

Series: EPHESIANS: THE CHURCH EMPOWERED
Title: THANKFUL FOR PROTECTION IN JESUS
Text: Ephesians 6: 10-23
Date: Dec 1, 2024

Opening Line

Have you ever been bullied?

Have you ever been in a situation where you looked for protection and safety from a dangerous situation?

Illustration: 5th Grade Olsen brothers. Dave and Jeff.

We have over the past several months gone through this letter from Paul to the church in Ephesus and, indeed, a letter to every Christian. It is doctrinal and practical.

Transition

Today, I want to talk about the protection we have as we put on Christ, who is our armor.

Review

Ephesians covers the PROJECT of God to adopt a family, the PROCESS of salvation by grace through faith, the PLAN to created ONE bride whose PURPOSE is to shine truth into the world. It offers a PRAYER that in the infinite love of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the Father immeasurable ability to what He desires, we are able to rightly PRACTICE love to each other, whether it be in marriage, family or the workplace. He offers His PROTECTION in putting on Christ, who is our armor in the battles we face in life.

THANKFUL FOR STRENGTH TO STAND

Ephesians 6:10-13

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Strength only in the Lord and His might

- Strength is found when we wait upon the Lord
- Strength to do all things through him
- Knowing we can do nothing without him

Strength to stand against the attacks that will come

- Schemes
- Spiritual warfare

Strength to stand firm against the evil day

- Putting on the armor
- Doing all we are called to do
- We stand

THANKFUL FOR THE ARMOR OF CHRIST

Ephesians 6:14-18a

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

The Protective Defense of the Armor of Christ

Gear day in Football – Helmet fit, the correct shoulder pads for the position played.

- They had to be mobile to do the task they were called to do
- They had to be fitted so that the player would be the best protected and as safe as we could make them

In our walk through life as the people of God we are also to be mobile, (active – not passive) to live this life in Christ at home, at work, at play, and for every situation.

Mobile and active yes!

But we are also to be protected from the situations that we are going to face.

God has equipped us for that task. He has offered the protection that we need. IF WE WILL PUT IT ON

Now when I say put IT on I am really saying Put HIM on

We are to put off the old man

We are to put on the new man

When we put on the new man – we are putting on Christ.

No longer I that live, but Christ lives in me.

I will have the mind of Christ.

Paul says to put on Christ.

Belt of Truth

- Jesus is the Truth
- The enemy is the father of lies.
- We worship Him in spirit and in truth.
- We are no longer delusional and confused by the lies of this world, but awakened in the truth of God.

“Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains to bring it to light.” – George Washington

- The truth is self-evident – but it will always come against opposition.

“All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.” – Arthur Schopenhauer

“If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end, despair.”

– C. S. Lewis

- In a day where truth is slandered and forgotten by the world...we must stand for the truth.
- Stand in the truth.
- *Jesus said “... I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth.” Pilate asked the question, “What is truth?” (John 18:37-38)*
- The world right now is running from truth but Jesus said that he is the Truth, I am the Truth!

We cannot have falsehood or vagary in our walk. We will buckle at every turn if we are not solid in the Truth of God

Breastplate of Righteousness

- Jesus is our righteousness

“I desire to press forward for direction to my Master in all things; but as to trusting to my own obedience and righteousness, I should be worse than a fool and ten times worse than a madman.” – Charles Spurgeon

- We cannot trust in our righteousness
- I am having a good day, an obedient day...so I am good to go my direction
- It is HIS obedience to the Cross and the righteousness He puts on you that is our strength

Thomas Kinkade, called the “Painter of Light” said,

“You have to expect spiritual warfare whenever you stand up for righteousness or call attention to basic values. It's just a matter of light battling the darkness. But the light wins every time. You can't throw enough darkness on light to put it out. “

Shoes of Good News

- Jesus is the Gospel of Good News.
- His death, His resurrection, His return, his glory, His promises. His kingship
- He came that we might have life and abundant life at that.

Romans 1: 16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Shield of Faith

- He is author, sustain, finisher, source of Faith
- “Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.” –Martin Luther

Helmet of Salvation

- He is our salvation
- We live in the joy of His salvation
- We are saved by His grace

Sword of Spirit – The Word

- Parry the advances of the enemy
 - Jesus in the desert
- Strengthen us against sin
 - Hidden in our hearts that we might not sin

Constant Communication in prayer

- Ongoing orders from headquarters
- Daily orders from headquarters
- praying at all times in the Spirit
- pray without ceasing

THANKFUL FOR PEREVERENCE TO ENDURE

Ephesians 6:18b-20

^{18b} To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

- Dogged resolution to stay alert
- Praying for one another and opportunities to boldly bring the good news to any who would listen
- We are ambassadors – we ought to be good ones.

THANKFUL FOR ENCOURAGEMENT AND LOVE

Paul wraps up the letter with encouragement and sending a friend to bring that encouragement

Ephesians 6:21-22

²¹ So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. ²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.

THANKFUL FOR LOVE INCORRUPTABLE

Ephesians 6:23-24

²³ *Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

²⁴ *Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.*

- He prays peace, love, faith, and grace to all who love the Lord with LOVE INCORRUPTABLE
- LOVE INCORRUPTABLE!

Bottom Line / Main Point

You can stand strong and have absolute protection in life's battles when you put on the Lord Jesus Christ

The Ask

Am I living life in my strength or the Lord's?

Will you be alert and put on the armor of Christ to be strong in life's storms?

I will put on Christ every day!

Ephesians Overview

The Sovereign God created a PROJECT to choose and adopt people into His family through the PROCESS of saving them by His grace through their faith, and the PLAN of creating ONE Bride for Christ the Bridegroom, in order to fulfill the PURPOSE of shining truth and light into a delusion and dark world and proclaim to all authorities the manifold mystery of His Gospel. In the unmeasurable love of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the Father immeasurable ability to what He desires, we are able to rightly respond to each other, whether it be marriage, family or the workplace. He offers His protection in putting on Christ, who is our armor in the battles we face in life.