

A suggestion: At biblegateway.com, pull up Ephesians in the ESV and click the speaker icon at the top of the page. Max McLean will read it to you at no cost.

Wednesday, September 9

Ephesians 4–6 | *Read or listen — or both.*

Now it changes. “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called” (4:1). Everything that follows comes out of chapters 1–3; unity, honest speech, forgiveness, marriage, children, work. The commands depend upon the gift.

As you read, watch for where Paul ends. After the glorious truth and the transformed living, he does not close with a benediction and a warm handshake. He tells the church to put on armor.

Ask yourself: Why does a letter like this end like that?

Thursday, September 10

Isaiah 11:5; 52:7; 59:17 | *Three short stops.*

The armor in Ephesians 6 is not Paul’s illustration. He is reaching back to Isaiah.

Isaiah sees a coming King with righteousness as the belt of his waist and faithfulness the belt of his loins (11:5). He sees messengers running over the mountains with beautiful feet, bringing good news, publishing peace (52:7). And he sees the Lord himself dressing for battle: righteousness as a breastplate, a helmet of salvation on his head (59:17).

This is God’s armor. It is what he wears.

Meditate on this: If the armor belongs to God, then what Paul shows the church in Ephesians 6 is not equipment we manufacture or acquire. It is something we are given.

Friday, September 11

Ephesians 6:10–20 | *Read it slowly. Then read it again.*

This week you’ve read the whole letter. Now finally, the “finally”.

Two things to notice. First, the strength is not ours to summon: “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might” (v. 10). Whatever standing is, it does not begin with us doing it on our own.

Second, count how many times Paul says stand or withstand. He is not describing an advance or a retreat. He is describing a position held.

This Sunday we begin.

COLLEGE PARK CHURCH



AN EIGHT-WEEK SERIES

Ephesians 6:10–20

September 13 – November 1

Inside: why we open the Bible together, and five short readings to bring us to Sunday.

Why We Preach

We exist to glorify God by encouraging his people and sharing the good news. Let me briefly show you how preaching does all three.

In the 19th Psalm God reveals his glory in two ways. The heavens declare it without saying a word (Psalm 19:1-6). His word declares it and then transforms us; reviving the soul, making wise the simple, giving light to the eyes (Psalm 19:7-8).

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). We open the Bible together on Sunday because God speaks through his word and his word does not return empty (Isaiah 55:11).

Our prayer for the weeks ahead: that those who do not know Christ would come to know him as his word is proclaimed (Like Lydia, whose heart the Lord opened while she listened (Acts 16:14)). And that you, his people, would be encouraged, steadied, and eager to tell others what you have been given.

STAND

Ephesians 6:10-20

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.”

THREE REASONS FOR THIS SERIES

1. Finally (Ephesians 6:10) - Paul’s finally is more than a signal he’s done writing. This is a summary of everything Paul has taught in Ephesians. Ephesians gives us three chapters on what God has done and then three more on the life that proceeds from it. And at the very end, Paul makes sure we understand where all of this takes place. There is no neutral territory (6:11-12). Glorious truth and transformed lives run straight into opposition: from outside, from inside, from weariness, from distraction, from the steady accusations of the enemy. And then what? Stand. This is a passage about how God equips his people to hold their ground. You may already know what comes next from Sunday school, and you may have filed the armor of God away as a children’s illustration. We invite you to join us as we go deeper into this wonderful gift!

2. The armor is not Paul’s idea. It is God’s and he gives it to you.

Centuries before Ephesians, Isaiah saw the Lord himself dressed for battle: “He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head” (Isaiah 59:17). This is God’s own armor. In Ephesians it is worn by his people. That changes what we are looking at, it is not gear we assemble for ourselves! It is a gift received!

3. Where Paul was sitting when he wrote it.

Rome. Under guard in his first imprisonment, “with the soldier who guarded him” (Acts 28:16). Paul had the most formidable armor in the world a few feet away: belt, breastplate, boots, shield, helmet, sword. He looks at it, then looks at what God has given his church, and says: this is better.

This Week

Five short readings to bring us to Sunday

Monday, September 7

Psalm 19 | *Read the whole psalm.*

God speaks in two ways, and this psalm demonstrates them both.

First, he speaks to everyone. The heavens declare his glory without using a single word (vv. 1-4). No language, no voice, no place on earth outside the reach of it. Anyone who has ever looked up has been told something true about God.

But the sky cannot tell you his name. So God speaks a second time, in his word (vv. 7-11). Notice that this speech is active. It revives the soul. It makes the simple wise. It gives light to the eyes. The sky announces that God is glorious; Scripture tells us who he is and goes to work transforming us.

Today: You’ll likely be outside at some point. Look up. Take a moment and let creation do what David says it does. Then close the day with verse 14 as your prayer.

Tuesday, September 8

Ephesians 1-3 | *Read or listen — or both.*

Before we spend several weeks in twelve verses, it’s worth hearing the whole letter. Paul does not begin with what we must do. He begins with what God has already done: chosen, redeemed, forgiven, sealed, made alive, saved by grace, brought near, built together. Three chapters and the only command is remember (2:11).

Read it in one sitting if you can. It takes about ten minutes.