

Memory Verse

“If you remain in me and My words remain in you,
ask whatever you wish and it will be given to you”

John 15:7

Memory Verse

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Ephesians 6:13

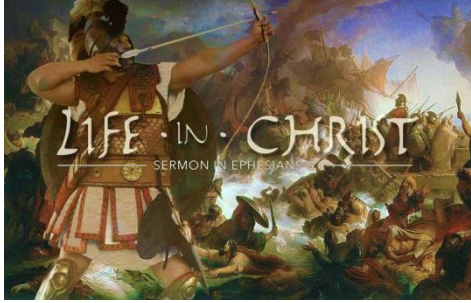


The final three verses of this section are all about one thing: PRAY

Pray in the Spirit – for all kinds of requests

Pray for me – That I will have the right words to make know the mystery of the Gospel

Pray for me – That I will declare it fearlessly, as I should



We are going to be looking at the book of Ephesus which is made of of 6 chapters. If you know this book at all you will be able to tell what we are going to be studying this morning by the graphic on the screen. A roman era soldier at war. Chapter 6 has an amazing section on the Armor of God and how we are to use it. Before we dive into the text, lets learn a little about city of Ephesus, and to whom Paul was writing. The cultural makeup of a place can lend so much incite into understanding.

Ephesus

Bronze Age—Hittites (14 century BC)



Ephesus is located in what is modern day Turkey, way over on the Western coast. The city lasted for about 2000 years starting in about 1400 BC by the Hittites and ending in about 654 when it was sacked by the Arabs. It has a long and sorted history of changing power but the one thing that remained constant for a long time was the worship of the goddess Diana, or Artemis.

Her temple was destroyed three times. The first was in 700 BC, it was flooded and destroyed, then again in 356 BC burned by a lunatic. When the rebuilding was completed the third rendition was one of the 7 wonders of the ancient World. It was finally destroyed by the Goths in 267 AD.

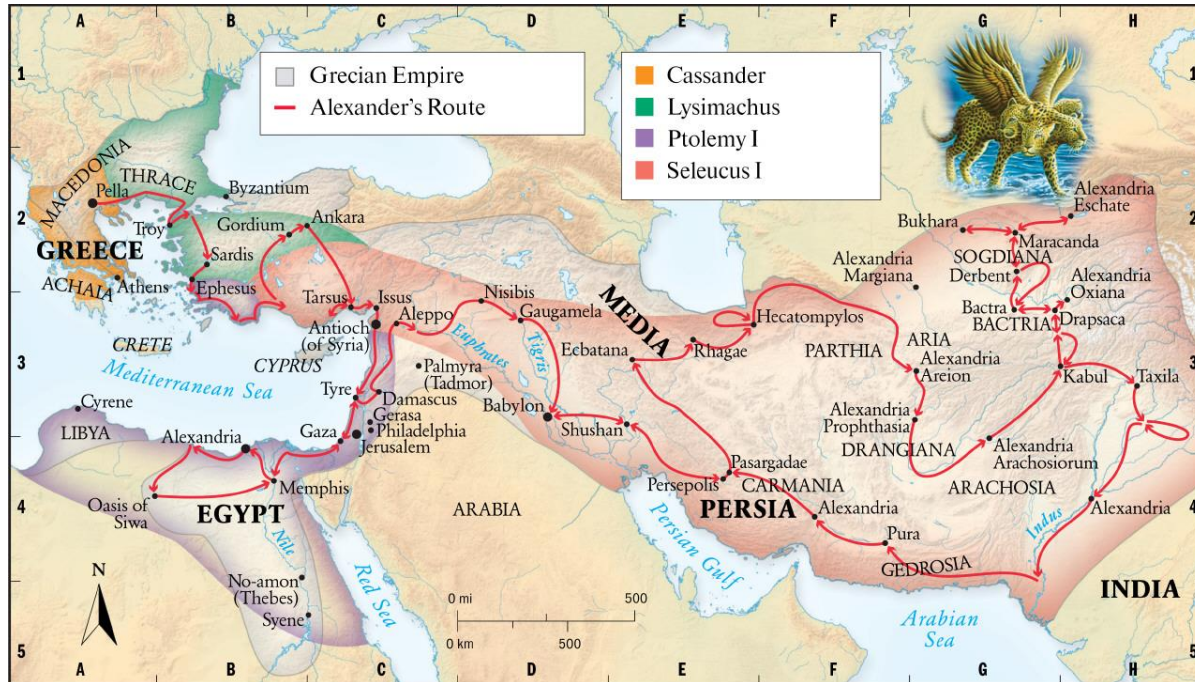
Persian Empire



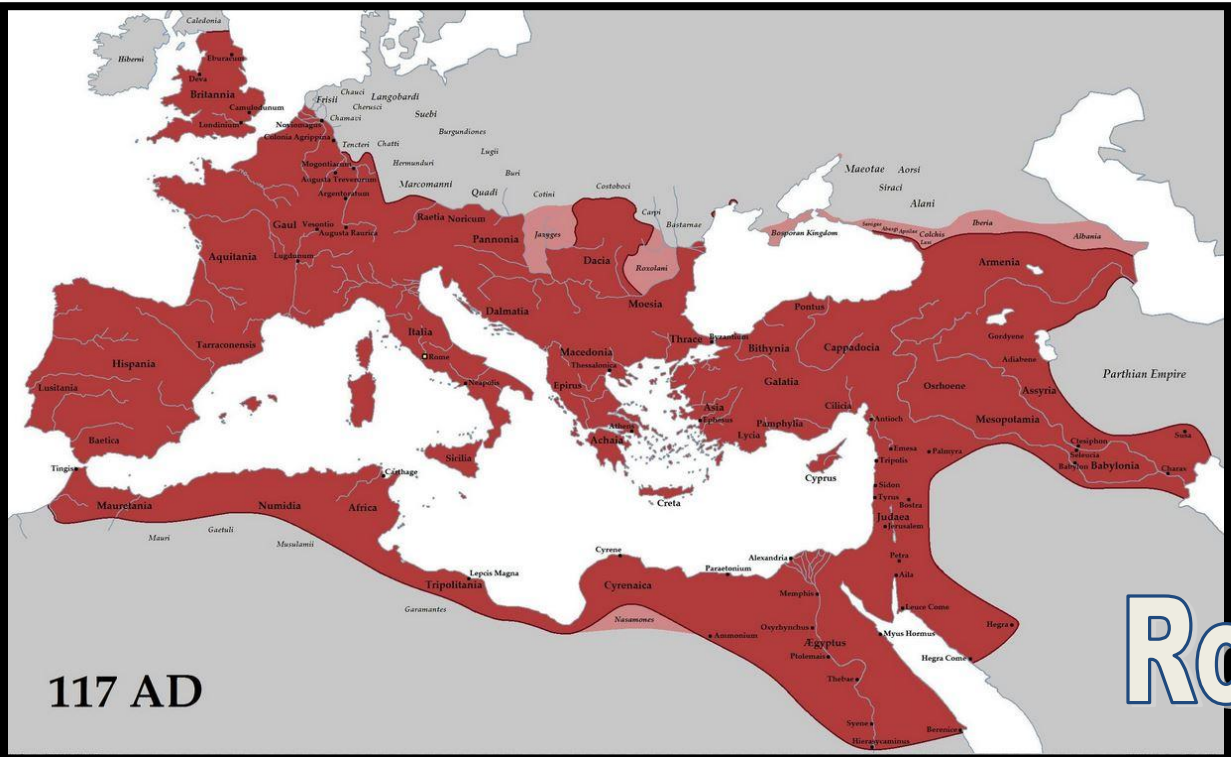
Archaic Period—Early Greeks (600 BC) Croesus Known for his wealth attacked Persia turned down their appeal for peace, when the tide turned Persia turned down their appeal in turn.

Grecian Empire

- Classical Period—479 BC Allied to Greece, back to Persians. Did not affect day to day life too much, with each of the ruling powers paying homage to Diana (Artemis)
- Temple burns in 356 BC with larger grander one built.
- Alexander the Great gains control 334 BC



- Egyptian control and then in 129 BC Roman control as part of the Roman Republic.
- Mark Antony was there with Cleopatra in 33BC and in 27 BC it was made the capital of Asia (Asia Minor) second only to Rome.
- 263 AD Attacked and destroyed by the Goths



Roman Empire



Byzantine Era 395-1308 AD

- After the fall of Rome it slowly declined the river had completely silted up the harbor and then was destroyed by earthquake in 614 AD.



Bird's-eye view of the Temple of Artemis or Artemision.



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Ephesus



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Ephesus from the air



Aerial view of the ruins.





Gebekirse Gölü
Milli Parkı

Seferhisar-Selçuk Yolu

Seferhisar-Selçuk Yolu

D515

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Selçuk Efe
Havaalanı

Dr. Sabri Yayl

D515

Celsus Kütüphanesi



The Ephesians practiced **infanticide**—These were the children that were unwanted, unloved not even recognized for their own humanity. In Ephesus there was a “baby dump” that was right outside the gates of the city where they would discard them. Most would die of exposure, however some babies were picked up by slavers that would raise the children to be sold into domestic labor, or sex slaves.

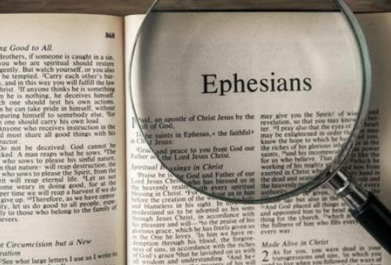
Ancient writings suggest that Jews and early Christians would try and **rescue some of these and adopt** them into their own family. Adoption was a permanent position in the family, and as we look at Ephesians 1 we see it referenced. EPH 1:5 In Love He predestined us for adoption to son-ship through Jesus Christ in accordance with his pleasure and will.

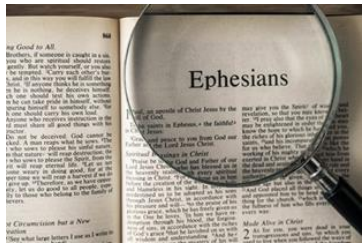
Ephesians 1-3 is the first portion of this letter that speaks to the church about their position in Christ. Now that they are adopted into God family they have the promise of Salvation. We are a unified family group although of many backgrounds and cultures.

In chapters 4-6 we find instruction on how then to live now that we are sons and daughters of God. This covers what Not to do: Lie, steal, lazy, bad attitudes, lustful thoughts, bitterness rage, anger brawling slander, malice, drunk , Instead to be kind, sing songs of praise, be holy, compassionate, forgiving, Just as Christ forgave us.

Chapter 5 is all about Husbands and wives, as well as the word picture of Christ as the head of the Church Chapter 6 is broken down into 3 parts:

- Vs 1-9 are about children and parents, masters and slaves and their relationship to one another.
- Vs 10-20 are about the armor of God, and this is what we will be talking about today.
- Vs 21-24 close out not only this chapter but are the final greetings for the book.





The Armor of God

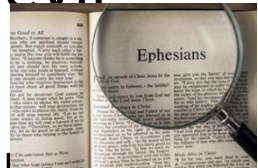
10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,
15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

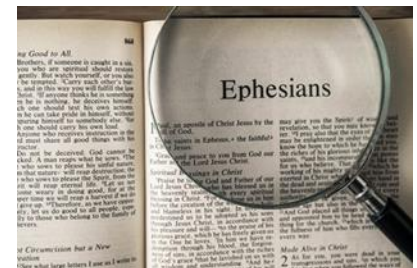
17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.





Through this entire book we are shown these truths. The message is to ground us in truth about who we are in Christ. We are His children, unified as one body and so our responsibility is live accordingly. It lays out what we shouldn't do as well as what we SHOULD do. As Jared pointed out last week, the scripture gives us

Information on **relationship**: with Christ, other believers, our children, spouses, leaders, the Poor, widows, sick, non Christians and many more.

The practical instruction is easy to understand. Don't do this, but instead live like this.

Now in this chapter we find out why it is so difficult to do that, but also how we are equipped to do it. Lets look at verse 10.

Be Strong. A simple statement, but that command alone is hard to do without effort. My brother for awhile was into bodybuilding. He spent hours and hours at the gym lifting, eating tons of protein, Tons of work! But we are told all through this book that we have power.

Chapter 1:18-21 tells us “ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That **power** is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, **power and dominion**, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Chapter 2:7 “⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his **power**.”

Chapter 2:16-18 “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with **power** through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have **power**, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ”

2:20 “according to his **power** that is at work within us,”

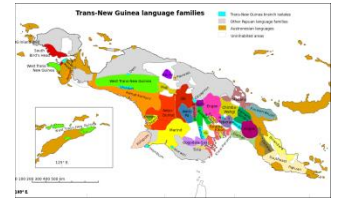
With the Holy Spirit we already have power on our side, now to use it.

Put on the **Full** armor of God. It doesn’t say just to put on the helmet of Salvation, now go nuts. Yet so many of us live like this. We experience Christ, and then we continue to live life as if it had never happened, yet in the back of our mind we say, oh, but I have salvation, I am safe. Once we have the **FULL** armor of God then we can take our stand against the devil’s schemes.

Battlefields are different aren’t they when we think about a battlefield in Iraq vs a battlefield in a Vietnam jungle, vs. a WWII sub battle.

Here in the US we don’t often think about spiritual battles, it seems like that is more of

Battlefields are different aren't they. Here in the US we don't often think about spiritual battles, often the idea of spirituality is mocked or thought to be for the weak minded or children, maybe something for movies. I grew up in the most Eastern province of Indonesia at the time was called Irian Jaya, now called West Papua. The people that live there are made up many different tribes and people much like the people of the time in Ephesus. In West Papua there are over 832 living languages. Not dialects, but separate languages, and are the most linguistically diverse place on earth. Because it was primarily animism, and totemism before Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu influence came to the area, there are just as many different strains of religion, a giant bowl of mish-mashed ideas where people often believe a mixture of whatever feels right. Yet because of the historical beliefs of the area, they acknowledge and fear the power of the spirit world. The reason I grew up overseas is because my dad made small hydroelectric projects for remote villages in the highlands of the island





. I remember one particular case where they had gone into this village and scoped out the best place for a pipeline and where they could put the powerhouse at the bottom with the generator. This involved digging a deep trench by hand and then they would put in the pipe, hook it all up and divert the stream at the top to power the turbine and generator. After they had found the best spot they were told that they couldn't put the pipeline through that particular field because it was inhabited by two demons. They decided to proceed anyway and shortly after the pipeline was installed an earthquake broke the pipe. They repaired it and then not long after that the pipe somehow managed to separate from itself underground. Again they repaired it. While they were away two brothers went hunting and when they were crossing the buried pipeline one of the brothers fell and broke his leg, when they arrived back at the village the other brothers house had burned to the ground.



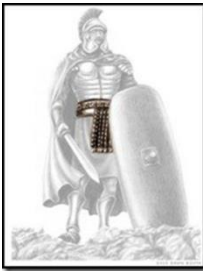
The chief of the village took it upon himself to get the witchdoctor to sacrifice a pig to appease the demons and allow the hydro project to carry on. After my dad and another missionary Dwight Hartzler came back, they were upset that the chief and witchdoctor had gone and done this, they explained that Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice and they didn't need a pig. They gathered all of the pastors in the area to come and pray to dedicate the project. As they gathered a severe tropical storm began to downpour on the area, so they prayed for it to stop and then sang a song that translated talks about Jesus is more powerful than Satan etc. Immediately the storm quit and a beam of sunlight shone down on the power plant. Since that prayer, it has been a model project, running perfectly.



This is not to say that the devil is not alive and well here in Spokane. I Peter 5:8 says “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

Each of us is different and has unique struggles. The list of things to do, and also to avoid is long, and for each of us, there are specific sins that we lean towards more strongly than another. The devil knows our weaknesses and uses his evil schemes to make our choices that much harder.

This brings us back to the armor of God. Once we have put on the full armor when the going gets tough, we can stand firm. Ephesians 6:13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.



The first piece of armor:

Stand firm then with the belt of truth buckled around your waist. Jesus is the way, the TRUTH and the life. Having a firm foundation on which to base everything is so key. If you believe a lie, and act accordingly just a small delineation from the truth over time takes you a long way from where you need to be. The devil is a liar and he will use his evil schemes to trick us. Knowing the truth is imperative.

In Ephesians 4;14-15 it says “Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

This belt of truth that we are talking about wasn't just the small leather strap that we use today to hold up our pants but a 6-8 inch wide piece of protection that also helped to fasten much of the other armor including having the sword strapped to it.

Breastplate of Righteousness



The breastplate or righteousness is the second piece. This was made of bronze, chainmail, animal hooves/horns, and it covered the torso and protected the vital organs. It was strapped to the belt and if that belt was loosened, then the breastplate would come right off.

Our righteousness was given to us when we experienced salvation. It is by His blood that we are covered, on our own we are lost sinners, and when we try and live in our own righteousness it is false, not based in truth, and ends us as legalism. Which is just us trying to be good in our own strength. Misusing the armor will lead to either a malfunction of it.

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid, how shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?

What that is saying is: let's not just keep sinning because we know that God will keep forgiving us. We are dead to that sin now, we can have life! Live in righteousness. When living in sin our focus is not on God and most certainly not on the fight, but rather we are distracted and unready.

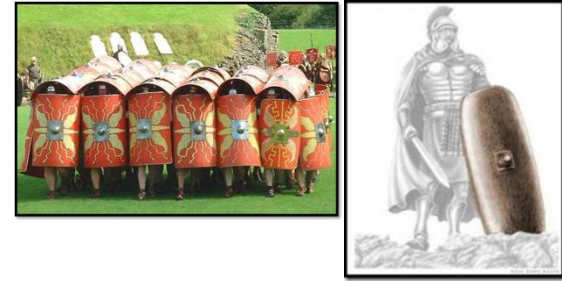
Feet Shod with Gospel of Peace



Next Piece: Shoes that are ready! 6:15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. The shoes of a soldier were fitted with nails and spikes that would help them to keep their footing during warfare. Imagine you are being attacked any your feet keep slipping out from under you. But these shoes were both for defense as well as offense, we stand firm on the truth of Gods word, so that when we hear the lies of the evil one, we are prepared.

But the shoes are also made for walking we are expected not just to stand firm but also to take the gospel of peace to the lost sharing your faith and the hope that we have in Christ. This clearly is hard to do, because at the end of this passage you will see what Paul is asking the Ephesian church to pray for him about.

Shield of Faith



The Shield of Faith: 16 In addition to all this take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Roman shields were the size of a door. They were covered in animal hides and when the hides were doused in water, they would extinguish flaming arrows. If you had a crack in your armor, these would protect you. Satan wants to cause doubts and sends these fiery darts to discourage us. Having a shield of faith that is based in prayer can protect us from these.

Another thing, shields could be put together to form a Turtle type of protection when they were used in conjunction with other soldiers. We can and should encourage each other in the faith, especially if we are doing the turtle move standing alongside another believer. This is the idea of all the different groups we facilitate both here and other locations.

Helmet of Salvation



The helmet of Salvation is the last part of the armor to put on. The final act of getting Ready before heading into battle. And it is vital for your brains to be protected. Without a functioning head, all the armor in the world won't save you.

Salvation is not a one-time event. Nor even something that we are hoping for, but rather An ongoing eternal state that His children enjoy in the present. Our salvation is continuous protection against the evil one, and deliverance from our own sinful nature.

What we need to do as believers:

Romans 12:1-2 Tells us to renew our minds Let Gods word guide and direct the ideas and Thought patterns that we have. The mind can be a battlefield all on its own.

Salvation is the most amazing gift to us, it is bought with precious blood, at great cost. Lets not live like it is something we received and put up on a shelf to look at every now and again Use your helmet, keep it polished and be reminded of what it took Christ to give that to you.



Sword of the Spirit

This is the word of God. The Holy Spirit is the one that came and spoke into the hearts of men as they wrote down the scripture. We know this because in 2 Tim 3:16-17 it tells us that All scripture is God breathed. And that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Can you imagine being a soldier and going into battle without any preparation? What are you doing to prepare yourself?

What is God asking you to do? Are you called into ministry? YES, that might look different for each one of us, but the tools are the same. The Sword is both an offensive weapon and a defensive weapon. And we are able to use it in both ways, however, if we never read the word and sharpen our minds how will we be about to do either? We need time alone with God, time together with others worshiping God, and also time Studying Gods word, again both alone and together with others.

When we are at our previous location there was an older couple that was visiting from Wenatchee area, and I'll never forget what the gentleman shared. If you want to hear God speak, read your bible, but if you want to hear God speak out loud... Read it out loud.



The final three verses of this section are all about one thing: PRAY

Pray in the Spirit – for all kinds of requests

Pray for me – That I will have the right words to make know the mystery of the Gospel

Pray for me – That I will declare it fearlessly, as I should

The Greek word translated “pray in” can have several different meanings. It can mean “by means of,” “with the help of,” “in the sphere of,” and “in connection to.” Praying in the Spirit does not refer to the words we are saying. Rather, it refers to how we are praying. Praying in the Spirit is praying according to the Spirit’s leading. It is praying for things the Spirit leads us to pray for. Romans 8:26 tells us, “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”

-R. Albert Mohler Jr.

Memory Verse

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Ephesians 6:13