

## Episode #1037 Ephesians 6 Part 4: Closing With Grace

I. In Ephesians 1-3, the Holy Spirit revealed to us all the glorious things that are true of us “in Christ.” Now, in Ephesians 4-6, we are told of the “worthy walk” that we should live in love and gratitude to God for the glorious position we have received.

II. In Ephesians 6:10-17, we saw our need to put on the armor of God in order to stand against the stratagems of Satan and his wicked lieutenants. The armor of God includes truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, the salvation-bringing message, and God’s utterances. It begins and ends with God’s Word, which we need in order to stand.

III. Ephesians 6:18-20. Prayer accompanies the armor.

- A. Even with the armor of God in place, we cannot stand without help from our Lord.
- B. Verse 18. Prayer has to do with speaking to God. Supplication is request or entreaty.
- C. We are to pray in every season, not just difficult ones, but also when all it going well.
- D. To pray in the Spirit is to pray according to how God would have us to pray. Use the Scriptures as a model. Pray in harmony with God’s current work.
- E. We should use our prayers to watch out for others. Do this with perseverance and also entreaty on behalf of all God’s set apart ones. We know we all need His help!
- F. Verse 19. Even Paul acknowledges that he needs prayer! If he did, certainly we do.
- G. Paul was not praying for riches or comfort, but for ability to express the truth as he longed to, and for boldness in making it known. We often need the same thing.
- H. He was making known the secret of the good message. Not just the good message of our salvation, but the good message of God’s current plan and work.
- I. Verse 20. Paul was bound as with a chain to the truth of the secret that had been revealed to him. He could not back out of it. He was conducting as it were an embassy on behalf of this truth. Many people, including believers, did not want this truth, so he needed prayer that he would speak it boldly, as he was required to do.

IV. Ephesians 6:21-22. Sending Tychicus.

- A. Verse 21. They care about Paul and are concerned with his affairs, as we might be if he was still living. Thus he is sending Tychicus to them.
  1. Tychicus (Fateful) was from Asia (Acts 20:4), where Ephesus was, so this is the only evidence outside the questionable words from verse 1 that the book might actually have been to Ephesus.
  2. Tychicus also carried Colossians (Colossians 4:7). He may have followed the book of Titus to Crete (Titus 3:12). Finally, Paul sent him to Ephesus (II Timothy 4:12). A hard job, since they had turned from him! (II Timothy 1:15)
  3. Paul describes Tychicus as a beloved (with *agape* love) brother and faithful servant in the Lord.
- B. Verse 22. Paul is sending Tychicus for two purposes.
  1. So that he can let them know about the affairs of Paul and his company.
  2. So that he can encourage (*parakaleo*) their hearts, that is, their inner beings.

V. Ephesians 6:23-24. Closing Words.

- A. Verse 23. Paul wishes peace (a true union with God) to the brothers, and love (*agape*, self-sacrificial love) with faith (belief) from God the Father, even the Lord Jesus Christ. Not two sources of love and faith, but one. The Father and Christ are one.
- B. Verse 24. Paul leaves us with grace, God’s love and favor bestowed without being earned or merited. He wishes this to all who are loving our Lord Jesus Christ. Are you

loving Him? But it is also important to love Him with incorruptibility. It is a sad thing when our love for Him can be corrupted. Let us not allow this to happen!

VI. Conclusion. Along with the armor of God, Paul urges us to pray and make requests to God, but do it in the Spirit. He asks for prayer for himself, so we should not be ashamed to ask for prayer as well. He wanted boldness to speak the truth, something we all need. He was sending Tychicus so they could know how he was doing. He leaves them with peace, love, and most of all grace. So the book closes. May we learn and live the great lessons of Ephesians!