

The Book of Ephesians

Chapter 6

Review

- Written by Paul around 60 A.D. while he was imprisoned in Rome (see Acts 28:30-31)
- Can be divided into two sections
 - The Blessings for Christians – Doctrinal – Chapters 1-3
 - The Behavior of Christians – Practical – Chapters 4-6

Chapter 6

I. Walking in Life – vs. 1-9

- We continue with the practical social teachings that began with husband and wife in 5:22.
- To children – obey (vs. 1) and honor (vs. 2)
 - vs. 2 – we make much of the fact that the Law and Ten Commandments tell us what *not* to do to avoid God’s judgment. In the case of this commandment we also see a blessing attached to its obedience.
- To fathers – bring them up in and not drive them away from (vs. 4) the Lord.
- To servants* (employees) – obey (vs. 5), serve (vs. 8), and do good (vs. 7) as if serving Christ Himself
 - *The term here is *doulos* which can mean one serving another in slavery or a willful bond.
- To masters (employers) – do good toward them as Christ would, without arrogance or bigotry as God does not view them in such manner (vs. 9)
 - vs. 9 – the same word (*kurios*) is used for human masters and the Heavenly Lord

II. Marching in Armor – vs. 10-20

- Paul’s final instructions are the most sober. We are engaged in a spiritual war and must be ready for battle.
- vs. 11-12 – Paul is careful to show the true enemy is not Rome, but Satan and his force to whom the Romans are but pawns.
- vs. 13 – ultimate victory by Christ is assured, but we may still be wounded in battle.
- The Armor of a Christian Soldier
 - *Just think, as Paul the prisoner is writing this, he is likely looking at the armor of one of his guards for reference.*

- belt/sash – secures garments for free movement
 - truth prepares us and enables us to battle – John 8:32
- breastplate – protects vital organs, could include chainmail
 - not our own, but God's impenetrable righteousness – Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:21-26
- sandals – usually had nails driven through them for extra traction
 - to be ready as we are grounded on a sure foundation – Matthew 7:24-27
- shield – first line of defense, also used to maneuver an enemy
 - Our faith in God deflects Satan's attacks – Hebrews 11
- helmet – protected head, also could be used for identification
 - We have hope in that we know our salvation is secure – I John 5:13
- sword – for close combat
 - Hebrews 4:12
 - Same weapon Christ used in battling Satan (Matthew 4:4,7,10) and will use at Armageddon (Revelation 19:15)
- prayer – for general combat
 - While Paul does not give prayer analogous piece or armor, it is clear from the flow of Paul's writing that is a vital element in Spiritual warfare.

III. Final Farewell – vs. 21-24

- Tychicus
 - A companion of Paul originally from Asia Minor – Acts 20:4
 - Carried this letter and the letters to the Colossians – Colossians 4:7-8
 - Sent to relieve Timothy and Titus in their pastoral ministries – Titus 3:12, I Timothy 4:12