

Paul's Letter to the ***EPHESIANS***

CHAPTERS 4, 5, 6: *God's Plan for the Church* (the Body of Christ) (CONCLUDED)

Principles for Spiritual Battles (6:10-20) (concluded)

***The Believer's Lifeline* (6:18-20)**

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

Martin Luther

6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers ¹ and requests ². With this in mind, be alert and (always keep on) ³ praying for all the saints. [¹*proseuchomai*: to pray (lit), ²*deesis*: supplication, prayer for particular benefits, ³*proskarteresis*: perseverance, resolve]

In this one verse, Paul outlined the general character of the prayer life of a genuine believer:

(1) "pray in the Spirit" emphasizes submission to God's will ^{Romans 8:26-27}, (2) "all occasions" stresses the frequency of prayers ^{1 Thessalonians 5:16-18}, (3) "all kinds of prayers and requests" highlights the variety of prayer, (4) "be alert" gives focus to the manner ^{Matthew 26:41, Mark 13:33}, (5) "always keep on" gives emphasis to the persistence of prayer ^{Luke 18:1-8}, (6) "all the saints" mentions the importance of praying for the entire Body of Christ ^{Numbers 21:7, Ephesians 1:15-16}.

As mentioned previously, the 6 weapons in the prior verses ^{Ephesians 6:14-17} are traditionally considered a complete list of God's Armor. However, Paul's concluding mention of prayer ^{v.18}, probably refers to a 7th 'weapon' in the armor (communication with The Commander-in-Chief).

Prayer allows the believers to communicate with God, who coordinates all the genuine Christians willing to make themselves available as spiritual warriors in the Army of God.

The Greek word for "all" (*pas*) occurs four times in this verse, as well as being the root word for "full" in the earlier command for Christians to wear all of the armor ^{Ephesians 6:11,13}.

Ephesians P: Chapter 6c

Saints are to pray publically & privately, deliberately & spontaneously, in supplication & intercession, in confession & humility, with praise & thanksgiving, etc.

6:19-20 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Paul asked for prayer^{Colossians 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:25}, not for his personal well-being or for his physical comfort in prison, but for boldness^{Acts 4:29} as an “ambassador”^{2 Corinthians 5:17-20} declaring “fearlessly” the “mystery of the gospel”^{Romans 16:25-27}.

Closing Benediction (6:21-24)

6:21-22 Tychicus, the dear⁴ brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you. [⁴*agapetos*: beloved] Tychicus was a convert from Asia Minor and a “dear brother and faithful servant” who accompanied Paul back to Jerusalem^{Acts 20:4} at the end of his Third Missionary Journey^{Acts 18:23-21:17}. Paul also sent Tychicus on several other ministry missions^{Colossians 4:7-9, 2 Timothy 4:12, Titus 3:12}, in order to be an encouragement to other Christians^{Colossians 2:1-3} on behalf of Paul.

In Colossians, Paul mentioned Tychicus as his “fellow slave (*syndoulos*) in the Lord”^{Colossians 4:7}.

6:23-24 Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. Paul concluded his letter to the church at Ephesus with a beautiful benediction summing up the major themes of the book: God’s peace, love, faith. He wished “the brothers” “peace”^{Ephesians 1:2, 2:14,15,17, 4:3, 6:15}, “love”^{Ephesians 1:4,15 2:4, 3:17,18,19, 4:2,16, 5:1,2,25,28,33} and “faith”^{Ephesians 1:15, 2:8, 3:12,17, 4:5,13, 6:16} from God & Jesus Christ and among themselves. Paul emphasized the loving concept of “grace” in both his introduction^{Ephesians 1:2} and his finishing thought^{v.24}.

Unfortunately, we later learn from John^{Revelation 2:4} that the saints at Ephesus remembered Paul’s teaching on Christian doctrine^{Ephesians 1-3}, but lost sight of Christ’s love^{Ephesians 4-6}.

Outline of Ephesians

CHAPTERS 1, 2, 3: God's Plan for Everyone Who is "In Christ" (Doctrine)

Introduction and Greetings (1:1-2)

Benefits of Being "In Christ" (1:3 – 3:21)

Predestination (1:3-6)

Redemption (1:7-10)

Inheritance (1:11-14)

Resources (1:15-23)

New Life (2:1-10)

Unity (2:11 – 3:13)

Fullness (3:14-21)

CHAPTER 4, 5, 6: God's Plan for the Church/the Body of Christ (Duty)

Principles for Unity (4:1-6)

Principles for Maturity (4:7-16)

Principles for Faithfulness (4:17 – 5:20)

Principles for Relationships (5:21 – 6:9)

Foundational Principle (5:21)

Husband & Wives (5:22-33)

Parents & Children (6:1-4)

Employers & Employees (6:5-9)

Principles for Spiritual Battles (6:10-20)

The Believer's Warfare (6:10-13)

The Believer's Armor (6:14-17)

The Believer's Lifeline (6:18-20)

Closing Benediction (6:21-24)