



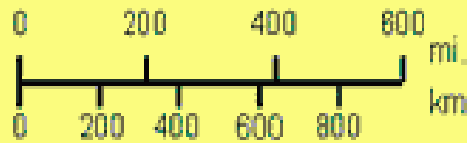
# THE EPISTLE OF EPHESIANS



# ***Ephesians***

***The Church of the Christ***

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# ***Recipients***

- Controversy: the Ephesians or general letter?
  - Textual variant (1:1)
    - “In Ephesus” is missing from several important Greek manuscripts
  - Little in the contents to suggest it was written to the Ephesian church where Paul had spent about 3 years
    - No references to individuals or groups
    - No allusions to specific situations

# ***Recipients***

- Even the letter to the Colossians, whom Paul did not know personally, appears to be more personal than Ephesians
- Possibly it was originally designed for general circulation with the congregation in Ephesus being the first recipient, as appears to be the case with the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:4, 11; 2:1)
- Perhaps Ephesians is also “the *letter* from Laodicea” (Col. 4:16)

# ***Similarities to Other Letters***

- Most similar to Colossians
  - Colossians: Christ is Lord of the universe
    - So, also “The Christ of the church”
  - Ephesians: The church is the body of Christ
    - So, Christ is Lord of the church
- Similarities to Romans
  - Equality
    - Rom. 3:22; 10:12; Eph. 1:3; 2:6-7, 11-22; 3:6

# ***Similarities to Other Letters***

## **– Outreach to the Gentiles**

- “Apostle to the Gentiles” (Rom. 11:13),  
“Servant of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles”  
(15:15-21)
- “Prisoner of Christ Jesus to you Gentiles,”  
“a servant,” “to preach to the Gentiles” (Eph.  
3:1, 7-8)

## **– God's purpose**

- Salvation of the Gentiles and Israel (Rom.  
11:25-26)
- Salvation accomplished (Eph. 1:9-10; 3:9-12)



# ***Similarities to Other Letters***

- Similarities to Romans, Corinthians, Colossians
  - Reconciliation
    - Through Christ (Rom. 5:10-11; 2 Cor. 5:18-19; Col. 1:20-22)
    - Through the cross—to each other and God—in one body (Eph. 2:14-16)
  - Unity
    - “One body” (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 10:17; 12:12-13, 20; Col. 3:15; Eph. 2:16; 4:4)

# ***Similarities to Other Letters***

- Similarities to Romans, Corinthians, Colossians
  - “Mystery”
    - Rom. 11:25; 16:25; 1 Cor. 2:7; Col. 1:26-27; 2:2; 4:3; Eph. 1:9; 3:3, 4, 9; 6:19
- Similarities to Galatians
  - God's salvation is by grace, to be received through faithfulness, not by legal works (Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9)

# ***Key Words & Phrases***

- **In Christ** (13 times)
  - 1:1, 3, 10, 12, 20; 2:6-7, 10, 13; 3:6, 11, 21; 4:32
- **In whom/in him** (14 times)
  - 1:4, 7, 9-11, 13; 2:15-16\*, 21-22; 3:12; 4:21, 30
- **Church (assembly/congregation)** (9 times)
  - 1:22; 3:10, 21; 5:23-25, 27, 29, 32

# ***Outline***

- 1:22-23—The church is the body of Christ
- 2:14-17—The church is where reconciliation takes place
- 3:11, 20-21—The church is God's eternal purpose (11) and God is glorified in the church (20-21)
- 4:1-6—The church is united and singular
  - (2-3): Attitudes of unity
  - (4-6): Absolutes of unity

# ***Outline***

- 5:22-33—The church is the bride of Christ
- 6:10-18—The church is the army of the Lord



# THE ARMOR OF GOD

Helmet of Salvation

Breastplate of  
Righteousness

Belt of [absolute] Truth

Sword of the Spirit

Shield of  
Faith

Feet Protected by  
the Gospel

**Ephesians 6:10-17**





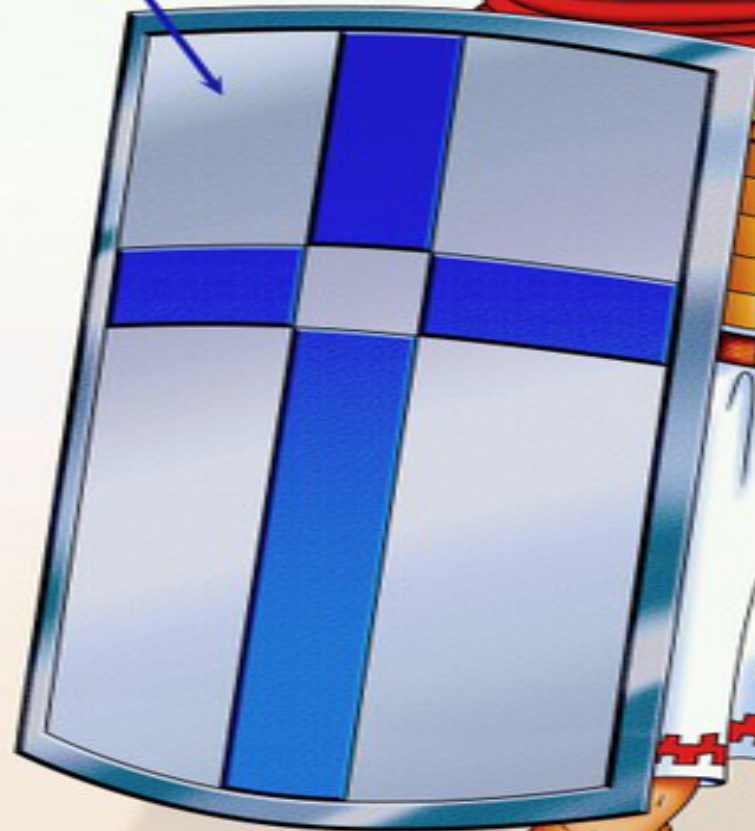
# THE ARMOR OF GOD

## EPHESIANS 6:10-18

"... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

### The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)

Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.



### Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)

The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.

### The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)

Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

### The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)

Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

### The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)

Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

### The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)

which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

# ***Be Strong in the Lord***

## ***6:10-18***

- 6:10—“Be strong/Be continually empowered/  
Grow strong/Strengthen yourselves in  
the Lord and in the power/strength of  
his strength”
  - 1 Sam. 30:6; Zech. 10:12
  - act. voice: Phil. 4:13; 1 Tim. 1:12; 2 Tim. 4:17
  - pass. voice: 2 Tim. 2:1
  - Josh. 1:7; 1 Cor. 16:13
  - Eph. 1:19-20; 3:16

# ***Be Strong in the Lord***

## ***6:10-18***

- 6:11—The panoply of God (the whole armor)
  - Put on (11), Take up (13)
  - Defensive and offensive pieces of armor
  - Lk. 11:21-22
  - God's armor for spiritual war (2 Cor. 10:3-4)
  - vv. 11, 14, 17—Is. 59:17
  - “Wiles”—*methodeia*, 4:14—scheme, plot
    - 1 Thess. 2:18; 2 Cor. 2:11; 11:3, 14

# ***Be Strong in the Lord***

## ***6:10-18***

- Eph. 4:26-27
  - One of the devil's methods is to incite strained relations and angry feelings between God's people—then instead of God's people fighting the devil, they will be fighting each other
- To be forewarned about the devil's methods is to be forearmed against them



# ***Be Strong in the Lord***

## ***6:10-18***

- 6:12—“against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places”
  - 2:2, 6; 1 Cor. 2:6, 8; Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11
  - Christ exalted above them (1:20-21; Col. 1:16)
  - God's wisdom made known to them (3:10)
- 6:13—“the evil day”—5:16; Gal. 1:4
  - “Withstand”—“Stand out against” (1 Pet. 5:9)

# ***Be Strong in the Lord***

## ***6:10-18***

- 6:14—“Stand therefore” with all God's armor
  - Belt of truth—Is. 11:5
  - Breastplate of righteousness—1 Thess. 5:8
  - Put on truth and righteousness as ethical qualities
- 6:15—Put your feet in the gospel of peace
  - “preparation”—a base—the gospel gives firm footing, secure footing to stand your ground
  - Is. 52:7; Rom. 10:15

# ***Be Strong in the Lord***

## ***6:10-18***

- 6:16—The shield of faith
  - The flaming arrow would penetrate the skin and linen covers of the shield and stick in the shield's wooden core, setting it on fire
  - The soldier was tempted to throw off the burning shield and expose himself to the enemy's spear thrusts
  - The shield of faith not only halts the flaming arrows but extinguishes them

# ***Be Strong in the Lord***

## ***6:10-18***

- “Flaming arrows of the evil one”—  
“wiles/methods of the devil” (v.11)
  - Best defense against them—faith in  
God/faithfulness to God (Rom. 10:17)
- 6:17—The helmet and sword
  - Helmet of salvation for protection of believers
    - 2:5, 8

# ***Be Strong in the Lord***

## ***6:10-18***

- The sword of the Spirit (Is. 11:4; Rev. 19:15)
  - God's Word (Deut. 8:3)
    - Using God's Word to repel spiritual enemies: Jesus (Mt. 4:4; Lk. 4:4)
  - Wielding the divine utterance
    - Abundantly treasuring it in our hearts (Ps. 119:11; Col. 3:16)
    - Deploying it readily from God's Spirit to ours (Mt. 12:34)



# ***Be Strong in the Lord***

## ***6:10-18***

- 6:18—The weapon of prayer—all prayer
  - Pray in spirit (1 Cor. 14:15)—worship in spirit (Jn. 4:24)
  - “In every time/opportunity”—Pray all the time
    - 1 Thess. 5:17
  - “Prayer and petition/supplication” (Phil. 4:6)
  - “Being watchful”—alert (Col. 4:2; Lk. 21:36)

# ***Memory Verse Review*** ***(Acts—Galatians)***

- Acts 4:12—“Nor is...”
- Rom. 11:33—“Oh...”
- 1 Cor. 1:10—“Now I...”
- 2 Cor. 8:9—“For you know...”
- Gal. 2:21—“I do not...”

# ***Memory Verse for Ephesians***

4:4-6

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all”