

Ephesians

Chapter 6

Let's open with prayer,

Our heavenly Father,

Again we stop to acknowledge you. We pray that by your Spirit you would minister your word to our hearts and minds as we finish out this great book. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen!

C.O.

Ephesians 6:1-4
The Proper Order in the
Family

M.V.

Ephesians 6:1

First of all, instructions for the children by way of commands:

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

K.V.

Ephesians 6:2
Exodus 20:12 LXX.
Deuteronomy 5:16

M.V.

Ephesians 6:2

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2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

Secondly, honor your father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

In the Old Testament, if children did not obey their parents and mocked their parents, they were put to death.

Now that's got to be the greatest example of the age of grace. You know? All our kids are still alive!

Obey your parents in the Lord. Honor your father and mother. That doesn't mean that you have respect for them as a human being as much as you have honor for that position that God has given them.

Parents are going to make mistakes, even though I can't think of any right now (hehe!) Honor your father and mother. God created that function for a reason.

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

M.V.

Ephesians 6:4

Instructions for parents:

Even though it says fathers, when it's in the plural, it is making reference to parents.

4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The commands for fathers: Provoke not your children to wrath:

I can just picture it now. The parent will say obey your father and mother like the bible says to do. And the kid says it also says don't provoke me. So there's a standoff!

The word provoke means to punish someone for nothing. You discipline them for nothing, causing them resentment.

Some of you might remember when you were a child and someone did something bad and no one would face up to it, and you would all get lined up and disciplined just so the parent would be sure to get the right one.

But the children would live with resentment because they were punished for something they didn't do and they became bitter.

Secondly, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The word admonition means warning. Nurture them in the Lord and give them the warning. It means place in the mind. Tell them what the consequences are, not for not minding me, but what God's consequences are for sin.

C.O.

Ephesians 6:5-9
The Proper Order Between
Masters and Slaves

5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

The command: Slaves, first of all, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh,

The bible never freed people from slavery, but told them that if God saved you as a slave, serve Him as a slave.

But be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh.

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The components of this obedience: Number one, with fear and trembling, number two, with singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

It means that it doesn't have anything to do with him.

6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Thirdly, not with eyeservice, as menpleasers;

Which probably most of us are! You know how you work when the boss is there, and then when the boss isn't there? You work differently.

He says don't do it as eye service as menpleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

Fifthly in Verse 7:

7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

With good will, and that has to do with attitude. Having the right attitude in doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

Basically the slave is to submit to his master according to the flesh, but his service is to Christ. He's doing it for Christ's sake.

Then again, the concept:

8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

You reap what you sow.

Instructions for masters:

9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

The command: You masters, do the same things unto them, as I just mentioned, forbearing threatening: Hold back threatening.

The concept: Knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

C.O.

Ephesians 6:10-20
The Protection of the Armor of God

Now in summary, the protection of the armor of God:

Verses 10 to 13 is the preparation for the armor, which is just as important!

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

The word finally means summary. The armor of God represents the whole book of Ephesians in summary form.

Paul is under house arrest. He is chained to a soldier. Some people think that Paul got this description from the soldier that he is chained to.

But you'll notice in your Key Verse (K.V.) sections that a lot of these verses are brought over from the Old Testament. This is something that is a Jewish concept that might have been inspired by the soldier that was there, but the items as elements of the armor is not anything that is new.

So he says, finally, my brethren, and here's the first command: be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

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Be empowered. And this is the only verb in this whole section that is a present tense that means be continually empowered in the Lord, literally, in the grip of his strength.

He pictures the believer as being in God's grip. And God's grip is so strong that we are to draw off of the strength of that grip. But instead, we try to wiggle and squirm.

And sometimes we are struggling, where most of the time we're struggling against God. Be still and know that I'm God he says.

M.V.

Ephesians 6:11

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

It says put on the whole armor of God, the second command.

And this is aorist tense which means do it one time. That's very important!

Put on the whole armor of God. The purpose: that you may be able to what? Stand against the wiles of the devil. The word wiles is the word Methodea which means methods or schemes.

And notice that all of this is to cause us to stand. Not to fight but to stand. Why? Because our position is in Christ at the right hand of the throne of God in the spirit realm!

What do we have to fight Satan for?

M.V.

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

You see, it's spiritual.

M.V.

Ephesians 6:13

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

The third command, wherefore take unto you, Aorist tense, the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand, and that's the word resist, in the evil day, and having done all, that is after everything has been worked out, to stand.

In other words, once the dust settles, you're still standing. Stand, not fight!

K.V.

Ephesians 6:14
Isaiah 11:5: 59:17

So here's the position of the believer, the command is what?

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Stand therefore, and guess what tense it is? Aorist!

Stand therefore. Here are the components of the armor. And notice that all of these are translated in a way to let you know that these have already happened.

You've now put on the armor, okay?

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Having your loins girt about with truth, and just as a side note, every one of these pieces of armor is Christ.

Having your loins girt about with truth, and secondly, having the breastplate of righteousness;

K.V.

Ephesians 6:15
Isaiah 52:7

Thirdly:

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Above all, literally in addition to this, fourthly, having taken the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts, and that's the word for missile, of the wicked one. All of them!

K.V.

Ephesians 6:17
Isaiah 59:17: 49:2
Hosea 6:5

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Fifthly, take the helmet of salvation. Sixthly, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Some people think that this is the only offensive weapon, which is to take up the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.

How offensive can you get when you're standing?

You see, we're already there. It's like what Jesus did to Satan during the temptation in the wilderness. He didn't attack Satan. He resisted him. You see, I'm not going to go for that when the word of God says this!

Seventhly in Verse 18:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

While praying always, that is while all of these pieces of armor are on, praying always with all prayer and petition in the Spirit,

It's not human. It's Spirit inspired.

And watching thereunto, watching in it, with all perseverance and petition for all saints;

And then the consideration for Paul:

19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

C.O.

Ephesians 6:21-22 The Particulars Concerning Tychicus
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Tychicus is the one who's going to take this letter.

21 But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:

But that you also may know my affairs, or circumstances, and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, he shall make known to you all things:

22 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.

Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that you might know our circumstances, and that he might comfort your hearts.

C.O.

Ephesians 6:23-24 The Postlude of Paul

And he concludes with the benediction, all concerning their condition.

And I will emphasize to you that even though the word "be" in both verses is in italics, it's a statement of fact. It's not a wish or a prayer!

23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

He says peace is to the brethren, and love with faith, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Grace is with them all that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. And sincerity means without corruption.

So grace is with those who love the Lord. Peace and love with faith is with those who love the Lord.

And he concludes with Amen.

Just as an ending note concerning the armor of God, the reason why I explained it the way I did, number one, each piece of armor is Jesus Christ.

The helmet of salvation is where the doubts are. The breastplate of righteousness, of course it is Christ's righteousness that we're clothed in.

But the section about the armor of God, some people have taken it to be a mental exercise every day. They get up and they mentally put on their armor to get ready for the new day.

And it is not a psychological exercise. It is spiritual and the text emphasizes that once you receive Christ, you have put on the armor of God.

Stand! In other words, realize that you're covered, you're protected by God's salvation, God's righteousness, and God's truth. You don't have to go look for it to attain it. You're already in it, in Christ.

Therefore you are clothed in His armor, and so just stand. Spiritually, there's nowhere to go. We're in Christ in the spirit realm, blessed with all spiritual blessings.

Our problem is that we in our natural way, we interpret spiritual things through physical circumstances, by our feelings.

It's like "I don't feel saved today," or the circumstance has gone bad and I think that God must be mad at me. Where's God when I need Him? Because you see, Satan wants us to curse God.

If you try to understand spiritual things through the physical world, it will come out all wrong, which is why Paul in this letter, his prayer for all believers is that God would enlighten them to be able to see the height, and the depth, and the width, and the breadth of the spirit realm.

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Most believers don't understand the spirit realm. We're still Gentiles in the church understanding Christian things from the pagan lifestyle that we came from.

Next, we'll start Philippians.

Let's close with prayer,

Our heavenly Father,

Thank you for this time and for this great book. Thank you for the time that we had and the information that we had. We quickly went through a lot of things, but we have an outline and an idea, and we have notes that we can go back and just meditate on and allow your Spirit to minister to us and indeed transform our minds to understand the things of Christ verses the pagan world around us that we came out of. We thank you in Jesus' name, Amen!