

# Mount Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Evening Bible Study  
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## **The Armor of God – Ephesians 6:10-18** **Part 1 – Overview of the Book of Ephesians**

### Overview

The Book of Ephesians is a letter written to the church(s) located in the Western area of Asia Minor. It was most likely written by the apostle Paul to believers who needed encouragement to live every day in the fullest benefit and privilege of blessings received through faith in Jesus Christ. Ephesus was a seaport city that Paul had visited briefly at the end of his second missionary journey; then he returned there again during his third missionary journey. At that time, he stayed about 3 years to help build up church leaders and ministries in that region. There was a lot of secular, cultish, and idol worshipping behaviors in Ephesus, and Paul was confronting these things. He wrote this letter around 60 AD while imprisoned in Rome.

Ephesians is a letter arranged so that the reader/believer moves through a progressive discussion revealing the necessary knowledge, understandings and components for effective and victorious Christian living. It first describes our position through Christ as it relates to God the Father and the heavenly realms; then as our place and responsibilities as members of the body of Christ – both as individual and collective members of the church. The letter continues by describing various aspects of holy Christian living; and lastly it reveals to believers how to activate the spiritual strength and tools given to all believers whose faith is in Jesus Christ – tools that are necessary to navigate the troubles and challenges faced in this world.

### Overview of Chapters

- Chapter 1: Our Spiritual Position and Power through Jesus Christ
  - Ephesians 1:3-10
  - Ephesians 1:11-14
  - Ephesians 1:18-23
  
- Chapter 2: Made Alive in Christ; All are One in Christ
  - Ephesians 2:4-9
  - Ephesians 2:11-13
  
- Chapter 3: God's Plan for all Believers
  - Ephesians 3:9-12
  - Ephesians 3:16-19

- Chapter 4: Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ; Instructions for Christian Living
  - Ephesians 4:1-6
  - Ephesians 4:17-24
  
- Chapter 5: Further Instructions for Christian Living
  - Ephesians 5:1-2
  - Ephesians 5:8-11
  - Ephesians 8:21
  
- Chapter 6: Further Instructions for Christian Living
  - Ephesians 6:1-9
  - Ephesians 6:10-18 The Armor of God

### **The Armor of God**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> 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 with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for all the Lord's people.

- We must fully appreciate the whole book of Ephesians in order to fully engage in the Armor of God.
  
- In this passage, we must separate out what we are to do and what God has already provided. For example, “put on”, “take” and “gird up” are what we are to do with the help of the Holy Spirit.
  - Romans 13:14
  - Colossians 3:10, 12
  - Romans 13:12
  
- Nouns such as “the armor of God”; “truth”; and “shield of faith are gifts based on who we are in Christ.
  
- Because we already have all that we need through the power of the Holy Spirit - we already have the victory through Jesus Christ.

- The visible and invisible realms – what is seen verses what is unseen. The fruit and the root.
- We are in constant battle – but the battle belongs to the LORD!
- Schemes, struggles and wrestling.
- Six distinct tools included in “the armor”; and then the directive for PRAYER.
- Put on the Full Armor of God- these are God’s tools, not human tools. These tools operate in the heavenly realm; they are not subject to earthly principles.

References:

Put on the Whole Armor of God – What it means and How to do it. Pursuit Bible

The Armor of God. Priscilla Shirer, 2019

Bible Study – Survey of the Book of Ephesians. Rev. Jay Broadnax, 2015  
Summary of the Armor of God. Light of the Word Ministries