

Welcome to Faith & First United Methodist Church

Sermon Notes - October 25th, 2020

Ephesians Series: "In prison and still preaching."

Scripture: Ephesians 6

Eph 6:1-20 Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord. Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free. Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favorites. A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the

Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

Life Application Questions:

1. Paul was talking about how we treat others. How do you feel you treat your parents and your co-workers?
2. The whole armor of God is for our spiritual protection. How is your spiritual "battle readiness"? What can you do to improve it?

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for the Holy Spirit. We do not let our physical circumstances dictate our happiness or willingness to serve you. Thank you for the whole armor of God to help us in a time of struggle. We stand behind the promises of God. We stand in the power of God. We will be standing firm at the end of our struggles through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for your perfect plan and our part in it. We pray all this in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.