas – mind, will, emotions and subconscious. The soul must be protected because it determines the course of our lives from all that’s evil everyday. So put on this armour to protect your souls. Pray the Armour of God prayer morning and night. Paul urges us to put on the breastplate of faith and love – our building blocks for our belief in Jesus. 1 Thess 5:8 *But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate*...makes it quite clear that we need the breastplate of faith and love. And 1 Cor 16:13-14 *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love*. Satan can find our weakness to damage our souls. One way is to accuse us especially when we believe in Jesus and work for Jesus, he makes us feel guilty. As much as guilt is key to our defeat, so much more is righteousness the key to our victory. 1 John 4:4 states *the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world*. We forget that and let our emotions take over. Remember Jesus has already defeated Satan and all his powers and authority through His death and resurrection.

Lastly, God created our bodies **for fellowship** (as stated in Genesis when He walked in fellowship with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening), **for righteousness** (by Jesus’ death and resurrection) **and to be temples of the Holy Spirit**.