

DEEP IN SCRIPTURE

Verses & Notes June 11, 2008

Ephesians 6: 21-24

- 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,
- 18: 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.

- 21: Now that you also may know how I am and what I am doing,
Tych'icus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything.
- 22: I have sent him to you for this very purpose,
that you may know how we are,
and that he may encourage your hearts.
- 23: Peace be to the brethren,
and love with faith,
from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 24: Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love undying.

Introduction: Good Saint Paul, is in prison in chains for the faith. He's just dictated a message to the believers and newly baptized converts at Ephesus, to be read from the pulpit. He knows from personal experience the pressures these new Christians will face, especially there in Ephesus. He's racked his brain to explain how they are now to live together as new members of the Body of Christ, and he's prepared them for the battle. But now he's mentally exhausted, as all preachers are after exhorting their congregations, so he sits down on the prison floor, and speaks some tender more intimate final words to his friends, the leaders of the Church at Ephesus. 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"***
- This year starting in July has been dedicated to Saint Paul. So beginning in September, I'll

will be inviting a whole host of friends to join me each week on DIS to discuss their favorite verses from the Letters of Saint Paul, sometimes the “verses they never saw” which opened their hearts to the Catholic Faith.

- Until then, for the rest of the summer, the DIS program will be a more open-line format. Our discussions each week will focus on your questions about Scripture, about Bible study, about becoming more deep in Scripture.
- This is a live program, so we need to hear from you. We want to answer your questions, either by phone, email, text message, or from our discussion forum.
- Just to let you know: please don't hesitate to give us a call. You will not immediately be on air. All of our calls will be screened. When you call, a “live person”, as opposed to a recording, will answer your call, take down your information. Then if we want to use your question we'll call you back. Or you can merely give us your question & Jim & I will read & answer it on line.
 - **Phone: On air phone number: 1-800-664-5110 or 1-740-450-1175**
 - **Email: marcus@deepinscripture.com**
 - **Text message: 1-740-819-1020**
 - **Forum: <http://www.chnetwork.org/forums/forum51>**

REVIEW: Today we're finishing our discussion of Ephesians with section 6:21-24.

- Before we get to this, however, I think we need to spend a little more time discussing the armor for the battle we quickly went through last week... 6:10-20
 - Used imagery of being a part of a sports team... (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, through baptism;
 - Second, we 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.
 - To do this we need:
 - To fully understand who our opponents truly are...and
 - We need to be prepared with the right equipment.
- **St. Paul's final words of preparation for the battle:**
 1. BE **STRONG IN THE LORD** (6:10)
 2. KNOW WHO THE TRUE ENEMY IS: **THE DEVIL** (6:11-12)
 3. DONT GO INTO BATTLE WITHOUT THE NECESSARY **EQUIPMENT** (6:13-20)
 - TAKE THE **WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD** (6:11, 13a)
 - **TRUTH (14a)**
 - **RIGHTEOUSNESS (14b)**
 - **GOSPEL OF PEACE (15)**
 - **FAITH (16)**
 - **SALVATION (17a)**
 - **WORD OF GOD (17b)**
 - **PRAYER (18a)**

- **PERSEVERANCE (18b)**
 - **PRAYER FOR ONE ANOTHER(18c)**
 - **PRAYER FOR LEADERS (19-20)**
4. WHY?! SO WE CAN **STAND AGAINST THE ENEMY** (6:11,13)

BREAK

- **Further discussion with Jim**

As I mentioned in opening, I have a mental image of how I believe Saint Paul delivered these words:

- He was finished giving the newly baptized instructions; he'S done talking theology or discipline or details of preparing for fighting the battle of faith.
- Now he'S mentally exhausted, as all preachers are after exhorting their congregations. You can hear this in verses 19-20, as he closes his exhortation:

"pray ...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."
- Exhausted, he sits down on the prison floor, and begins talking personally to his old friends, elders, and bishops, whom he last saw on the shores of Ephesus (Acts 20:17-38). In his final speech, he had said:

"And now, behold, I know that all you among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom will see my face no more... Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers [episcopous], to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them."

In Ephesians, we believe he has been preaching through these overseers to the newly baptized Gentile believers; but now he turns his attention more personally to his friends in leadership.

- **He begins, (21-22)**

*"Now that you also may know how I am and what I am doing,
Tych'icus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything.
I have sent him to you for this very purpose,
that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.*

- The added term **"also"** may imply that his attention is now directed away from the homily to them more personally;
- **"Tychicus"**: a disciple from the province of Asia who sometimes accompanied him:
 - Acts 20:4,
*"Sop'ater of Beroe'a, the son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalo'nians, Aristar'chus and Secun'dus; and Ga'ius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, **Tych'icus** and Troph'imus."*
 - Colossians 4:7-9
"Tych'icus will tell you all about my affairs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister [diakonos] and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Ones'imus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of yourselves. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here."
 - 2 Timothy 4:12
"Tych'icus I have sent to Ephesus."

- **He continues, (23)**

*"Peace be to the brethren,
and love with faith,
from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

- **“to the brethren”**: this 3rd person reference implies that St. Paul is delivering his peace through the overseers to the Church;
- **“Peace”**: His “blessing;” Christ through his apostles through their disciples, etc., etc.
 - In Eph 1:2, he had extended this himself to the congregation:
“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - In John 14: 26-27, we find Jesus extending this to his Apostles:
“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”
 - In John 20:21-23, Jesus empowers his Apostles to extend this peace to others:
“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”
- **“love with faith”**: this phrase nowhere else in Scripture:
 - In 1 Tim 1:14, Saint Paul confesses his personal reception of this from Christ by grace:
*“...and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the **faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.**”*
 - In 1 Thess 5:8, St. Paul gives this in another listing of Godly armor:
“But, since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love...”
 - Especially in Galatians 5:6,
“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love.”
 - Most often a part of the triumverate of what became know as the Theological virtues, “faith, hope, and love.”
- **Finally, Saint Paul gives his final prayer for grace:**
 - As he nearly always does, but in this case, not just his usual “grace be to you,” but with a very unique and specific focus: (24)
 - “Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ **with love undying.** (RSV; NIV)*
 - “Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ **with a love incorruptible.**” (NASB)*
 - “Grace be with all, who love our Lord Jesus Christ **in sincerity.**” (DR & KJVersion)*
 - “Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ **in immortality.**” (NAB)*
 - **The criterium for receiving this grace: the need to continue, by grace, loving Christ!**