

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church

Ephesians Bible Study

Part 13

Ephesians 5:1-3(NRSV): 1 Therefore **be imitators of God**, as **beloved children**, 2 and **live in love**, as **Christ loved us** and **gave himself up** for us, a **fragrant offering** and **sacrifice** to God.

Tonight's Aim: To recap the 4 chapters of Ephesians and to introduce Chapter 5.

Ice Breaker: What are your Top 3 All Time Favorite TV Series?

Ephesians Summary (Chapters 1 thru 4):



The Apostle Paul writes this letter to the church at Ephesus to encourage new Christians in their faith walk with Jesus Christ. The Ephesian church was a church filled with both Jews and Gentiles, worshipping and comingling in ways that had never happened before. Persons from every social, economic, religious, and educational background were powerfully being converted by the witness of Jesus' follower's and were learning how to live in community together. If you can imagine this was certainly challenging for those whom shared vastly different world views, history, and social norms. It was also a time of Great Persecution for Christians, and to commit to Jesus was indeed a rejection of one's former life and all that came with it.

Chapter 1

Paul unpacks every Spiritual Blessing in the Heavenly Places for those who are believers in Jesus Christ. Paul talks about the good stuff of the gospel message in that every believer has access and should take advantage of.

- **Spiritual Blessings:**
 - Grace: Means “Divine Enablement” or “unmerited favor”.
 - Peace: Means a “Divine Contentment”
 - Election or The Idea of Being “Chosen”
 - Adoption: We now have a Father and a Spiritual Family
 - Inheritance (We Are Christ’s Inheritance and Have an Inheritance in Christ)
 - Redemption
 - To Have A Purpose: To be Holy, Blameless, Loving
 - Forgiveness
 - Revelation of the Mystery of His Will
 - Marked with a Seal of the Promised Holy Spirit.
- **Paul’s Prays for New Believers:**
 - Prayer of Thanksgiving
 - Prayer for Saints to receive Wisdom and Revelation
 - Prayer that Believers would uncover the Hope of Their Calling/Purpose
 - Prayer that Believers would uncover the greatness of God’s power that surpasses any and every power, and has a name greater than any other name that could be named.

Chapter 2

After revealing the Spiritual Blessings available to believers, Paul unpacks “The Past” of every believer. He shares that “All Believers” were “Dead in their Trespasses” in which we had once lived. Paul shares that before Christ, every one of us “followed the course of this world”, “followed the ruler of the power of the air” (The Devil), were “Disobedient”, “lived according to the passions of our flesh”, and were by nature “Children of Wrath”. Yet Paul introduces a “But God” moment, where God out of the richness of his mercy made those who believe alive together with Christ. This reminder was hugely significant for Paul because sometimes we as Christians have spiritual amnesia now that we have ascended and have become somebody in this Christian Life. Paul

wanted to remind them where they were before God's hand found them and gave them a second chance so as to keep everyone humble and on their knees knowing who is the source of their past deliverance and future blessings. He suggests that the same power that raised Jesus Christ up from the dead is the same power that allows for us to rise from our dead selves and dead circumstances. Paul offers this powerful statement that becomes a centerpiece of our faith. He shares that, "For by Grace we have been saved through faith". This is a truly foundational and important belief for every believer to remember, in that this salvific action of Jesus Christ dying on the cross and being resurrected from the dead cannot be earned, but only accepted as a free gift. Therefore Paul encourages that if God can reconcile humanity to himself, it is also true that God will bring together those people (Jews and Gentiles) who were at one time at odds with each other. So that whether they were "near" to God by reason of their birth (Jews) or "far off" (gentiles), God was bringing them together as one body in Christ.

Chapter 3

Paul reveals where he is writing this letter. He is in a jail cell. Many theologians suggest that he is awaiting execution. For when you think about it, it is difficult not to be amazed by the fact that Paul was thinking about others, and he was continuing to fulfill his divine purpose while his own life was in jeopardy. Paul speaks about his commission by God. He speaks about the job that God had sent him in the world to do. He was called to be an Apostle, not by the will of man but by God. An Apostle is someone who has been sent by God to declare a message and build churches. He did not walk with Jesus like the other disciples but was converted in the midst of doing the wrong thing. OH!! Paul had a past, and God stopped him from going the wrong way, and gave him an opportunity to choose the right path. He lets it be known that God revealed to him the mystery of the Gospel in that The Gentiles were to become "Fellow Heirs" and "Members of the Same Body", and "Sharers in the Promise of Christ Jesus". This was significant to this audience, because Jews were taught to believe that they were God's chosen people. And they were! However, they were not the only ones chosen. God was adopting new sons and daughters to this family of faith. This should teach us the importance of building our Christian Family, by welcoming others in our family of faith regardless of their background.

Paul also shares a very important statement about himself. He shares in verse 7, that he had become a servant. This is powerful for two reasons. First, it suggests a process. It suggests a time of evolution and growing in grace. It suggests to us that Paul wasn't always what he had become. This is called sanctification, which is largely different from salvation. Sanctification is the process of growing in grace to become more and more like Christ each day we live. For this declaration by Paul is a significant and especially humble one and I think he shares this so as to communicate to his audience that God's hand on us moves us from where we are to greater levels of spiritual maturity. It shares that we all should strive "To Become" and we are always in the process of "Becoming".

Secondly, he shares that he became a "Servant". This is important because he did not become a dictator, a ruler, or just some charismatic figure seeking to garner the love and devotion from the masses. No, for to Paul, the highest position in the kingdom is as a servant. Even Jesus by his own admission did not come to earth to be served but to serve. As a servant, his job was to help others to see God's plan and purpose for their lives. How amazing!! I suspect that that should be our highest aspiration as well.

Finally, in chapter 3, Paul prays again for the Ephesian Christians. But notice how he prays. In verse 14, Paul says "I Bow my Knees". I believe this teaches us that the right posture is important in prayer. Furthermore, I believe a physical bowing is important, but more than that, a spiritual posture is even more important. Bowing in prayer represents a humbling of oneself before an awesome and great God! Paul bows as he prays to ask God that the Ephesian Christians would have the following:

1. Be Strengthened In Their "Inner Being"
2. Be filled with Christ in Their Hearts Through Faith
3. Be Rooted and Grounded In Love
4. Be Aware of the fullness of God's Love. (Depth, Length, Breadth, Width)

Lastly, Paul pronounces a benediction, which is a blessing. Paul acknowledged, "Now unto him who is able to do exceeding, abundantly, above all that we can ask or think according to the power at work within us" (KJV). This blessing helps Christians focus on the power of God that is readily available for them to deal with life and accomplish anything.

Chapter 4

Paul now gets to the meat and potatoes of his letter. He says all of the previous stuff just so he could get the Ephesians to focus in on what was a very serious matter. Paul gets serious and begs the Ephesians to lead a life worthy of the calling to which they had been called. In effect, Paul was asking to put in practice what they had learned and had claimed to believe. This was a daily practice in commanding oneself to do those things you believe and have confessed should be done. So why is Paul begging? What's at stake? Paul is begging because lives are on the line, and their callings would be instrumental in bringing others who are lost to Jesus. But Paul says that he wanted them to be serious about their calling.

However, there was a certain way that he wanted them to go about their calling. I think he knew that we who are called and are gifted can go lacking in our soul winning because of our attitudes and approach to other people.

These are some of the attributes that Paul outlines that we should have:

- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Bearing with one another
- Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace

Paul also shares in this chapter that each of us had been given a measure of Christ's Gift. In other words, no one who has been saved is left without a gift to be used in his service. Are you aware of your gift? Are you using it? What has held you back? People? Failures? Fear?

Paul says, here are some of the gifts given by God:

- Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers

Here are some of the purposes for our gifts:

- To Equip the Saints for the Work of Ministry
- For the building up the Body of Christ
- So that all of us would come into the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God.
- To Help Each Other Mature

Paul's Warning:

- No longer live like you use to:
 - Like "Gentiles" in the Futility of Their Minds.
 - Darkened in their understanding
 - Alienated from the life of God because of ignorance and hardness of heart.
 - Lost sensitivity (No longer caring about anything or anyone)
 - Licentiousness (sexually unrestrained)
 - Greedy to practice every kind of impurity
- Put away your former life (Your Old Self)
- Be renewed by the Spirit of your Minds (It's always a mind thing, for wherever the mind goes so goes your actions)
- Clothes Yourself with "The New Self". (Walk IT OUT!!)
- Speak the Truth To Our Neighbors
- Speak what is only useful for building people up so that your words may give grace to those who hear them.
- Do not Grieve the Holy Spirit with your actions.
- Put away:
 - All Bitterness (Sour, Harsh, Disagreeable Attitudes)
 - Wrangling (To Argue or Dispute)
 - Slander (Defamation and False Statement)
 - Malice (Desire to inflict injury)
- Put On:
 - Kindness
 - Tenderness
 - Forgiving of one another as God has Forgiven Us.

Chapter 5

Paul offers the Ephesian Christians a model to emulate.

1. Be Imitators of God

- a. What does imitation look like?
 - i. To mimic another person's behavior and character
- b. Why is this exercise important?
- c. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Be imitators of me as I am of Christ".
- d. What actions of Christ should be imitated?

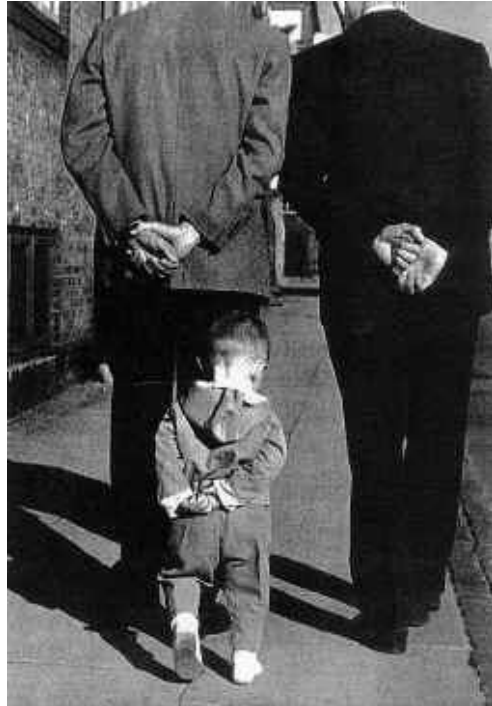
2. Paul say's Our Imitation should be like Beloved Children

- a. Why does Paul say that we should act like children?
- b. When a child knows they are loved by their parent, knowing that their parents are emotionally available to them they are open to be taught and directed.
- c. Children learn by imitation
- d. The young child's ability to **imitate** the actions of others is an **important** mechanism for social learning—that is, for acquiring new knowledge. The child's ability to **imitate** is also **important** for what it tells us about the knowledge that the child already has.
 - i. Ex. Child watches for how to eat, drink, behave, play, and social norms. Babies imitate facial expressions, sounds of what they hear. That's why we must be careful of what we say because a baby will repeat it.
- e. We learn by watching, and listening. When we learn a dance, a song, or learn how to play a sport. We do it by imitating those who know more than you.

3. Live in Love As Christ Loved Us

a. How did Christ love us?

- i.** Gave Himself Up For Us
- ii.** Paul said it was a fragrant Offering and Sacrifice to God.
- iii.** How are we supposed to live in Love?
- iv.** Do we give ourselves up for others?
 1. What does giving ourselves up for others look like in real life?



THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Ephesians 1 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Salutation

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful^(a) in Christ Jesus:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ^(a) before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,^(a) having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this^(a) is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Paul's Prayer

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love^(a) toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give Church Contribution to family of Iris Lowndesy you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God^(a) put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

From Death to Life

2 You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ^[a]—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

One in Christ

¹¹So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth,^[a] called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body^[a] through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.^[a] ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.^[a] ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually^[a] into a dwelling place for God.

Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

3 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner forⁱⁿ Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mysteryⁱⁿ was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone seeⁱⁿ what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages inⁱⁿ God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.ⁱⁿ ¹³I pray therefore that youⁱⁿ may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

Prayer for the Readers

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,ⁱⁿ ¹⁵from whom every familyⁱⁿ in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Unity in the Body of Christ

4 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended^(a) into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The Old Life and the New

¹⁷Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. ¹⁹They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰That is not the way you learned Christ! ²¹For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. ²²You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Rules for the New Life

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths,

but only what is useful for building up,²⁹ as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

5 ¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us³ and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Renounce Pagan Ways

³But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. ⁵Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷Therefore do not be associated with them. ⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Christian Household

²¹Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²²Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the

same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body.^(b) ³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³²This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. ³³Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Children and Parents

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord,^(a) for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—this is the first commandment with a promise: ³“so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

⁴And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Slaves and Masters

⁵Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ; ⁶not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. ⁷Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, ⁸knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord, whether we are slaves or free.

⁹And, masters, do the same to them. Stop threatening them, for you know that both of you have the same Master in heaven, and with him there is no partiality.

The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our^(b) struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these,^(a) take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,^(b) ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Personal Matters and Benediction

²¹ So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus will tell you everything. He is a dear brother and a faithful minister in the Lord. ²² I am sending him to you for this very purpose, to let you know how we are, and to encourage your hearts.

²³ Peace be to the whole community,^[a] and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.^[a]