

# Knowing Christ

## *A Study of Ephesians*

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...Lesson 6

Ephesians 6:10-24

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*  
*February 9, 2020*

# Instructions to the New Testament Church

## How did God Instruct them?

- ▶ **Historically God gave man a gradually expanding knowledge of:**
  - Who He is, who we are in relation to Him, and what He expects from us
- ▶ **Jews were given the Law but what about the early Christian Church**
  - Jews had been freed from yoke of the Law of Moses
  - Jews and Gentiles were grouped together as new creatures in Christ
  - How were they supposed to conduct themselves as a Church?
  - How were they supposed to conduct themselves individually and as a group?
  - Why and how did God call them?
  - How were they to understand and respond to difficulties and trials?
- ▶ **Letters like Ephesians were written to various churches to help guide these believers**
- ▶ **These letters later became what is known as the New Testament**

# Ephesians

the Church of Jesus Christ			prison epistle 60		
1	2	3	4	5	6
the foundation of the Church			the function of the Church		
the ministry of salvation	the life in Christ	the ministry to Gentiles	the walk in Christ		the stand in Christ
<u>salutation</u> 1-2  <u>doxology</u> 3-6 Father 7-12 Christ 13-14 Holy Spirit  <u>prayer</u> 15-23	<u>Jews &amp; Gentiles</u> <u>individual new life</u> 1-3 past life 4-10 present life  <u>Jews &amp; Gentiles</u> <u>corporate church life</u> 11-12 past life 13-22 present life	<u>God's revelation</u> 1-7 the mystery of Christ 8-13 the ministry of the mystery of Christ  <u>prayer</u> 14-19 Christ may dwell in your hearts  <u>benediction</u> 20-21	<u>general</u> <u>the Christian walk</u> 4:1-16 the worthy walk 4:17-19 the no longer walk 4:20-32 the old and new walk  5:1-6 the walk in love 5:7-14 the walk in truth 5:15-21 the walk in wisdom	<u>specific</u> <u>family walk</u> wives 5:22-24 husbands 5:25-33 children 6:1-3 fathers 6:4 <u>work walk</u> servants 6:5-8 masters 6:9	<u>spiritual warfare</u> strength 10-11 enemies 12 armor 13-17 prayer 18-20  <u>final word</u> 21-24

# Ephesians 6:10

## The Strength Required

- ▶ **Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**
  - “Finally” indicates a summary starting point for what was previously written
  - As the rest of Ephesians this is written to Christians as an encouragement
- ▶ **Eph 1:3 states that we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ**
- ▶ **Eph 1:4 says that he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:**
- ▶ **Eph 1:5 says that he predestinated us as adopted children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,**
- ▶ **Eph 1:6 says he hath made us accepted in the beloved**
- ▶ **Eph 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”**
- ▶ **Eph 1:11 “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:”**

# Ephesians 6:10

## The Strength Required

- ▶ Eph 1:13-14 states that after we heard the word, the gospel of our salvation, as belief in Christ, that we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest (or promise) of our inheritance until our redemption... for we have been purchased by God by the payment that Christ made on our behalf... and all to the praise of his glory
- ▶ We cannot stand in our own power... but we can and should stand under God's power which we have seen through the example of his creation, his might as shown in his ability to make his promises come to pass. If he says something we can count on it and should believe it through Jesus Christ.

# Ephesians 6:11-12

## The Armor of God / Who's Our Enemy?

- ▶ Eph 6:11 - Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (or schemes) of the devil.
- ▶ Eph 6:12 - 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.
- ▶ Paul said in 2 Corinthians 10:3 - 5
  - 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
  - 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
  - 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

# Genesis 3

## Who's our Enemy?

### ▶ Satan tempts the woman

- She doubts God's goodness and his word

### ▶ Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit

- The human race comes under sin. Death enters creation.
- Judgment falls upon the Serpent, Eve and Adam.
- God gives "the seed" promise
- God says the seed shall crush Satan's head but he shall bruise his heel.
- Gal 3:16 informs us that the seed promise was Christ himself, which was fulfilled.

# Genesis 3

## Who's our Enemy?

- ▶ **Satan is a fallen angel (created being) sometimes referred to as Lucifer**
  - He led a rebellion against God in heaven
  - He took 1/3 of the angelic host with him who became demons
  - He's also known as "The prince of the power of the air" and is the ruler of this world, and works to influence the world system and can influence non-believers
  - He hates God, and believers
  - He is a liar, murderer and a deceiver who seeks to destroy and subvert the efforts of God.
  - He is behind and in control of all the false religions of the world
  - His authority and power are limited by God
  - There is no mention in scripture where demonic spirits can possess believers
  - Good news: 1 John 4:4, Romans 8:31 , 1 John 3:8, James 4:7

# **Ephesians 6:13**

## **Put on the Armor of God**

- ▶ **Eph 6:13 - 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.**
  - Imperative statement which indicates something we should do consistently and constantly
  - The evil day means any day that evil rules the world (i.e. today)
- ▶ **Paul was familiar with attire worn by Roman Soldiers and was drawing a mental picture that parallels the attire's purpose, preparation and usage in warfare with our spiritual battle**
- ▶ **Details of the attire were not meant to have a specific process or ritual for us, but more of a mental exercise in understanding what we have in Christ in our daily walk**
- ▶ **The description was meant to give us confidence in Christ and an understanding of his over abundant provision that he has made for us**

# Ephesians 6:14

## The Belt of Truth

- ▶ Eph 6:14 – Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
- ▶ This isn't only meant to be the revealed truth of the Word of God but word here indicates a commitment or conviction based on that truth... indicating discipline
- ▶ We need to be able to take a stand, go to war against what is false.
- ▶ In order to know God's Truth we must know God's Word and be willing and able to defend it.

# **Ephesians 6:14 (continued)**

## **The Breastplate of Righteousness**

- ▶ **The righteousness referred to here is not the righteousness of Christ that we already have imputed to us when we are saved, but rather how we model the conduct of righteousness in our daily lives**
  - It's how Christ would want us to conduct ourselves.
  - Living holy lives, set apart, living that way consistently always
- ▶ **Galations 5:16 – This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**
- ▶ **Other passages that give comparisons of how we should NOT live vs. how we should walk: Romans 13:9-14 , Ephesians 5: 1-10**
- ▶ **If we live rightly before God then Demonic forces will have little to accuse us of doing wrong. We know how to live by knowing the Word of God and being sensitive to our conscience as led by the Holy Spirit.**

# Ephesians 6:15

## Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace

- ▶ **The gospel of peace is simply referring to the gospel.**
  - It brings us to peace with God through the good news that Jesus has paid the price for our sins.
  - It is the **ONLY** way to be found faultless before a holy and perfect God.
- ▶ **Romans 5:1-2 . Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**
- ▶ **Also reference Eph 6:10 (again)**
- ▶ **We know the gospel by knowing God's Holy Word.**

# Ephesians 6:16

## The Shield of Faith

- ▶ **Eph 6:16 - Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked**
  - “Above all” means you need this additional item
  - The first three items are “mounted” to the soldier. This is picked up for battle.
  - Fiery darts are things that cause us to doubt God or His Word. Things that pander to our fallen state and pride make us vulnerable... or in other words... temptations.
- ▶ **Faith that is weak will leave a believer vulnerable to attack.**
- ▶ **Eph. 4:27 – Neither give place to the devil.**
- ▶ **Romans 10:17 – So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

# Ephesians 6:17

## Helmet of Salvation

- ▶ **And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**
  - Protects the head (believers mind)
  - Must be trusted. If you think you can lose your salvation you won't go into battle.
- ▶ **False teachers, backed by Satan, push false doctrine into churches to weaken believers... (that you can lose your salvation)**
- ▶ **Paul said in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

# Ephesians 6:17 (continued)

## The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God

- ▶ **The only offensive weapon that God has provided is His Word, combined with the Spirit of God**
  - We have to have complete trust that the Word of God is true and without error.
  - “Word” is from the word “rhema”, usually preached or spoken in a section , unlike the word “Logos” which often refers to the entire Word of God.
- ▶ **Other passages that state the purity, perfection of his Word. Psalm 12:6-7 , 119:7-8**
- ▶ **Demonic forces, working through false teachers and the world system, will try to cast doubt on areas of scripture which then cast doubt on the entirety of the Word of God.**

# Ephesians 6:18

## Prayer

- ▶ **Eph 6:18 – Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**
  - The importance of prayer addressed toward God, done in the Holy Spirit, is important for every believer.
  - This type of prayer is meant to be entreating God with petitions and requests on behalf of not just specific saints, but for all saints, which is persistent in nature.
- ▶ **Prayer coupled with the Armor of God is also important.**
- ▶ **A soldier needs to stay in communication with his commander to be effective in conflict.**

# Ephesians 6:19-20

## Paul's Prayer Request

- ▶ Eph 6:19-20 – 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, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
  - Paul makes known his requests in this letter. Although he is under Roman imprisonment he doesn't ask for his burdens to be lifted, because he realizes his circumstances are under God's sovereign purposes.
  - Paul asks for boldness of speech in sharing the gospel and possibly to educate those in authority about the truth and uniqueness of Christianity.

# Ephesians 6:21-22

## The Messenger (Tychicus)

- ▶ **Paul tells them about the messenger carrying the letter to them.**
  - He can inform them of Paul's circumstances in greater detail and comfort their hearts.
  - Tychicus is described by Paul as a beloved brother (in Christ) and faithful minister in the Lord.
- ▶ **It's amazing how God protects his Word. Tychicus had to travel a long journey to deliver this letter, which would eventually be copied and further circulated among the churches. This letter would eventually be included in our own copy of the Bible and instruct us as Christians almost 2000 yrs later. Just as the lineage of Christ from Abraham was preserved so was His Word by the power of God. (see Isaiah 55:11)**
- ▶ **Tychicus was mentioned in five other places in the New Testament and had traveled and assisted Paul on several journeys.**

# Ephesians 6:23-24

## Final Greetings

- ▶ The love mentioned is that of brotherly love and affection coupled with confidence in God, sent from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ▶ The Grace mentioned here is to those that read these words who know Christ.

# Ephesians 6:10-24

## Summary Points

- ▶ **What are the two main points of this section of Scripture that God wants us to learn to become mature believers and stand in victory? (over simplified)**
  - Read and know His Word
  - Pray
- ▶ **Notice that our church attempts to be Biblically modeled after what a New Testament Church should be and that all of its functions encourage activities that enable us to put on the full armor of God, such as:**
  - Daily Bible reading with a provided yearly calendar
  - Bible memorization (groups)
  - Expository preaching, personal and corporate study of the entire Word of God, book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse
  - Correct Doctrine
  - Corporate and personal Prayer