
Ephesians

Chapter 6

Ephesians 6:1

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

The word "**children**" is TEKNON, referring to a child in relationship to his father and mother.

The word "**obey**" is HUPAKOUW, meaning "to listen under authority", or "to listen in submission."

This is an interesting word. From the Greek word AKOUW we get the English "acoustics". In Greek it means "to hear". The prefix HUPO means "under". HUPAKOUW was used in ancient Greek for the action of a porter who was answering the door. He first "heard" the knock, then acted by opening the door.

The meaning here is that the child is to "listen", then act in accordance to what he hears.

"**parents**" - the establishment of authority, and the proper response to it, begins in the home. Respect for authority, or the lack of it, is the result of home teaching, or the lack of it!

When children do not have respect for their parents, they reject all forms of authority in life. They become misfits before they become adults. As children grow older, they must decide whether they will submit to their parents teaching. Each generation determines its role in life on the basis of recognition of authority in the home.

Children are obliged to obey their parents, whether their parents are right or wrong. Parents will not destroy their children by enforcing the principle of obedience; but they can harm their children through lack of teaching obedience.

PARENTHOOD

1. Parents are the basic authority in a community or a nation. Parenthood is God's primary institution for governing society.
2. It is a great advantage to children to have their parents living during their childhood.
3. Children begin life helpless and ignorant. The child's survival depends on the parents to

provide food, clothing, shelter, and TRAINING. Prov. 22:16.

4. Parents must train children in self-discipline, respect for authority, respect for the rights and privacy of others, respect for other people's property.
5. Christian parents are responsible for the evangelism and Bible training of their own children.
6. The proper training and instruction will minimize many of the problems associated with disobedience and lack of respect.

"**in the Lord**" - this is positional truth for parents and children. This is part of the believer's union with Christ.

Children obey their parents as part of their own full-time Christian service. This is a command, and it is the first thing a child is responsible for in his life. When a child asks "What is God's will for my life?", the first answer is "Obey your parents".

"**this if right**" - or, "this is just". This is a permanent principle, it is right, and it will always be right.

Ephesians 6:2,3

Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise.

That it may be well with you, that you may live long on the earth.

"**honor**" is TIMA, "to hold worthy; to value; to respect". The noun form TIMEI, refers to a "place of honor or rank".

This refers to the respect and honor accorded parents by a responsible child. This is not the childhood obedience to authority discussed in the first verse. But it is the ongoing respect for parents that continues for a lifetime.

"**That it may be well with you**" - or, "that it may become well with you..." The verb is GINOMAI, which means "become", not "to be".

Each generation has the opportunity to make its own way. If the previous generation has thoroughly messed things up, obedience to this principle will allow the next generation to straighten things out for themselves. One does not become what he is because of heritage, but by his response and obedience to the things of the Lord and yieldedness to Biblical principles.

The verb is in the SUBJUNCTIVE mood, indicating that the well-being is only a potential. Every generation makes its own choices. The history of the past generation does not determine the history of the present generation.

Hegel: "We learn from history that we learn nothing from history."

When a generation lives without being obedient to divine or human authority, the suffering is intense, whether for individuals or for nations.

Read Judges 19:2-21, Romans 1:18-32

2 Tim. 3:1-7 [NASB] "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

"For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

"unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

"treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God;

"holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.

"For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

"always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

"that you may live long" = MAKROCHRONOS, MAKRO + CHRONOS, "a long time". Disobedience and lack of honor for parents leads to shorter lifetimes!

Ephesians 6:4

And you fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

"Father" is PATERES, "parents".

"**provoke not to wrath**" is PARORGIDZW, "to provoke to anger". It means, "do not exasperate your children.

It is not given here just how the children are made angry or exasperated. There is no description of what parents are not to do so that their children are not provoked.

However, the antidote IS given in this verse, "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

When parents do not train their children in the things of God, they sent them up for very bad times in the future.

"**bring them up**" is EKTREPHW, "to raise from childhood".

"**nurture**" is PAIDEIA, "training, discipline, education"

"**admonition**" is NOUTHESIA, "to put something in the mind; a warning; a reproof"

What is the training and reproof of the Lord?

READ 1 Cor. 10:1-11. Notice that the apostle Paul describes the Old Testament practices of the Jews as a warning to the Corinthian Christians not to fall into the same patterns of disobedience.

Notice Titus 3:10. What is a heretic? One who refuses reproof. He doesn't want the "mind of Christ", he wants his own mind.

Col. 3:16, Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing (NOUTHESIA) one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Notice in Col. 3:16 that "wisdom and teaching" precede the "admonishing".

Rom. 15:14, And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another.

But notice that the teaching of Romans 15:1,2 precedes the admonishing of Rom 15:14.

Rom. 15:1,2, Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

Ephesians 6:5

Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as unto Christ.

"**Servants**" is DOULOI, "the slaves". Since the word can be used for both servants and slaves, note the following remarks.

1. The word "servants" here had the original means "one who is a slave". Many slaves were Christians, and many worked for non-Christian masters during this period of time.
2. While slavery was a great evil in the Roman Empire, as it is at any time, Paul did not become sidetracked by condemning the practice of slavery. Some aspects of slavery are discussed in the letter to Philemon, but the New Testament does not deal with slavery as a social issue.
3. Instead, Paul declared the greater issues of the gospel and edification, and how God's plan provides for believers who are categorized as servants, or laborers.
4. Even under conditions of slavery, Christians can have inner happiness and other blessings compatible with their function during the church age. Whether slave or free, every Christian functions under the Plan of God and the grace system for spiritual growth and production.
5. The application of this passage in modern times is to the employee, in contrast to those who are in management.
6. In this passage we are dealing with the results of Christian growth, and the emphasis is placed on the development of a mature spiritual life through edification, and the confident, stable mental attitude that results from living according to a divine frame of reference.

"be obedient" - the present active imperative of HUPAKOUW, meaning "to be under authority; to concentrate. This is a command to all believers, because all Christians are in full-time Christian service.

There is no excuse for Christians to offer less than 110% of his effort for the people who are paying him. Jobs are provided by the grace of God; the

prosperous nations with their capitalistic systems only exist by the grace of God.

"to them that are your masters" - KURIOS, "lords". This word is used for deity and for human authority.

READ Romans 14:1-8.

"according to the flesh", or "according to human standards"

"with fear" - PHOBOS. The word is translated "respect" in 5:33 and refers to "respect" or "reverence". Respect for authority on the job is part of a Christian's full-time service for Christ.

"trembling" - TROMOS. This does not mean that you shake with fear when the boss walks by. This refers to maximum exertion on the job, digging in and working until the job is finished, whatever it is.

The combination of PHOBOS and TROMOS was used to mean "great zeal", the emotion that you have preceding the big game, a combination of stage fright and determination to succeed.

See 1 Cor. 2:3; 2 Cor. 7:15; Phil. 2:12.

"in singleness of heart" - this is the preposition EN "by means of", plus an adjective APLOTEIS, "probity; integrity of mind; simplicity". Therefore we have "by means of integrity in your mind" the believer does his work.

Mental attitude sin, toward the boss, towards other workers, or just in a general disgruntled frame of mind, will ruin a believer's ability to perform good work.

"as unto Christ" - all authority comes from the Lord. Therefore, your boss's authority comes from the Lord. A Christian must work as if he were working for the Lord Jesus Christ as his boss.

Topic: CHRISTIAN IN THE WORKPLACE

Ephesians 6:6

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

From this passage we learn that a Christian is involved in his job with his complete soul, as well as his body. In fact, the word "heart", in the King James version above, is actually PSUCHEIS, meaning "soul".

Every part of a Christian's soul is involved in his work:

Self-consciousness: self-discipline and concentration on the job.

Mentality - this refers to the two different functions of a Christian mind, perception, and divine viewpoint. Perception is the understanding part of the mind; and the soul's mentality contains the Word of God, the Plan of God, which keeps the believer in a stable mental attitude, free of mental sins.

Volition - the Christian makes decisions, based on divine viewpoint, which are compatible with doing the best possible job as unto the Lord. When others are goofing off, you work! When others conspire, you refuse!

Conscience - divine standards by which the Christian makes correct decisions.

Emotion - a person's appreciation of the Lord will cause him to do his job as unto the Lord.

Col. 3:16,17, "Let the word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And WHATSOEVER YOU DO in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

"**not with eyeservice**" - a very interesting word in Greek! OPHTHALMODOULIA.

Notice the two parts. OPHTHALMO refers to "eyes". We get the English word "ophthalmologist" from this, an "eye doctor". DOULIA is from DOULOS, a "slave".

This word means to do one's job to gain attention, to win approbation, to stimulate pride, to call attention to oneself.

But a Christian does not advance himself! God does the promoting. In every sense, you are not promoted, or recognized, until God promotes you!. The Christian does his job as unto the Lord, and waits for the Lord to take care of the advancement.

When a Christian understands this principle, and can have a relaxed life because he trusts the Father to handle all promotion and prosperity, it will take him a long way toward being a master of the details of life.

"**as men pleasers**" - refers to people who try to please the boss, often at the sacrifice of the actual work.

"**but as the servants of Christ**" - on the job, we are the servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"**doing the will of God**" - the verb POIEW and the noun THELEIMA. This refers to a believer's duty to KNOW the plan and purpose of God for his life, and to DO it!

"**from the heart**" - not KARDIA, but PSUCHEI, "out from the soul".

Ephesians 6:7

With good will doing service, as unto the Lord and not to men.

"**with good will**" - that is, "accompanied by good thinking". "Good will" is EUNOEWS, EU "good" plus NOEW, "to think". In God's plan, good thinking is thinking from His point of view, from a frame of reference coming from doctrine applied in the soul.

With divine viewpoint, a Christian has divine standards, uses divine principles for making decisions and solving problems, is free from mental attitude sins, and has the motivation to learn and do the job as well as possible.

"**doing service**" - to serve, doing even menial tasks, as unto the Lord, associated with a good mental attitude.

"**as to the Lord and not to men**" - discussed in verse above.

Ephesians 6:8

Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man does, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether bond or free.

"**knowing**" - from OIDA, means that the believer is edified, knows the "mind of Christ", and recognizes the divine principles involved in this passage.

"**that whatsoever**" - NOT "whatsoever", but "each one" - refers to each believer being in the direct mind of God and recognized by Him.

"**good thing that any man does**" - AGATHOS. Divine good; that which is produced by the Lord in the life of a Christian who is walking in the Spirit, living in the Word, occupied with Christ, and through whom God is producing "gold, silver, and precious stones".

Good work on the job is a function of the control of the Holy Spirit and results in divine production.

The Christian is witnessing on the job by performing to the best of his capability with a great mental attitude.

A Christian who has an ordinary job, and does it "as unto Christ", is in the will and plan of God, and is performing a much greater service than any missionary or pastor who is laboring in the flesh!

"the same shall he receive" - future middle indicative of KOU MIDZW, "to be rewarded; to recover with interest". The future tense refers to the time of the judgment seat of Christ, when the rewards are handed out to those whose labors were "not in vain". The middle voice indicates that the believer benefits from these rewards.

"of the Lord" = "from the Lord". The believer on the job will be rewarded just as much as any pastor, missionary, Christian worker. There is no hierarchy of jobs in the Christian life, not jobs that are more important, or more spiritual, than others.

"whether bond or free"

Ephesians 6:9

And you masters to the same unto them, forbearing threatening, knowing that your Master also is in heaven, neither is there respect of persons with Him.

"masters" refers to those in authority. KURIOI - "lords"

"do the same unto them" - authority demands a sense of responsibility. The more authority one has, the less time there is for fun, pleasure, avocations. The boss has a lot to do for and with his employees.

"forbearing threatening" - ANIEMI "to suspend", plus APEILE, a noun meaning "unfair treatment" (rather than "threatening"). So - "suspend unfair treatment".

This does not mean that management does not have the right to fire or discipline workers. But it means that treatment of laborers must always be fair and just, as unto the Lord, according to the function of Grace.

Even in Grace, God the Father will chastise one of His children who is living in sin. In an analogous way, someone in authority has the duty to bring someone into line. The parent, the child. The judge, the criminal. The employer, the employee.

Warning: do not try to bring someone into line over whom you have no authority! A person who

does this is a "busybody", a person who steps into someone else's position of authority. This is a dreadful and very sinful practice.

"knowing that your Master" - the Christian employer's responsibility is to God. Economic failure of a company has often been attributed to the failure of management. A person who abuses his employees is not managing as unto the Lord, and certain laws of economics may be violated, leading to bankruptcy.

"is in heaven" - God is always in His place of authority.

"respect of persons" is PROSWPOLEIMSIA, "receiving face to face", or, literally, "to receive a face". Used by the Greeks to mean "partiality" or "respect of persons". This would, of course, constitute gross unfairness. God is not unfair and treats all people the same.

God is fair in His character or essence. Therefore, God will not tolerate unfairness or partiality. Note that God deals with mankind fairly, offering salvation to any person without partiality.

God loves every believer equally, and offers all blessings to all Christians, equally. God is fair in His blessings; God is fair in His discipline.

Therefore, Christian management should have this kind of grace orientation.

Ephesians 6:10-13

The apostle Paul had a lifelong contact with the Roman army. He was a Roman citizen and very patriotic; and his admiration of the fighting forces of Rome was great.

The Roman army was at its peak of efficiency during the early Christian era. It served as police and frontier guard over all of Europe, the borders with Asia, and North Africa. Paul had many dealings with Roman legionnaires.

- A Roman soldier delivered Paul from the mob in Ephesus.
- Roman soldiers saved his life when the mob in Jerusalem wanted to kill him in the temple area.
- The Roman soldiers were able to deliver Paul out of Jerusalem from the hands of the religious leaders who wanted him dead, and they brought him safely to Caesarea.

- It was Roman soldiers who escorted Paul on the trip from Caesarea to Rome, the voyage on which Paul suffered shipwreck.
- Roman soldiers delivered Paul to the Roman garrison of the Praetorian Guard for his imprisonment.

The Praetorian Guard represents everything that is famous in Roman history. Their ranks were made up of the best and most experienced combat tested centurions, comparable to the finest from West Point, Sandhurst, St. Cyr. They were comparable to the best combat units of modern times, such as Special Forces, 1st Marines, Patton's 3rd Army, the Coldstream Guard, Big Red One, etc. In Roman history, the man who wanted to be Emperor had first to win the favor of the Praetorian Guard.

Every man in the ranks was a centurion, the most highly trained warrior in history. The commander of the Guard was a chiliarch who maintained the strictest discipline and combat training, even though all ranks were seasoned combat veterans.

The emperor of Rome at the time of Paul's first imprisonment was Nero (Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus), a member of one of the most distinguished families of military men and politicians; a family of genius, but Nero himself was insane. As long as Nero listened to the counsel of Seneca, he was more or less an enlightened monarch; and he managed to judge Paul fairly during the first imprisonment.

Paul wrote the epistle to the Ephesians during the period of his house arrest in Rome while he was guarded by a centurion of the Praetorian Guard. Paul witnessed to many guards during his two years under house arrest; and as these men were posted to other countries, they carried the gospel with them. Paul recognized the mission field of the military and understood very well God's plan in having him in Rome under these conditions.

This passage of Ephesians has as its background a large number of Roman military metaphors, as you might suppose. Military terminology is seen in a great deal of Paul writings; for example:

- In Gal. 6:17, Paul talks about bearing in his body the "mark" of the Lord Jesus. In history, this mark was a brand placed on the back of the left hand of a Roman soldier who had finished basic training. It was a high honor and the sign of a "man's man."

- Note the military terms in 2 Tim. 2:3,4. Paul wrote 2 Timothy during his second imprisonment.
- Roman military drill is the background of the terminology in Gal. 5:25; 1 Thess. 5:14; Col. 2:5.
- 1 Cor. 15:20-23 describes the doctrine of the resurrection of believers in terms of a military parade. There are two "battalions" of believers "passing in review", first those who were dead, then those who are "alive and remain".
- In 1 Cor. 14:8, Paul described the military commands given by a trumpet. The idea here is that those who speak in tongues cause confusion in the ranks.
- In Gal. 1:6, Paul speaks of legalists as having gone AWOL from the Gospel.
- In Phil. 4:6,7, Paul refers to the mounting of the guard.

Eph. 6:10-12 provides, in military terms, an "estimate of the situation". Such an estimate is based on facts gathered and analyzed by reconnaissance and intelligence personnel. Questions to be answered are:

- Who is the enemy?
- Where is the enemy?
- What are his strength and disposition and his supporting units?
- What is his logistical support and where are his supply lines?
- What are his weaknesses?
- What is the terrain like where the battle will be fought?

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

finally ...literally, "as to the remaining", but in this context, "now to get down to the final planning for attack". Paul wants the Christian to go on the offensive against unseen forces, the forces of Satan.

be strong...from the present passive imperative of ENDUNAMAO, a reference to inner strength or moral courage.

Success in battle is always based on moral courage. The present tense used here indicates that moral courage must be used continuously. The passive voice shows that this courage is received

by the believer from the Lord as a product of Grace. The imperative is the mood of command; "You are ordered to receive great moral courage!"

This courage comes through Christian growth in maturity, the faith/grace process for Biblical perception and application.

Read 2 Cor. 10:3-6. Our weapons are the weapons of the soul; this is how the believer receives strength. The basic emphasis in Christianity is not "doing something" but "thinking something". Divine production follows divine thinking. The soul is "armed" when the believer is edified.

Bible truth applied to the life will include orientation to Grace, a relaxed mental attitude, a capacity for personal and impersonal love, great inner peace and happiness, and a divine frame of reference. These are all ingredients of moral courage.

in the Lord... the Lord is the source of our strength and training.

in the power... the instrumental case of KRATOS, meaning "inner power" or self-discipline.

of his might... genitive of source of ISCHUS, "endowed power". The source for everything is the Lord Himself. See Acts 1:8. This takes us back to Eph. 5:18 and reminds us of the necessity of the Holy Spirit's control.

Eph. 6:10 "As to the remaining teaching, receive great inner strength from the Lord and in the inner power of His endowed power."

Ephesians 6:11

Put on the whole armor of God, wherewith you shall be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Put on... refers to the soldier picking up his equipment and weapons. This is an imperative (command) verb in the middle voice, indicating that the believer receives benefit from putting on the armor.

the whole armor... PANOPLIA, "all armor and weapons"; so, "all military equipment". [The English cognate is "panoply".]

There were three types of soldiers in the Roman army that wore armor and carried these types of weapons.

The hastati (from HASTA, "javelin") were less experienced soldiers under training. They were usually not well trained with the more sophisticated weapons such as the spear, machaira sword,

or bow. These troops were usually not used in the main battle, but only in the opening skirmish when javelins were thrown at the advancing enemy. The new believer is the hastati in the Christian life. He is not trained with much in the way of weapons because he is still ignorant of a lot of God's Word.

The principes were somewhat more advanced. This was a young, vigorous, strong soldier, equivalent in this analogy to the vigorous advancing Christian who is beginning to operate on a divine frame of reference.

The third line of battle was composed of the triarii, the veterans, soldiers who could move into any area of combat and were well-trained with all weapons.

that ye may be able... DUNAMAI, the ordinary Greek word for "ability". This is the ability which is the result of edification; and it is the main source of strength in the angelic conflict.

to stand... HISTOMI; this is the readiness of the combat soldier, the Christian "centurion", armed, tough, unyielding, with pride and motivation.

"Standing" is the first thing taught in unarmed combat or martial arts. One of the first things taught in Judo, for instance, is how to "break the stance" of the opponent. The Gauls, against whom the Romans fought many campaigns, under Julius Caesar and others, were human "tanks" in the sense that their ability to take a very strong combat stance made them difficult to defeat in individual combat.

Every believer is a member of the combat team and is required to take his own part, to stand on his own. We are armed with spiritual gifts and equipment, provided by Grace, to fight against the forces of Satan.

against the wiles of the devil... METHODEIA, "face to face with the strategies" (methods) of Satan.

Eph. 6:11 "Put on all of your spiritual military equipment so that you may have the ability to stand in the ranks, face to face with the strategies of Satan."

Ephesians 6:12

for we wrestle ... refers to any sort of personal combat. In the military sense, it refers to military contact with the enemy.

not against flesh and blood ...that is, "not face to face with human beings".

but ... "in contrast to the foregoing"

against... "face to face with" the following roster of the Satanic organization.

principalities... ARCHON, a word in Greek for one of the highest rulers.

This word first shows up in the Attic Greek (Athens) in the days of the Athenian democracy. The archon was the president or preeminent decision maker in Athens. The number two man was called bassilius archon, or "king-ruler". The third man was called polymark, a military ruler. The following six leaders in Athens were the thesmo-teitai or "legislators". Even though there was democracy, there was no anarchy in Athens because these leaders kept things under control.

The Satanic organization has a number of supreme rulers; how many is not known.

powers ... from EKSOUSIAS, "commissioned officers"; therefore, a secondary group of demon rulers.

rulers of the darkness of this world .. the phrase "ruler of this world" is all one word in Greek: KOSMOKRATOR ["world" + "ruler"]. The word SKOTOS follows; therefore the phrase should read "world rulers of darkness".

These demonic rulers are Satan's supporting organization; analogous to logistics, intelligence, special weapons units, etc.

Satan has a special force of high ranking demons to make attacks against prominent officials and heads of nations.

In Daniel 10:13f, the term "prince of Persia" refers to a fallen angel, a demon, who was busy attacking the ruler of Persia. Gabriel was delayed in bringing a message to Daniel because he was in conflict with this kosmokrator demon. The archangel Michael came to help and released Gabriel to come to Daniel.

In Dan. 10:20, the "prince of Grecia" is mentioned, referring to the demon in charge of mounting attacks against the ruler of Greece who was Alexander the Great at that time.

The principle is that Satan will vigorously attack any nation which protects the divine institutions, allows personal freedom to its citizens, and protects the nation against immorality. In nations like

that there is evangelism and missionary activity, so demon activity will be stepped up with respect to those countries.

In addition, all Christian believers are placed under direct attack in the world system, with particularly heavy attacks against those who are advancing in the Christian way of life.

spiritual wickedness in high places ... literally, "spirits of evil in the heavenlies". This refers to the rank and file of demons which perform numerous functions.

Eph. 6:12 "Because our combat is not face to face with human beings but, by contrast, is in confrontation with demon rulers, military commanders of Satan, world-rulers of the darkness, and spirits of evil in the heavenlies."

Ephesians 6:13

The question arises as to why God allows the Angelic Conflict to continue. One reason is that in every generation, God permits Satan to use his genius to attack the Plan of God and the principle of Grace in the plan. Pressures are brought to bear on believers so that the divine provisions of Grace may be made manifest.

wherefore..."because of". Refers to the previous statements regarding spiritual warfare against demons. Hence, "Because of Satan's organization and activities, take the whole armor of God..."

take... imperative of ANALAMBANO, "to take; to seize" with a prefix which adds the idea of repetition to the verb. We must "seize or take again and again" the armor of God. As an example, one piece of the armor is "truth" (verse 14). This piece of armor must be "put on" every day.

In any group of Christians there are two types, those who are "ready" and those who are "not ready". A uniform of armor must be taken up and put on whenever combat is anticipated. For the Christian, combat is continuous. The emphasis of this verb is "Don't get caught without your armor on!"

the whole armor of God...PANOPLIA. The hastati, the principes, and the triarii all wore the same basic armor. In the following verses, the individual parts of the armor are described.

that ye may be able to stand...

The following passages of scripture provide excellent illustration of the concept of the Christian's "stand".

1 Cor. 15:57,58

Psa. 16:8; 21:7; 55:22; 125:1

Gal. 5:1

Phil. 1:27

1 Pet. 5:5-11

Psa. 46:5; 66:9; 112:6; 121:3

Prov. 10:30

1 Cor. 10:12

Job 11:14,15

Acts 11:23

Phil. 4:1

1 Thess. 5:21

2 Thess. 2:15

Heb. 3:6; 4:14; 10:23

against the wiles of the devil...

See Topic: Satan, particularly concerning his strategies. Also, refer to notes on demon activity in the previous discussion on v. 12.

and having done all, to stand.

Eph. 6:13 "Because of this, continually take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to take your position in combat, and when all is finished that you may remain standing."

Ephesians 6:14

With this verse begins the categorization of the Christian's armor, using by way of illustration the armor of the Roman soldier.

stand therefore... aorist active imperative of HISTOMI, the ordinary verb for standing, but in this context "to stand in military rank".

Grammar Note: In verses 14 to 17 there is a string of verbs, all of which are aorist participles in the middle voice. These are the verbs such as "take" or "put on" associated with putting on the pieces of armor. The Greek aorist participles have the same standing in a context as the English past participle in that the action of the participles precedes the action of the main verb in the sentence. The idea is that before a soldier can take his place in the ranks, he must be outfitted and trained.

having your loins girt about ...aorist middle participle of PERIZUNUMI, "to put around".

The Roman soldier put around his waist a very wide belt which was the holder for a lot of equipment. There was a loop, for example, for the scabbard for the machaira sword. Other loops held ropes and a rations sack. When the legions conquered a city, the soldiers would empty out the ration sack to make room for gold, jewelry, and other loot they picked up.

There were loops on the belt for darts. The belt was tied in several places to stay in place, so that no matter how the soldier moved about, fell down, climbed hills, etc., the belt was always in place with weapons at the ready. There were designs stitched into the belt which designated various campaigns in which the veteran had fought. Instead of campaign medals or ribbons, the soldier would weave into the belt something he had taken during the battle.

with truth... ALEITHEIA, refers to truth taught accurately. This is the belt of the Christian soldier.

and having on.. "having put on" the breastplate of righteousness.

the breastplate... THORAKA, [Engl. cognate "thorax"]. This was attached to the belt and provided protection for the upper torso, front and back.

In the ancient world, breastplates were of layers of cloth, sometimes with metal greaves attached. The Greeks introduced a bronze breastplate, with bronze plates covering vital areas or the torso, held together with leather or cloth connections. Some Samaritans noticed that horses' hooves, cattle horns, etc., were made of very hard material, so they began to use horn sewed to cloth to protect from blows.

The Romans had the ideas for armor design which provided light weight combined with ease of movement and protection from blows. The best type was called the thorax stadias, or "breastplate which stands by itself". This breastplate was attached to the belt by leather thongs passed through rings on the bottom to keep it solidly attached. It was anchored to the belt, and it was above the belt. Note: the belt had to be put on first, then the breastplate.

of righteousness... The righteousness of God is basic protection for the believer. The belt of truth

combined with the breastplate of righteousness is the basis for the edification of the Christian.

Eph. 4:12,16,29

Eph. 6:14 "Stand, therefore, having about your waist the equipment belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of divine righteousness;"

Ephesians 6:15

And your feet shod ... "to bind with sandals". The sandal was the GI boondocker for the Roman army. This is a reference to the foot soldier slogging it out. The infantryman fights with the least glamor and the highest casualties.

While the Greek soldier wore greaves to protect his ankles, the Roman soldier wore a heavy soled sandal which had metal studs on the bottom for good footing on uneven or slippery ground. This shoe was known in Latin as the caligula, so the foot soldier was called caligatus. Officers wore different footwear.

with the preparation of ETOIMASIA, refers to full preparedness, being able to march great distances in order, with others, and over a long period of time, to use weapons effectively.

the gospel of peace...we are to be ready at any time to minister the gospel. Note that all believers are included in this command. Every Christian is in full time Christian service, always on the front line.

Even a Christian who doesn't want to fight is in the conflict. A soldier may be untrained or in poor condition and drop beside the road before the enemy is reached. Or he may be killed in the first skirmish.

The primary thrust of evangelism is through the individual. There is a place for those with the spiritual gift of evangelism; but these men can reach only a specialized segment of the population. Individual believers circulate throughout the community in various functions. They have jobs; they belong to clubs; they have certain friends. The principle of witnessing for Christ is that you do it in your own environment.

Preparation implies the ability to fight. Preparation means flexibility and the ability to use God's Word in witnessing. Knowledge of the basic doctrines of salvation is necessary for witnessing (not salesmanship techniques). You need to know about Reconciliation, Propitiation, Redemption, Imputation, Regeneration, and The Barrier, as a

starter. You don't have your shoes on your feet without this preparation.

Notes on personal witnessing

- Witnessing for Christ is the responsibility of every believer. Acts 1:8; 1 Pet. 3:15; Mk. 5:18,19.
- The effectiveness and clarity of the believer's witnessing depends, in large measure, on his understanding of the Last Judgment. Sins will not be the issue! The only reason that a person will stand at the Last Judgment is that he rejected Christ during his lifetime. John 3:18; 3:36. All sins have been judged at the Cross, and there is no double jeopardy.
- The basis for the indictment of unbelievers is human good, not sins. The witnessing Christian must make the issue clear.
- Witnessing is impossible apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit. John 16:8-11. And the Holy Spirit must minister to the unbeliever to apply the doctrine of salvation.
- The context for witnessing is that part of the Word of God called the Gospel. 1 Cor. 1:18; Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12.
- The dynamics of witnessing depends on the believer's mental attitude. One cannot be an effective witness if he is ashamed of the Gospel, if he does not have the capacity to be occupied with Christ, or if he is not oriented to Grace.
- In Rom. 1:14-16, the apostle Paul says "I am debtor", "I am ready", and "I am not ashamed". A fisherman has a desire to fish. One is not a "fisher of men" without a desire to win souls.
- There are two sources for a Christian's witness: (1) the testimony of his life, 2 Cor. 3:3, and (2) the testimony of his lips, 2 Cor. 5:14-21.
- There is a reward for witnessing. 1 Cor. 3:11-16; 2 Cor. 5:10. Rewards in heaven are an extension of edification; the only things that are rewarded in heaven is what is done on the basis of Grace. Thus, every reward in heaven is an eternal memorial to the grace of God. Grace means that rewards do not reflect any personal glory or merit. It is the Lord who enables us to labor for Him and who provides the divine production in the life (gold, silver, and precious stones).

Eph. 6:15 "Having shod your feet by means of full preparedness in the good news of God's peace."

Ephesians 6:16

above all ...or, "in addition to all". This phrase does not mean that the following item of equipment is greater, but that it is simply to be added to the above.

taking ... aorist active participle of ANALAMBANO, "to pick up something, as from the ground, repeatedly". The main verb is "stand" in v. 14, so this action precedes the action of the main verb.

the shield of faith ...THUREOS.

The Romans had a long, rectangular, knees-to-chin shield which protected from arrows and spears and could be knelt behind during an arrow barrage. It was quite a bit heavier and clumsier than the smaller Greek circular shield; but there was a series of exercises, a manual of arms, designed to give the soldier flexibility and strength in the use of the shield. Groups of soldier who were besieging a town could form close together and hold their shields over their heads to make a huge testudo, or "turtle", to protect the group from missiles.

The Romans were known by some of their enemies as the soldiers who carried a "door" (thureos) into battle. The Franks of Cisalpine and Transalpine Gaul ridiculed these smaller men because of the great cumbersome shields they carried. But the barbarians were surprised in battle when the little Romans, with their great discipline, their consummate fighting skills, and their mental attitude of victory, wiped up the ground with the disorganized, vacillating Gauls.

In this verse, the Roman shield stands for the faith of the believer in the promises of God. The value of faith lies not in the person exercising it, but in the object. Faith is something that all people possess and use every day. It is a non-meritorious system of thinking and decision making. Most of what we learn, we learn by faith.

Topics: FAITH; FAITH-REST

wherewith ..."by means of which"

ye shall be able ...future active indicative of dunamai, a verb of ability or power. Implied in the future tense is that there will be a training period in the use of the shield before battle comes. In the Christian life, the training period is the time dur-

ing which promises and doctrines are learned and practiced.

to quench ... aorist active infinitive of SBEINUMI, "to extinguish, to break off, to chop off".

the fiery darts ... "missiles which have been set on fire", a reference to fire arrows.

Persians used fire arrows against the Greeks in the days of Xerxes. Herodotus makes reference to these in his description of the attack against the citadel at Athens, referring to arrows dipped in tar and set afire before shooting them.

Thucydides, in his book on the Peloponnesian wars describes the Spartans in the siege of Plataea, "The Plateans constructed a wooden frame which they set upon the top of their own wall opposite the mound (built by Spartans). [They were trying to outbuild each other to get the high angle of fire for their arrows.] They also constructed curtains of skins and hides to protect the front of the wooden platform. These were designed to protect the woodwork and the workers against the blazing arrows of the Spartans."

The Roman historian Livy, in his "History", described the siege of Saguntum in which the Saguntians had designed giant darts to be fired by a catapult. "There was used by the Saguntines a missile called follerica, with the shaft of a fir tree, and round in all its parts, except at the point from which the iron projected. This part, which was square, they bound with tow and smeared with pitch.

"But what caused the greatest fear with this weapon, even though it should stick in the shield and did not penetrate into the body, was that when it was discharged with the middle part on fire, it bore along a much greater flame produced by the mere motion, and obliged the soldier to drop his shield and expose himself."

of the wicked ... literally, "of the wicked one", the source of the fiery darts.

Eph. 6:16 "In addition to all this, having taken up the shield of the believer's faith, wherewith ye shall be able to extinguish or cut off the fire arrows of the wicked one."

Ephesians 6:17

and take ... "receive, (imperative), as an item of equipment"

the helmet of salvation ... the PERIKEPHALAIA, literally "something placed around the head", so, in the military, "helmet".

It is the soul which is said to be saved; and the soul is in the head (with its mentality, volition, self-consciousness, emotion, sin nature). So it appropriate that the helmet is used to represent salvation.

The Romans had the best helmet of the ancient world. Many other nations used helmets of cloth wrappings, animal hides or bones, or hooves, etc. The Roman helmet had chinstrap, visor, and came down to cover the back and sides of the neck. Officers' helmets had a ridge on top on which was mounted plumage or some sort of brush, depending on the rank.

The parts of the Roman helmet were: a lining of leather, softened for comfort and good fit; the helmet itself which was a bronze casque for the soldier, or iron alloy for officers; a metal crest for the plume; and a chinstrap. The highest ranking officers had gold and silver alloy helmets for parade dress.

The helmet represents many principles of doctrine associated with salvation.

Topic: Salvation Doctrines

and the sword of the Spirit ... the MACHAIRA mentioned before. The word machaira was chosen here, and in Heb. 4:12, by the Holy Spirit during inspiration.

There were many types of swords used in the ancient world:

The romphaia was a broadsword used mostly by the Gauls of Julius Caesar's time. It was used with both hands, was six to eight feet long, sometimes with one edge, sometimes two, and used to hack off limbs and heads. The "barbarian" soldiers made great slicing sweeps with the broadsword, leaving himself open for thrusts of the machaira.

The Persians used the zephos, a thrusting weapon with a point, rounded like a pencil, but with no cutting edge.

In the akinakes sword, the emphasis was on the handle and the ornate decoration. It was actually a dress sword and was not considered a serious combat weapon. The dolon was a sword hidden in a cane or riding crop and used mostly by assassins.

The machaira is described by Vegetius in his Military Instructions to the Romans. "They likewise taught not to cut, but to thrust, with the sword. For the Romans not only made jest of those who fought with the edge of a weapon, but always found them an easy conquest. A stroke with the edge, though made with ever so much force, seldom kills, as the vital parts of the body are defended both by bones and armor. On the contrary, a stab, although it penetrates only a few inches, is usually fatal. Besides, in the attitude of striking [with the broadsword], it is impossible to avoid exposing the right arm and side. On the other hand, the body is covered when a thrust is given, and the enemy receives the point before he sees the sword."

The user of the machaira is always covered, always protected, always on balance, and always ready for defense or attack.

of the Spirit, the Word of God..."the sword from the source of the Holy Spirit, namely, the Word of God.

Maturity and the ability to do God's work comes through years of study of God's Word and practice in using doctrinal principles. Following is a review of the doctrinal ideas found in:

2 Timothy 2:15.

Study ... from the Greek word spoudzo meaning "to be industrious, eager, to be diligent, to exert oneself". It has a stronger meaning than "study". It is actually a way of life which includes the proper mental attitude and motivation to learn Bible doctrine daily. This word could be translated "make every effort". And it is a command.

to show yourself or, "to make every effort to represent yourself...". It means to make every effort to concentrate, to be objective to doctrine. to give priority to the Word of God. The reason that you are entering the Lord's work is to live the life of Christ.

approved ... "to pass an exam". The emphasis is on success, not failure. To be a successful Christian worker, you must study (Test #1), and you must use what you study (Test #2). Can you teach to the glory of God? The test is on the accuracy of what you teach. Can you work to the Glory of God? The test comes when you apply, whether you use Grace or legalism, whether you depend upon man or God. Can you fix a car, iron a shirt, type a letter

to the glory of God? The test is on whether you know how to do this.

workman ... ergateis, an agricultural worker, a laborer, a routine worker. This word indicates one who is involved in the mundane, routine, ordinary, distasteful, or dull things in life. In the ancient world it meant feeding the cattle, working in the fields, cleaning out the barn, etc.

Any task can be done as unto the Lord; the Christian life is fantastic. The emphasis here is on doing small, routine things as unto the Lord. Stay in fellowship and wait for God's promotion.

needeth not to be ashamed ... literally, with the previous word, "a not-ashamed workman". You don't have to be ashamed of your station in life if you have an honest vocation. Every believer is in full time service. A Christian worker must keep grace oriented and not despise the ordinary things, or those who live an "ordinary" life. And he must have these qualities before moving out.

rightly dividing with the word of truth ... "to cut straight, to line out a straight path." Use Bible doctrine to keep from straying into the cults, into the movements, to stay with accurate interpretation and application of the Word of God. This enables a life with no detours, no hangups, no blind alleys. Therefore, the verse says, "Making every effort to represent yourself approved to God, an irreproachable worker cutting a straight path with the Word of Truth."

Eph. 6:17 "And receive the helmet of salvation, and the sword provided by the Holy Spirit, which is the Word of God."
