**Ephesians 6**

April 26-27, 2017

Read 6:1-9

Why does Paul discuss the relationship between children and parents and the relationship of slaves and masters here? How does this relate to the previous passage (Christ and the Church, Husbands and Wives)?

What is your relationship like between you and your parents? Is this passage difficult or easy to read and follow? What do you think it means to “obey your parents *in the Lord*”?

What are your feelings toward the verses about slaves and masters? Do you believe this condones slavery in terms of how we think of it?

*“The servants mentioned in this passage were bond servants, or slaves, not servants in the modern sense of the word. Slavery, with all its attendant evils, was universally accepted in ancient times. In fact, it was considered a fundamental institution, indispensable to civilized society. More than half the people seen on the streets of some of the great cities of the Roman world ere slaves. Doubtless, the early Christian churches numbered many slaves among their members.” -Vaughan*

What does Paul mean when he says in verse 9 “…*he who is both their Master and yours in in heaven*…”? In the context of that time, how would this be felt or understood (would it be a radical statement)?

Read 6:10-17

*Some commentators liken the Christian experience to life within a camp located in enemy territory. Within the camp the scene is one of loyalty, love, and fellowship. The ramparts, however cannot for a moment be left unwatched. The saint must never live and move unarmed. -Vaughan*

*Like a general giving instructions leading an army against the enemy, Paul issues commands and gives instruction. He mentioned the believer’s strength (vs.10,) his foe (vs. 12), and his protection (vss. 11, 13-17). -Vaughan*

Vs 10: What does it mean to be strong in the Lord? How do you view God’s mighty power? (It may be helpful to also look back at Ephesians 1:19.)

*To be strong in the Lord is to be joined to the strength that belongs to His might – Vaughan*

Vs 12: What are the battles that you are faced with (spiritual, emotional, etc.)? How do these effect your faith? What have you found is helpful to overcome and persevere through the battle?

Vs 12: Do you agree with what Paul says in verse 12 that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the forces of evil? What does this mean to you? What do you believe he speaking about?

Vs 13: What does it mean to put on *the full armor of God*? What does the armor of God protect you from? Have you seen this true in your own life?

Vs 13: Does the command to *put on the full armor of God*, encourage you or leave you uneasy because you do not know what it means or you it’s a struggle to trust in the “*full armor of God”*?

Verses 14-17 provides many different commands for how to step into this “battle.” Which of these commands stands out to you? Which ones may you be confused by or not understand? Which of these “tools” will you be focused on picking up as you go from here?

*Belt of Truth: Belt held the soldier’s tunic in place from which the sword was suspended.*

*Breastplate of Righteousness: Breastplate protected vital organs, guards the heart, without it left vulnerable.*

*Feet fitted with readiness that comes from gospel of peace: Readiness to serve God, quick to see your duty.*

*Shield of Faith: large oblong shield, behind it a man was fully protected.*

*Helmet of Salvation: in reference to a consciousness of salvation and the protection that the consciousness provides.*

*Sword of the Spirit: The only offensive weapon, but with it nothing else is needed.*

Read 6:18- 24

What does it mean to *“pray in the Spirit”?* Do you do this on “*all occasions”?*

Paul commands to *pray for all the Lords people,* is this something you do in your own life? Remember the context that Paul is explaining a spiritual war that is going on, therefore we must also pray for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. How does this help you understand Christian community better?

Name some people that you can be in prayer for, what specific things will you pray for?

Vs 20: Paul recognizes his calling that he should make the mystery of the gospel known and he should do it fearlessly. What do you see as your calling? Are you able to do this fearlessly? What may hold you back from living out your calling?

Conclusion

Review the book of Ephesians, what will you take away from this 7-week study? What is something you most vividly remember?

How has this changed your spiritual walk? Have there been specific areas where you have grown (prayer, encouragement of the church, staying strong in the faith, etc.)? What do you want to begin or continue growing in?