

The background is a dramatic painting of ancient ruins, likely the Temple of Apollo in Side, Turkey, at sunset. The scene is dominated by dark, silhouetted columns and arches on the left, which frame a view of a distant city and a body of water. The sky is filled with soft, glowing clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue, suggesting the time is either dawn or dusk. The overall mood is contemplative and majestic.

EPHESIANS

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST



ARMOR OF GOD

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions

Protection from Confusion and Foolishness:
Turn your ear to Wisdom and apply your heart to Understanding. The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

Protection from Slander and Gossip:
Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs. Do everything without complaining or arguing.

Protection from Sin:
Above all else, guard your heart.

Protection from the Flesh:
I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live.

Protection from Anger:
In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down on your anger.

Protection from Anger, Pride, and Impatience:
clothe yourselves with

Protection from Pride:
Pride goes before destruction.

Protection from Laziness:
Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who

Protection from Division:
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit by the peace of the Word.

Protection from Fighting & Unforgiveness:
Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, through the Word.

Fruit of the Spirit:
live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

Protection from Deception:
See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Protection from Lust and Fornication:
Avoid sexual immorality; each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust. anyone who looks at a woman

Protection from Perversion:
Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl. take captive

Protection from Ungodliness:
say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

Protection from Greed:
Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. Do not

Protection from Revenge:
Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who persecute you.

Protection from Self-Righteousness:
Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Do not think of yourself more highly than you are.

Powerful Weapons: The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double edged sword. Resist the devil, and he will flee. Come near to God and He will come near to you.

Protection from Depression & Discouragement:
In this world you will have trouble, but don't worry; I have overcome the world. set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess. For

LOVE: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never

Standing FIRM

- Belt/Breastplate/Shoes – shield – 4 ½ x 2 foot
- Truth to protect the “innards” give strength
- Righteousness to protect the heart
- Peace gives your stable and firm footing
- Faith gives you ability to extinguish & see
- Salvation certainty to clear the mind
- Spirit Word to “discern” and pierce...



*PRAYER:
CLOTHED in
the FULL
ARMOR of
GOD*

Sword of the Spirit/Word

- “with all prayer and petition pray...”
- Why is this left out???
- The deadliest thing to our enemy...
- “the weakest saint upon his knees.”
- Not a left over, rather a final covering!




Proseuchomai

- To pray, most common & inclusive
- 85 x NT
- Addressed to Father or Jesus
- “Lord’s prayer” (Mt 6:9 ff; Lk 11:2 ff)
- Teaching to pray about His Name, Kingdom, will and all “our” needs.



Deomai

- To express a request
- 19x in NT
- ask for favor, grace
- 2 Cor 5:20 – “pleading”
- Luke 5:12,13 pleading people
- God is willing and able!



That saint who advances on
his knees never retreats...

Jim Elliot

quote fancy

When the enemy can

■ In the Spirit

- ◆ In the power of our relationship with God
- ◆ Guided and taught by His heart
- ◆ “Prayer crowns all lawful efforts with success, and gives a victory when nothing else would.” Barnes

Attitudes for “the Stand”

- Alert — watch with diligence, vigilant
- All perseverance — (1x) instant, steadfast
- All petition - *deesis* again — for all the saints
- The power of the church in intercession
- This is our weapon and rallying point

So why is it an issue?

- Why do we think this is unimportant...
 - ◆ It is what we look for when we are in trouble..
 - Or should
 - ◆ Do we give others prayer needs our attention?
 - ◆ Would we be aware of the “real” battle?
 - ◆ Would this make each victory sweeter?
 - ◆ Would this serve and encouragement for us?

Salvation's Defense

- Sitting in a Roman prison the whole time...
 - ◆ Prisoner of Christ (3:1)
 - ◆ First mention of his own needs
- Pray that he will have boldness (*parrhesia*)
- The Gospel still central, not his defense...
 - ◆ What are we 'bold' about?

The messenger

- Tychius sent as the fill in...
 - ◆ Acts 20:4; Co 4:7; 1Ti 3:12; 2Ti 4:12
 - ◆ Beloved brother
 - ◆ faithful minister in the Lord
 - ◆ Comfort your hearts
- He blesses them with 'incorruptible'...