The Whole Armor of God series #2
The Breastplate of Righteousness
Ephesians 6:10-20

1. The sermon used the character of Javert from Les Misérables as a picture of the accuser. How do you typically respond when someone (or your own conscience) brings up past failures or sins?
2. Why do you think Paul places the breastplate of righteousness right after the belt of truth? What does the image of a breastplate protecting the heart communicate about the nature of spiritual attack?
3. The preacher described righteousness as being "examined and found acceptable." How does this differ from the common cultural idea of righteousness as simply "being a good person"?
4. The sermon listed several ways we try to protect our hearts: blame-shifting, self-justifying, minimizing, and building a breastplate of competence. Which of these do you most naturally turn to when you feel exposed or criticized?
5. Javert's identity was completely tied to his own law-keeping and moral performance. Where do you see similar patterns of self-righteousness or performance-based identity in our culture (or in the church)?
6. Romans 4:5 and 10:11 were highlighted: righteousness is received by faith, and "everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." How does receiving Christ's righteousness (rather than achieving it) change the way we deal with shame and accusation?
7. When Satan whispers "24601" (or whatever version of accusation he uses against you), what practical difference does it make to consciously put on the breastplate of Christ's righteousness instead of your own record?
8. The bishop in Les Mis not only forgave Valjean but also gave him silver and said, "I have bought your soul for God." How does this picture of costly grace help you rest in the righteousness Christ provides?