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Pendleton First

Opening: Paul finishes His letter to the Church at Ephesus by focusing their attention on the Power of God and revealing to them the true nature of the battles they find themselves in. Let us learn how to fight correctly and to win the battle.

Key Verse: Ephesians 6 1-24

1Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
2“Honor your father and mother” (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3“that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on the earth.”^a4Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath; instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. 5Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear and sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6And do this not only to please them while they are watching, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7Serve with good will, as to the Lord and not to men, 8because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.9And masters, do the same for your slaves. Give up your use of threats, because you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.10Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. 11Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this world’s darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.13Therefore take up the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you will be able to stand your ground, and having done everything, to stand. 14Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness arrayed, 15and with your feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace. 16In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times, with every kind of prayer and petition. To this end, stay alert with all perseverance in your prayers for all the saints. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will boldly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it fearlessly, as I should. 21 Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know about me and what I am doing. 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about us, and that he may encourage your hearts. 23 Peace to the brothers and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

1. Paul's encouragement to Children Ephesians 6:1-2

- a. Paul continues his encouragement to families, just prior to these verses he focused his attention on marriages, now He directs attention to Child/Parent relationship.
- b. Children should obey your parents
 - i. The child must obey their parents, how? By being in the Lord. Our strength to submit to authority comes from God.
 - ii. The healthy respect for God and His delegated authority will allow us to honor mankind
 - iii. Why? It is right, it is moral, and it is God's proper order for things.
 - iv. Unfortunately, society is trying to deter parents from leading their children and supplanting parental authority in leading their homes well.
 - v. Key Point: Parents, you alone have the sole responsibility before God to raise your children well, your children will submit to you as you love them well.
- c. Vs 2 Honor your parents so that you might be blessed. It's easy to honor your parents when they are terrific, but what if they are not good parents? Does honor have a limitation? The answer is it does not.
 - i. When we honor our parents, we are honoring God who gave them to us.

2. Paul's encouragement to Parents Ephesians 6:4

- a. How do we provoke our children to wrath? We are too harsh to them, too short with them and we do not show love and tenderness.
- b. What does Paul address Father's in this way? Because Father's are the head of the household and are called to lead in all matters including discipline.
 - i. I believe Paul knows that women are typically more tender to their children and the fathers are usually less sympathetic and more rigid toward their children. If that is, you please ask Jesus to give you grace and to soften your heart for your kids again.

3. Paul's encouragement to the oppressed workers Ephesians 6:5-9

- a. The term slaves means someone who is in forced labor.
 - i. Paul is not endorsing the form of servitude; the bible does not look favorably upon slavery.
 - ii. The slave and master have this in common, Jesus is Lord of them both.
 - iii. If the slave is called to submit to their master how much more the employee to their boss.
- b. Work as unto the Lord, knowing that God see's all things, He see's the quality on your heart in serving those God places you under. Serve as unto the Lord and not just men.
 - i. Vs 8. God will reward you no matter the circumstances that have led to your service. No matter the type of job, the tough situation you may find yourself in, continue to shine in your work with a heart of integrity and God will promote you.
- c. Paul warns masters to show treat there slaves correctly with a fear of God, knowing that God see's all actions and will right every wrong.
 - i. Is there a connection to modern day employment? Yes! Some of our bosses may not treat us well but the principle of honoring authority is still in effect, knowing God will bless the faithful servant.

4. **On Guard, put on the full armor Ephesians 6:10-18**

- a. Be strong in the Lord in His mighty power, the Christian is not reliant upon their own strength for success. You have a power source in God that is vastly superior to any adversary you will ever encounter!
- b. “The Devil’s Schemes” Satan is a dog on a leash but from time to time He will use deceptive lies to get the Christian to feel weak and helpless. Physically we are weak and helpless but spiritually we are mighty in God.
- c. Our struggle is not against another human being, it is against evil Spirit’s
 - i. Every town on planet earth has evil in it that is attached to wicked spirits that desire to lead people away from God. Your adversary can take over a human, but the human is simply the willing vessel. Imagine a parasite that feeds on its host for strength and power. Spirits are like parasites that dominate and destroy the body.
 - ii. These evil spirits are in “Heavenly Realms” They rule from the atmosphere above controlling whole regions. They have authority only for a limited time, or until they are supplanted by the Lord.
 - iii. God will eventually supplant all evil and corrupt spirits, and people who do their will and will replace them with His godly servants.
 - iv. The world is a dark place full of opportunities to slip up and trip up. Therefore be careful to keep your guard up spiritually speaking.
- d. **What armor is Paul talking about? The full armor of God is for the coming day of evil, and all of us will encounter these days.**
 - i. **The Belt of Truth:** You must know the truth that upholds all other spiritual disciplines
 - ii. **The Breastplate of righteousness:** You are the righteousness of God, let your heart be guarded by the truth so you will not fall into condemnation. Christ has paid your sin debt.

- iii. **The boots of the gospel of peace:** Nothing will move you when you settle in the peace of God. You have peace with God so you can walk in the Peace of God and be firmly footed.
- iv. **The Shield of faith:** Your faith extinguishes the lies of the enemy before they can take root.
- v. **The Helmet of Salvation:** Let your mind be covered with the covering of God's salvation, let your mind be confident of His work that has saved you, is saving you, and will save you.
- vi. **The Sword of the Spirit:** The offensive weapon we have is God's word, which is an active and sharp sword that has REAL power in the Spirit realm. The demon's tremble at the word of God.
- vii. **The Prayer of the Spirit:** Activate your spirit life by praying with all kinds of prayers and petitions. Pray in the natural and pray in the spirit. Ask God for all things big or small. **Pray for all the saints and also for every minister in service to Jesus, they need it.**

5. **Pray for Persecuted & Faithful Church Ephesians 6:18-20**

- a. Paul is writing the book of Ephesus while He is imprisoned for His faith. He nonetheless desires to preach the gospel with boldness.
 - i. Paul recognizes the source of His ministry is not in His intellect, or his natural strength but from the Holy Spirit's divine enablement.

6. **Final Greetings**

- a. As always Paul concludes His letters with instructions and encouragements and things to expect, with a few name drops for good measure. Declare Peace over God's people and Grace to those who truly love God. Let your blessing rest on them

Conclusion: The Apostle Paul reveals powerful truths in the book of Ephesians that encourage the believer in multiple ways, understand them, memorize them, live them and proclaim them and you will unlock the power of the truth to set you free.