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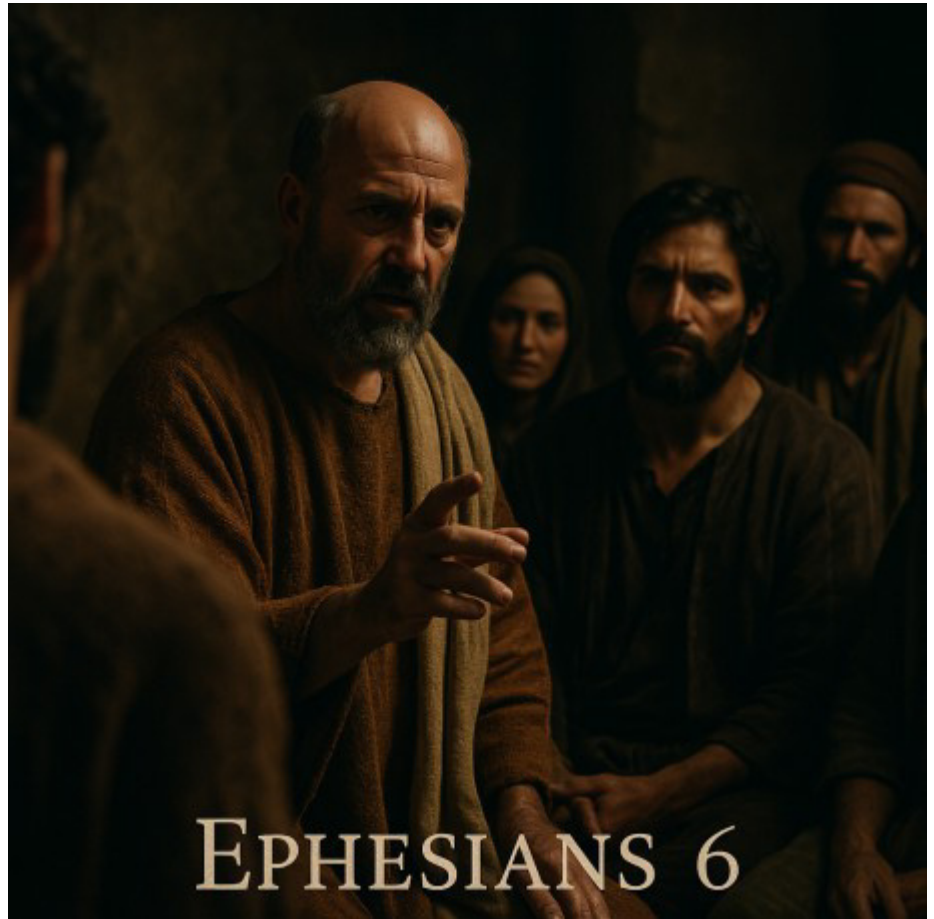
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Ephesians 6 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Ephesians 6

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may turn out well for you, and that you may live long on the earth.

† Paul roots obedience in the fifth commandment, linking the old covenant law to fulfilled life in Christ.

† Honoring parents is tied to blessing, showing God's design for

family order.

† Philo (On the Decalogue 106) affirmed the importance of honoring parents as the foundation of social stability.

Ephesians 6:4

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

† Fathers are called to nurture, not exasperate.

† Discipline and instruction must be in the Lord, not in human anger.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 21) exhorted parents to raise children in fear of God.

Ephesians 6:5-7

Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With goodwill render service, as to the Lord, and not to people.

† Paul exhorts servants to obey as to Christ, not only outwardly.

† Work is transformed into service to the Lord.

† Ignatius (Letter to Polycarp 4) urged servants to serve faithfully as serving God.

Ephesians 6:8

Knowing that whatever good thing each one does, he will receive this back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

† God rewards impartially, slave or free.

† Human distinctions do not limit Christ's justice.

Ephesians 6:9

And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in

heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

† Masters are reminded of accountability to Christ.

† God shows no partiality, and neither should they.

† Josephus (Antiquities 4.8.33) observed how Israel's law warned masters to treat servants fairly, showing Paul's alignment with God's justice.

Ephesians 6:10-11

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

† Strength is found in the Lord's might, not our own.

† The armor of God protects against spiritual schemes.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QM War Scroll 15.3-4) describe armor imagery for the sons of light, showing Paul's use of covenantal warfare language fulfilled in Christ.

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

† The true battle is spiritual, not merely physical.

† Christ already triumphed, and believers stand in His victory.

† Origen (On Prayer 29.17) taught that prayer and spiritual armor are necessary against unseen powers.

Ephesians 6:13

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

† The full armor is required for standing against evil.

† The evil day pointed to trials in the last days, but believers

now stand firm in the fulfilled kingdom.

Ephesians 6:14

Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.

† Truth and righteousness are central for protection.

† Isaiah 11:5 and 59:17 described God's armor, now given to believers in Christ.

Ephesians 6:15

And having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace.

† The gospel of peace readies believers to advance without fear.

† Unlike earthly armies, Christ's army advances with peace.

Ephesians 6:16

In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

† Faith shields against attacks of doubt and temptation.

† Flaming arrows represented spiritual assaults, now quenched by trust in God.

Ephesians 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

† Salvation guards the mind, and the word of God is the Spirit's weapon.

† Hebrews 4:12 calls the word living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.

Ephesians 6:18

With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit,

and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints.

† Prayer is the continual practice of the armed believer.

† Perseverance in prayer sustains the church.

† Tertullian (On Prayer 1) said prayer is the true weapon of the Christian.

Ephesians 6:19-20

And pray in my behalf, that speech may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

† Paul requests prayer for boldness, even in chains.

† His chains testify to the gospel's power.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Romans 4) saw chains as a crown of honor in Christ.

Ephesians 6:21-22

Now, so that you also may know about my circumstances, as to what I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will make everything known to you. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

† Paul entrusted Tychicus to carry news and encouragement.

† Fellowship and comfort are essential to the body of Christ.

Ephesians 6:23-24

Peace be to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

† Paul closes with peace, love, faith, and grace.

† Love must be incorruptible, enduring in Christ.

How it applies to us today

- † Ephesians 6 reminds us the true battle is spiritual, not fleshly.
- † The armor of God equips us to stand firm, with truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, the word, and prayer.
- † The fulfilled kingdom means we stand in Christ's victory, no longer enslaved to darkness, but equipped to walk in peace, love, and boldness.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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- † Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QM War Scroll 15.3-4 - armor imagery of sons of light
- † Origen, On Prayer 29.17 - prayer against spiritual powers
- † Isaiah 11:5, 59:17 - armor of God imagery
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