

# DEEP IN SCRIPTURE

*Verses & Notes June 4, 2008*

## *Ephesians 6: 10-20*

- 10: Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.
- 11: Put on the whole armor of God,  
that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- 12: For we are not contending against flesh and blood,  
but against the principalities, against the powers,  
against the world rulers of this present darkness,  
against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- 13: Therefore take the whole armor of God,  
that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,  
and having done all, to stand.
- 14: Stand therefore,  
having girded your loins with truth,  
and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,  
and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace;
- 15: besides all these, taking the shield of faith,  
with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.
- 16: And take the helmet of salvation,  
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
- 17: Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.  
To that end keep alert with all perseverance,  
making supplication for all the saints,  
and also for me,  
that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly  
to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,
- 18: for which I am an ambassador in chains;  
that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

**Introduction:** Have you ever played on a sports team? Football, baseball, soccer, volleyball, golf? Doing so is a lot of fun, it's great to be a part of a team, but yet doing so is not not easy. First you have to make the team, but once you accepted, you then need to learn the rules of the sport as well as the rules of the team, like obeying the coach and being at every practice. Eventually it's time to get out there and play the game, but to do this you need to know & understand your opponent and you need the right equipment, and this is equally true for Christians: we need to understand the battle and to have the necessary equipment. This is what we'll be discussing today on ***Deep in Scripture***.

### **House cleaning items...**

- Today's VERY SPECIAL Special: "***Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Galatians & Ephesians***"
- We want your input!!! Phone: On air phone number: **1-800-664-5110** Off air: **1-740-450-1175**  
Email: [marcus@deepinscripture.com](mailto:marcus@deepinscripture.com)  
Forum: <http://www.chnetwork.org/forums/forum51>

### **REVIEW: Today we're winding up our discussion of Ephesians (only two more weeks):**

- **Todays section, 6:10-20, is essentially a third part of Ephesians... Can best be understood in comparison to being a part of a sports team...**
  - Sports imagery was a favorite of St. Paul and other Early Christian writers;
  - **Being on a football team requires:**
    - Becoming a part of the team;
    - Learning what it takes to play the game & be a part of the team;
    - Preparing for the game (knowing your opponent & putting on your equipment).

- **The same is true for you & I, for all Christians:**
  - First, we become a member of the team, the Body of Christ:
    - Eph 1:13-14: *"In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."*
    - Through baptism we become a member of the Body of Christ...
    - This is essentially what Ephesians chapters 1-3 is about...
  - Second, we learn more about what it now means to be a member of the Church, what this requires of us, how we are to live...this is what Ephesians chapter 4-6 is about...
  - Third, there comes a time when we have to leave Liturgy and enter the battle...
    - We return to the world of friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, etc., where we are called to live out our faith---to fight the battle.
      - Where most Christians fail... "the great disconnect".
      - Last Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 7

*"Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.'"*
  - To do this we need:
    - To fully understand who our opponents truly are...and
    - We need to be prepared with the right equipment.
  - 6:10-20 is St. Paul's preparation for the newly baptized to fight the battle.

### St. Paul's final words of preparation for the battle:

- (1) BE \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ (6:10)

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might."  
(Prov 3:5,6; Zeph 4:6; Jn 15:5; Phil 4:13; 1 Jn 4:4)  
"Apart from me you can do nothing..."*
- (2) KNOW WHO THE TRUE ENEMY IS: \_\_\_\_\_ (6:11-12)
  - If we prepare for the wrong enemy, we'll fail...
  - The true enemy...

*"... against the wiles of the devil.  
For we are not contending against flesh and blood,  
but against the principalities, against the powers,  
against the world rulers of this present darkness,  
against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*
  - Three good reason to accept the existence of the devil:

Because \_\_\_\_\_ (Here, as well as 4:27)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 5:8,9)  
And \_\_\_\_\_ did! (Jn 8:44; Mt 4:1f)
- (3) DONT GO INTO BATTLE WITHOUT THE NECESSARY \_\_\_\_\_ (6:13-20)
  - TAKE THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ (6:11, 13a)

*"Put on ...take the whole armor of God ..."*

    - Not part, for we may find ourselves unprepared, but the WHOLE;
    - Not "our" armor, abilities, talents, etc., but God's!
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (14a)

*"...having girded your loins with truth..."*
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (14b)

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ (15)  
*"and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace"*
- \_\_\_\_\_ (16)  
*"besides all these, taking the shield of faith,  
with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one."*
- \_\_\_\_\_ (17a)  
*"And take the helmet of salvation..."*
- \_\_\_\_\_ (17b)  
*"and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*
- \_\_\_\_\_ (18a)  
*"Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication."*
- \_\_\_\_\_ (18b)  
*"To that end keep alert with all perseverance..."*
- \_\_\_\_\_ (18c)  
*"making supplication for all the saints..."*
- \_\_\_\_\_ (19-20)  
*"and also for me,  
that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly  
to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,  
for which I am an ambassador in chains;  
that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak."*

(4) WHY?! SO WE CAN \_\_\_\_\_ (6:11,13)  
*"Put on the whole armor of God  
that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil..."*  
*"Therefore take the whole armor of God,  
that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,  
and having done all, to stand."*