

## THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

### Lesson 23, The Study

The Church AS the Army of Christ 6:13-24

P-3 The Army Has Its Own Offense to Mount 6:13-18

P-4 The Army Must Recognize Its Oversight 6:19-24

J. Deering, [AncientPath.net](http://AncientPath.net)

### REVIEW

#### GOD'S SPECIAL SECRET<sup>1</sup> LESSON TWENTY-TWO 6:1-12

- I. CHAPTER 1 – The Church AS The Body of Christ
- II. CHAPTER 2 – The Church AS The Temple of Christ
- III. CHAPTER 3 - The Church AS God's Top Secret
- IV. CHAPTER 4 – The Church AS The New Mankind
- V. CHAPTER 5 - The Church AS The Bride Of Christ
- VI. **The Church AS the Army of Christ P-1 & 2**
  - A. P-1, The Roles Planned in His Army 6:1-9**
  - B. P-2, The Army is Opposed by Satan 6:10-12**

### THE COMMENTARY

In our last lesson Paul took us into the world of the Military as "The Church AS the Army of Christ." The study broke down into two basic ingredients – Our Orders for performance and our orders on how to deal with our Opposition. Paul breaks this army's Orders down into **four metaphors**.

**First**, he addresses the need for obedience through the image of Children. In this way he brings the issue of obedience into focus.

---

<sup>1</sup> God's Special Secret, Copyright 1993 by Douglas B. MacCorkle. Printed and bound in the United States of America. Published by the not-for-profit MacCorkle bible Ministries, Inc. Books, P.O. Box 320909, Cocoa Beach, Fl. 32932

Paul uses this imagery like Jesus did in many of His parables – telling truths through seemingly unrelated imagery. Once you begin to see the deeper ideas, you catch onto His message. “Children,” those of us who are “younger in the Lord.” “You, obey your parents in the Lord.” The plan and program for the Church includes leadership. The Words of our Lord, the Leading of His Spirit, the teaching of the Apostles and Prophets, the Evangelists who bring growth, and the Pastor/Teachers who bring spiritual growth. Those are the “Parents in the Lord.”

**Second,** Orders for those who must lead – they are to do so without “provoking” those under them to anger. Their focus should always be the Discipline and Instruction of the Lord. In that process our leadership needs to work with their charges the way that The Lord leads and guides us – through patience, and Godly love

**Third,** Orders for those who are under Service for the Lord. Here the central theme is that of a “Bondservant.” This is one who serves, not out of obligation, but out of love and personal dedication – “Doing the will of God from the heart.”

**And Fourth,** Orders for those who are those who’s responsibilities put them near the top of the “food-chain.” Leading from the top requires an absolute resolution to be “obligated” to lead in a “Godly manner,” and not in any form of a “threatening” manner. We are to “Lead like Him,” “Teach like Him,” and “Love like Him,” in each of our responsibilities as His Army.

---

**LESSON TWENTY-THREE 6:13-24**  
**The Church AS the Army of Christ P-3 & 4**  
**GOD'S SPECIAL SECRET**

**INTRODUCTION**

**VI. CHAPTER 6 – The Church AS the Army of Christ 6:1-24**

- A. P-1, The Orders Planned for His Army 6:1-9
- B. P-2, The Army is Opposed by Satan 6:10-12
- C. **P-3, The Church's Offense Indicated 6:13-18**  
**(This is an Offensive not a Defensive)**
  - 1. **The Army Has Its Own Offense to Mount 6:13-15**
    - a. **Full and Foolproof Armor 6:13**
      - (1.) Capacity to withstand
      - (2.) Things Necessary
      - (3.) Stand Firm
    - b. **Soldiers Weapons 6:14-15**
      - (1.) Stand Firm
      - (2.) Belt
      - (3.) Breastplate
      - (4.) Foothold
      - (5.) Peace
  - 2. **The Church's Call to Spiritual Arms 6:16-18**
    - a. **Take up the Shield of Faith 6:16**
      - (1.) Equipped
    - b. **Salvation's helmet & the Word of God 6:17**
      - (1.) The Helmet
      - (2.) The Salvation Minded
      - (3.) The Spirit's Sword
    - c. **Prayer is the Undergirding weapon 6:18**
      - (1.) The Contest
      - (2.) Watch
      - (3.) Pray
      - (4.) The Seasons

- D. P-4, The Church's Oversight Included 6:19-24  
(The Army Must Recognize Its oversight)**
- 1. Oversight at the Apostolic Level 6:19-20**
    - a. Prayers for Paul**
    - b. The Sacred Secret Springs from the Gospel**
  - 2. Oversight at the Sub-Apostolic Level 6:21-22**
    - a. Tychicus**
    - b. The Possible Purpose**
  - 3. Oversight at the Supportive Level 6:23-24**
    - a. Peace**
    - b. Godly Love**
    - c. Faith**
    - d. Love the Lord Jesus – in Immortality**

### **THE COMMENTARY**

The outline is extensive this time as in this introduction we will not be looking at the actual scriptures but instead, looking at the in-depth outline. As you read down through it please focus upon each outline section and, remembering the book so far, think ahead to the possible meanings in the outline. This is the end of the closing chapter of the book of Ephesians. We've had 22 in-depth lessons over this book of the Bible. We've learned much together. Now focus upon Paul's ending of the book.

Paul has been writing to them explaining their role in fulfilling the Gospel in the matters of the calling and benefits of this new (exposed secret) body of "set-apart" believers. A totally new way in the world of making the effort to get as many people of the world set forth into the Kingdom of God – forever. Many believers have not been exposed to the depth of Paul's teaching – in not just Ephesians... but all of his writings. He was the "Apostle called personally by Christ Jesus" to begin this task of setting up churches (assemblies) of God's believing children – Man, Woman, Boy, Girl, who are "in Jesus Christ."

Now as we enter the end of this set of lessons, may we prayerfully seek to fully understand Paul's teaching about the Church's mission in the world today. The end is coming. There are hundreds of millions of people still in the world who have not heard the Gospel. This book, and especially this chapter can make us READY for His task at hand... Bringing "those who will" to the Lord Jesus Christ in our time.

---

**THE STUDY – 6:13-15**  
**LESSON TWENTY-TWO**  
**“The Church’s Offense Indicated”**  
**“The Army Has Its Own Offense to Mount”**  
**GOD’S SPECIAL SECRET**

- C. P-3, The Church’s Offense Indicated 6:13-18**
- 1. The Army Has Its Own Offense to Mount 6:13-15**
  - a. Full and Foolproof Armor 6:13**
    - (1.) Capacity to withstand**
    - (2.) Things Necessary**
    - (3.) Stand Firm**
  - b. Soldiers Weapons 6:14-15**
    - (1.) Stand Firm**
    - (2.) Belt**
    - (3.) Breastplate**
    - (4.) Foothold**
    - (5.) Peace**

**6:13-15 [Mac]**

**13** *On account of this confrontation, take up the complete armor God provides so that you might have the capacity to withstand in the evil day, and having done all necessary things to stand firm.*

**14** *Stand firm then, belted about your waist with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with readiness to go with the good news about peace.*

**6:13-15 [NASB]**

**13** *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **14** Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

## THE COMMENTARY

Let's take the MacCorkle outline for this part and intermix it right with both of our texts so we can see the dynamic of Paul's thoughts.

Right away we're told that verses 6:10-12, from our last study, hold the key as our verse 13 begins with, **"Therefore," or "On account of this confrontation..."**

**10** Finally, allow the Lord to empower you constantly in Himself with the full force of His strength. **11** Put on the complete armor that God provides so that you may be able to stand successfully against the strategies of the devil. **12** This is necessary because our wrestling match is not with flesh and blood. It is rather with the rulers, with the authorities, with the world-rulers of this spiritual darkness, with the deadly evil spiritual forces in the heavenly places.

### 6:13-15 [Mac]

**1. The Army (the church) has its own offense to Mount – Therefore: Each of us needs:**

**a. Put on A Full and Foolproof Armor.**

**(1.) First, is the Capacity to withstand the Offense / Defense.**

**13** On account of this confrontation, [you] need to take up the complete and full armor that God provides so that you will have the ability and capacity to withstand the schemes of the devil in that day,

Our fight is not with another person or neighbor. Our fight is against well-thought-out designs and ideas of the evil one that are implemented against us and our attempts to lead those around us to Jesus Christ as their savior. The Holy Spirit, through Paul's writings, gives us the tools to accomplish this.

*"[You] Take up the complete armor **God provides** so that you will have the capacity to **withstand** the evil, in the evil day, and [will have already] done all the necessary things to stand firm against him."*

Do you see the two emphasized words here? The armor that you need... **God provides** it. How can you **withstand** the evil on in the evil day? By being prepared in advance. He then immediately goes on with "Stand firm then." Paul is addressing this new church work in Ephesus. Most of them have never been exposed to good Biblical teaching and Paul is saying that the tools are right here in the Bible and in the Indwelling Holy Spiit, **so use them, and stand firm. "Therefore, take up the complete armor God provides!"** We'll see each item used in the metaphor of a soldier's armor.

**(2.) Then check yourself to make sure you have done all the necessary preliminary things.**

*and having acquired all necessary armaments,*

**(3.) As a result then, you will be able to Stand Firm.**

*Stand firm,*

**b. The List of your necessary armaments:**

**(1.) Stand Firm then!**

**14 Stand Firm Then,**

**First on the list, [14] "Stand Firm then, having girded your loins with truth" / "Belted about your waist with truth."**

Where do you find the Truth?" You find it in the Bible. Where do you find it in the Bible? Everywhere! If you're new to all this, head to the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – especially John if you're looking for the truth about Jesus' love for each and every one of us and how to live according to that truth. Then there's the Psalms, Proverbs, Job. Every book has mountains of

helpful information for righteously defending against the evil one with God's Truth.

**(3.) The Breastplate of Righteousness**

*having [already] put on the breastplate of righteousness,*

**Second** on Paul's list is "***having [already] put on the breastplate of righteousness.***" Again, it's important to see that you are to do this before "Standing Firm" against the evil one. Hidden in Paul's words is the fact that you don't have any righteousness... unless you are already In Christ!. Once you are there... then your breastplate of righteousness protects you from those things that get past your shield (your shield of Faith, more about this in a moment). These make your bodily protection adequately covered. But, what else does this mean? God cannot, will not, protect you if you attempt to fight using unrighteousness as your defense. He is holy and just. He can have no part in lies, and any other actions that He does not use Himself. Stand Firm in righteousness when working to bring salvation to others – and He will be right there with you.

**(4.) Having a firm foothold on each situation  
making you ready to go into battle**

**15** *and having shod your feet with readiness to go*

**Third, [15]** *"having shod your feet with readiness to go with the good news about peace."*

Here's just a little story about myself and my introduction to my feet being ready to go: My teenage and young adult life did not prove me to be an especially good boy. In my mid-twenties I went to work as a radio engineer with a New England evangelist – I wasn't saved at the time. About a year after I was introduced to the Gospel, and I had received Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I took my mom and dad to a Gospel picnic out on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. It was sponsored by an evangelist and bible teacher named John DeBrine. After we all had finished our meals, John gave a brief gospel message and did a simple "altar call." I

turned to my parents and did the normal, "Would you like to go forward and receive Jesus, I'll go with you," They both turned to me and said, "Yes." I was astounded and over-joyed. I had been brought up in an unbelieving church. I got saved when I was about 24. My life was, quite often, just a mess – a fairly regular situation for an unsaved young guy in the 1960s. There I was, saved, standing with my mom and Dad, just saved, and I said, out loud... "Why now?" And they replied, "Because of all the changes in your life since you met Jesus."

So there you have it. How did these two people in their late 50s and 60s find and receive The Christ? By the Christian changed life of a son being fitted with The Breastplate of righteousness and feet ready to go and do the work of The Lord.

**(5.) *With the inner Peace of Christ's  
accompaniment***  
*with the good news about peace.*

And also, relating to this little story, is verse 15.

*15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of  
the gospel of peace;*

You see, they were at the picnic because I brought them there. **My feet were "were shod** with the readiness to go with the good news about peace" – Jesus. Now this was just a little story from my past. It would be exciting if you also have a little story about being ready - at the right time - to share Jesus with another... with success.

So there it is, are you "belted with truth," "protected with the breastplate of righteousness", and are your "feet shod with the gospel?" For those are the Keys to winning over the evil one's grasp on those who need Jesus.



**THE STUDY – 6:16-18**  
**LESSON TWENTY-TWO**  
**“The Church’s Offense Indicated”**  
**“The Church’s Call to Spiritual Arms”**  
**GOD’S SPECIAL SECRET**

2. **The Church’s Call to Spiritual Arms 6:16-18**
  - a. **Take up the Shield of Faith 6:16**
    - (1.) **Equipped**
  - b. **Salvation’s helmet & the Word of God 6:17**
    - (1.) **The Helmet**
    - (2.) **The Salvation Minded**
    - (3.) **The Spirit’s Sword**
  - c. **Prayer is the Undergirding weapon 6:18**
    - (1.) **The Contest**
    - (2.) **Watch**
    - (3.) **Pray**
    - (4.) **The Seasons**

**6:16-18 [Mac]**

**16** *In addition to these three,*

**when** *you have taken up the shield, which is the faith.*

*You will be equipped to extinguish all the blazing arrows of the wicked one.*

**17** *Take up, also, salvation's helmet, and the Spirit's sword, which is the spoken Word of God.*

**18** *Throughout the entire contest*  
*pray*

*through the Spirit*

*in all seasons*

*with all prayer and petition.*

*With respect to this praying*

*watch persistently,*

*praying for all the other soldiers.*

**6:16-18 [NASB]**

*"16 In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,"*

**THE COMMENTARY**

So now you are in your Bible and you know the Truth. You have acquired the primary armor that is necessary for holding your position in this battle. You have changed your life into conformity with righteousness, and you are eager to engage people with the Gospel. Now, be ready for the attacks against you.

So we move on to the necessary defensive and aggressive weapons you need as a soldier of Christ. This part of the outline moves on to:

**2. The Church's Call to Spiritual Arms 6:16-18****a. Take Up The Shield of Faith 6:16****(1.) Be Equipped**

6:16-18 [Mac]

*16 In addition to these three, when you have taken up the shield, which is the faith. You will be equipped to extinguish all the blazing arrows of the wicked one.*

In this paragraph, Paul first talks about "Faith." It is your "shield." In today's world – you need a shield, you need to be equipped with a strong shield – and your best and strongest shield is your faith. I don't mean "what you believe, or what the name of your church organization is," as in "What is your faith?" I mean, "where does your heart stand as to holding to the truth of the Scriptures?" When "push comes to shove," do you believe what the Bible says?" Can you reliably stand behind what Jesus has to

say in the gospels about how to live and act in this world? Is your "Faith" such that you can reliably stand behind, support, fight for God's Word, and not yield when forces come against you in spiritual warfare? That is the purpose and strength of your FAITH. If you can't then there is no faith. Biblical faith – withstands and extinguishes the "Blazing arrows of the wicked one."

You will probably remember all those movies where the enemy comes on horseback and surrounds a community of villagers and before they pillage and capture all the young women, and do away with all the men and old women and children... they shoot flaming arrows in to the barns and homes and burn them all down into the ground. That's what the enemy does. Burn everything that has value and meaning... leaving only the people behind.

So it is important to be ready to shield yourself from the evil one's flaming arrows. The Holy Spirit says through Paul's words that you must "Take Up" the Shield of Faith and be equipped.

Paul talks a great deal about faith in his letters. Faith and Hope go together. Where the faith is strong... so is the Hope. Where there is Hope, it means that the Faith has been made strong. Your Faith is your shield against the evil one. When you look at or read about today's news around the world, especially in those places where non-Christian religions are battling and often killing Christians – It is the believer's Faith that shields them from destruction – "You can take my life, but you can't take my Faith in Jesus Christ – He alone is my Faith and my Hope." Be Equipped... Take up your Shield of Faith.

**b. Salvation's helmet & the Word of God 6:17  
(1.) The Helmet**

*17 Take up, also, salvation's helmet,*

I find it interesting that Paul relates salvation with your head (the place for your helmet). Salvation is your **knowing** that Jesus is your savior God and that you are safe and secure (no matter what) because you are In-Christ. As a result of knowing this, your mind is protected, and you **know it**. This inner "head-knowledge" protects you. God created you with five senses (remember high-school physiology? Touch, Taste, Smell, Sound (Hearing), Sight. These last two are primary in the adventure of Faith. This is why these lessons are gone over in class – Word-for-word, along with a written script for each member of the class. You SEE the words and HEAR the narration of the script. Your brain experiences two different ways of experiencing God's Word. And then there is the influence and teaching of God's Holy Spirit living and indwelling inside your body – Talking to your brain. Look at all the inputs God has put in place to learn His Word. The Pastor-Teacher, the visualized Script. The audible Script, The input of the Holy Spirit, the comments from your co-students. In it all goes into your brain and becomes your Faith in your Salvation which continually renews your Hope. And Paul tells us that this is your "Helmet." All these inputs give to you your Spiritual armament for your head and your mind.

Then there is "The Spoken Word of God." My favorite image here is Jesus in the Garden on the night before Calvary, John 18:4-6, and Jesus said, "Whom do you seek?" And they answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene," and He replied... **"I Am He!"** **"They drew back and fell to the ground."** This just demonstrates the power of the Word of God. When you speak the Word of God it comes forth with Power. It changes people – sometimes immediately. The Word of God is HIS Word – and He makes it powerful.

**(2.) Then there is the necessary being  
"Salvation Minded"**

(again) 17 *Take up, also, salvation's helmet,*

It is essential to remain on target with your warfare. The salvation of the person(s) you are speaking with. Watch out for the evil one's tactics of leading a conversation on to other subjects. BE Salvation Minded, and remember to use...

**(3.) The Spirit's Sword**

*and the Spirit's sword, which is the spoken Word of God.*

"The Spirit's Sword," The very Word of God. If you can... memorize specific texts to use in your Salvation battles. You must remember that the Holy Spirit is both resident in you – and at least visiting in the person with whom you are ministering. The Spirit of God is there with you both – speaking to you both. Learn to listen to Him and follow His direction in your conversations. He is trying to lead you both to the same conclusion – That Jesus is the very Son of God and that He gave His life willingly to offer Salvation and freedom from Sin for all of eternity – for simply coming to the conclusion that He is who He says He is, and His offer is the truth.

**c. Prayer is the Undergirding Weapon 6:18**

*18 Throughout the entire contest*

*pray*

*through the Spirit*

*in all seasons*

*with all prayer and petition.*

*With respect to this praying*

*watch persistently,*

*praying for all the other soldiers.*

And finally at the end of this paragraph is the need to apply prayer, At All Times, At All Times In The Spirit. Prayer isn't real prayer if you don't really mean what you pray. So often, many just go over their list with little or no thought about the actual

situation involved in the need for prayer. NO, think it through, pray to and in the Spirit of God. If you have the feelings and not the words – He will supply the words to the Heavenly Father for you – but Pray, Pray with your heart and mind for the Will of the Father to be done – for the will of the Father is that none should be lost.

**6:18 [NASB]**

*With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and **petition** for all the saints,”*

In closing Paul uses the word “Petition.” If you KNOW what you are praying for is God’s will... don’t be afraid to push the limits about how much you want His will to be done. **Petition Him.** He is waiting for you to be deeply committed to the things on your prayer list (you do have one, right?). And don’t forget that Paul’s intention here is that your Petition to God should be on behalf of all your companion soldiers who are battling along side you for the souls of friends, family, neighbors and all those around the whole world.

Just before this as Paul was wrapping up the “Army’s armor,” I remembered reading in the works of John Nelson Darby as he was talking about the Sword as The Word of God.

*“The sword is also used actively in the spiritual warfare, in which it judges all that is opposed to us. In this sense it is both defensive and offensive. But, behind all this armor, there is a state, a disposition, a means of strength, which quickens and gives us all the rest its power: this is a complete dependence on God, united to trust in Him, which expresses itself in prayer. Praying always;’ this dependence must be constant.”<sup>2</sup>*

---

<sup>2</sup> John Nelson Darby (1800-1882), Synopsis of the Books of the Bible, “Ephesians,” Translated - L. Hodgett 1995

**THE STUDY – 6:19-20**  
**LESSON TWENTY-TWO**  
**“The Church’s Oversight Included”**  
**“Oversight at the Apostolic Level”**  
**GOD’S SPECIAL SECRET**

**VI. CHAPTER 6 – The Church AS the Army of Christ**

- A. P-1, The Orders Planned for His Army 6:1-9
- B. P-2, The Army is Opposed by Satan 6:10-12
- C. P-3, The Church’s Offense Indicated 6:13-18
- D. P-4, The Church’s Oversight Included 6:19-24**  
**(The Army Must Recognize Its oversight)**
  - 1. Oversight at the Apostolic Level 6:19-20**
    - a. Prayers for Paul**
    - b. The Sacred Secret Springs from the Gospel**

**6:19-20 [Mac]**

*Pray on my behalf also that when I open my mouth, He might give me the opportunity for a message so that I may fearlessly make known the open sacred secret springing from the good news. 20 It is on behalf of this that I am ambassador in a chain, so that I may speak boldly about that secret, as I must.*

**6:19-20 [NASB]**

*and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

**THE COMMENTARY**

So, here we are closing the last verses of Paul’s “God’s Special Secret,” the beginnings of Christ’s assembly of “Set apart People,” His Church, His Bride, His Army. As we move into words about Paul’s life, let us remember this really great man of God who came out of the enemy’s army – at the behest of Christ Himself - to become “The Apostle to the Gentiles.” It was Paul who was chosen to give the “Push Start” to this then New vehicle

to become known as the Church. That Push Start became the driving force to this body of believers who will go on into Eternity as the very Children Of Almighty God, the adopted Brothers and Sisters of Jesus Christ – to enjoy Him forever.

Doug MacCorkle's outline gives us two segments from these two verses, but they can't be separated from each other. Paul is asking the whole church at Ephesus to pray for Him – That "When I open my mouth," it would always and totally be about establishing this new "secret" the establishment of the "Body of Christ."

He is, at the time of this writing, in prison in Rome. He will eventually be sentenced to death while in prison as well. He is asking that he may Fearlessly press forward with the establishment of Christ's Church body. He desperately wants prayer support so that, as we now know, millions upon millions of people will go on to Heaven with Jesus as their Savior... because of His efforts two thousand years ago.

He is not ashamed that he is "an Ambassador in Chains" on this assignment directly from Jesus. He asks all of his spiritual children in his time to pray so that this new "Secret" will be established as "The Body of Christ."

---

**THE STUDY – 6:21-22**  
**LESSON TWENTY-TWO**  
**"The Church's Oversight Included"**  
**"Oversight at the Sub-Apostolic Level"**  
**GOD'S SPECIAL SECRET**

- VI. CHAPTER 6 – The Church AS the Army of Christ**
- A. P-1, The Orders Planned for His Army 6:1-9
  - B. P-2, The Army is Opposed by Satan 6:10-12
  - C. P-3, The Church's Offense Indicated 6:13-18
  - D. P-4, The Church's Oversight Included 6:19-24**  
**(The Army Must Recognize Its oversight)**

1. Oversight at the Apostolic Level 6:19-20
2. **Oversight at the Sub-Apostolic Level 6:21-22**
  - a. **Tychicus**
  - b. **The Possible Purpose**

**21** *Now Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful bondservant in the Lord, will make known everything about how I am faring in order that you may know the events that have happened to me.*

**22** *I sent him to you for this very purpose that you might come to know these things about us and that he might encourage your hearts.*

We may not know much about Tychicus, but what we do know is impressive and praiseworthy. Tychicus was a trusted messenger, faithful preacher, and loyal friend. Paul placed great confidence in him, sending him to accomplish important works.

He was present in Paul's third missionary journey, he was a Gentile from Asia Minor (as we would call it today). He was in Colossae with Onesimus (the former slave). He was in Rome for Paul's second imprisonment where Paul stated he had great confidence in him. A later description given to him said, "a brother who often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous, and now even more so because of his confidence in you."

Paul sends Tychicus to the Church in Ephesus for two stated reasons. First, as a messenger who would be telling the members of that church body about all the relevant happenings in Paul's life in a Roman prison – all the people he has been able to see, and all the activities of importance going on around Paul.

Secondly, Paul is sending them as a ministry from his heart – he desires that Tychicus will bring much encouragement to them. For there they are in a newly established church in Asia. Their master teacher is writing to them from a Roman prison in Rome Italy. If you were to drive there today it would take approximately 28 hours, on major highways. The "shortest

distance" is 1,706 miles. You could also go by ship, as Paul had done. So, he's far away and imprisoned by the dreaded Romans, for starting new Christian churches. The Romans, greatly encouraged by the Jews, have his case under advisement – as he seeks to make the Christian faith allowable under Roman law. He is well loved and respected. His writings contain the revelations of God, through the Holy Spirit to Paul. Now think of such a great man that has been so involved in your local church, imprisoned over a thousand miles away, because he's starting Christian churches. Now, how would you feel while your pastor is reading Paul's letter. He has sent Tychicus to you to bring you encouragement in His mission and encouragement in your faith. Think of how you feel about Paul, and his writings concerning "God's Special Secret."

---

**THE STUDY – 6:23-24**  
**LESSON TWENTY-TWO**  
**“The Church’s Oversight Included”**  
**“Oversight at the Supportive Level”**  
**GOD’S SPECIAL SECRET**

**VI. CHAPTER 6 – The Church AS the Army of Christ**

- A. P-1, The Orders Planned for His Army 6:1-9
- B. P-2, The Army is Opposed by Satan 6:10-12
- C. P-3, The Church’s Offense Indicated 6:13-18
- D. The Church’s Oversight Included 6:19-24**  
**(The Army Must Recognize Its oversight)**
  - 1. Oversight at the Apostolic Level 6:19-20
  - 2. Oversight at the Sub-Apostolic Level 6:21-22
  - 3. Oversight at the Supportive Level 6:23-24**
    - a. Peace**
    - b. Godly Love**
    - c. Faith**
    - d. Love the Lord Jesus – in Immortality**

**6:23-24 [Mac]**

*23 Peace and godly love, along with faith, be to the brothers from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*24 May this grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in [His] immortality.*

**6:23-24 [NASB]**

*23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ [o]with incorruptible love.*

**THE COMMENTARY**

As we begin to close out our study on this wonderful book of Ephesians we need to take a moment and review Paul’s writings. Paul lived approximately 58 years. He was born just a few years after Jesus, probably about 7 A.D., and His conversion would

have been just after he was about 30. He had to be 30 to function in the local synagogue. He wrote 13 or more books of the Bible. Here's a quick list: Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Philemon, Colossians, Philipians, Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus – and all these were written in the last 10 years of his life.

In the last two lines of this letter we can see his heart. Perhaps the things Paul prayed for were on the top of his list for what the Ephesians needed the most. It is the last epistle he will write to a functioning church body. He begins his close with what he wants for them the most – Peace and godly love. What a lovely beginning to his close. I'm reminded immediately of the Apostle John's relating of Jesus's words in Chapter 14... *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* Ideal words for the moment. The church was new and there was much persecution – even there in Ephesus. As we know, even today, the world does not know Jesus the Savior – they know something about Him, but they don't know Him. The evil one sets the world's minds on edge against Him, and as we have seen in the gospels, they often wish to "destroy Him." And in the midst of this evil world, Paul, through his writings to so many in the past, sends the Ephesians believers, and us, his message of "Peace and Godly love."

Godly love is not something the world knows much about nor do they understand it. It therefore falls upon our shoulders, in a one-on-one relationship with the members of this world, to attempt to win them for Christ. We must take both our defensive and offensive weapons with us at all times, put our trust in our God in all three persons of His being, and do the work we are called upon to do. And as verse 24 calls us...

*"May this grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in [His] immortality."*

There, in the very beginning of this verse is the key to the entire process, from before creation until the far reaches of eternity, stands the GRACE of GOD, brought forth through the LOVE of GOD in providing a way to establish a human people who would be called "The Children of God." We have a graceful and loving Father. We have an indwelling Spirit of power and wisdom. We have a Son of Almighty God who is our Brother, and we are to Him as this book brings forth in a loving relationship to Jesus the Christ, as His "Bride."

**HOMEWORK:  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – 6:1-12**

**Look at the question and ignore the answer. Then study the answer!**

---

**1. Can you think back through the book of Ephesians and come up with a simple outline for the six chapters?**

- I. The Father's gifts to those who would become the brothers and sisters of His Son, Jesus.
- II. The People who would Believe in Jesus for their Salvation and their positions in this new Secret – The Church.
- III. The Purpose of the People who make up The Church.
- IV. The Changes and Goals for the People of the Church.
- V. The Members of the Church become the Bride of Jesus, the Christ.
- VI The Church as the Army of Christ and our Call to Action

There are, of course, many possible outlines for this book. One of my favorites comes from my very first study of the book.

- I. Chapter-1 – What You Have!
- II. Chapters 2-3 – Why You Have It!
- III. Chapters 4-6 – Now, What are you going to do about it?

My point here is to make you aware that there is so much splendid information in just this short book that is vital to your Christian growth and understanding. Go back over it and develop an easy way to remember what's in the book. This can be of great help as you go out into the world and seek others to become your spiritual brothers and sisters in-Christ.

---

---

***The Book of Ephesians*** Bible Study materials on this website are a ministry of AncientPath.net and are made available here free and may be copied for use in Bible study groups, in limited numbers, providing that no charge is made for them. Items that appear as copyrighted materials that are not of our authorship are not to be copied without the express permission of the original copyright holders. Every effort has been made to give proper footnote credit for items that are quoted. No further distribution or use of these materials is allowable under U.S. or International Copyright Law without the express permission of AncientPath.net.

**The Writings of Douglas B. MacCorkle**

Dr. MacCorkle's Books and Study materials on this website are made available here free, through the generosity of Judith and Ray Naugle, and may be copied for use in Bible study groups, in limited numbers, providing that no charge is made for them. No further distribution or use of these materials is allowable under U.S. or International Copyright Law without express permission.

*The Outline and Expanded Translation Text presented in this study is from Dr. MacCorkle's God's Special Secret - The Case Paul Argues in the Epistle to the Ephesians*, Copyright 1993 by Douglas B. MacCorkle. Printed and bound in the United States of America. Published by the not-for-profit MacCorkle bible Ministries, Inc. Books, P.O. Box 320909, Cocoa Beach, Fl. 32932-0909.

J. Deering - AncientPath.net © 2008-2025 All rights reserved.

Jeremiah 18:15

**"Don't stumble from the Ancient Path."**

---

2025-04-01 updated