

A dramatic landscape painting of Ephesus at sunset. In the foreground, the dark, silhouetted ruins of the Temple of the Virgin Mary are visible, with its iconic archway framing the view. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun, with wispy clouds catching the light. In the distance, the city of Ephesus is visible, with its characteristic domes and buildings. The overall mood is contemplative and historical.

EPHESIANS

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

PAYDAY!

- “good things”
 - Don’t give God a bad day at work!
 - Pr 11:18; 2Co 5:10; Ro 2:6-10
 - What you do God will reward...
- “receive back from the LORD”
 - Regardless of your station or background
 - God is no man’s debtor
 - He will reward you as no one else can!!!
- God looks beyond any title of men...good & bad!!!

But what about “them”?

- “do the same things”
 - All that was said to Slaves applies here too!
 - the same kindness, fidelity, and respect for the will of God – they are God’s people!!!
 - The eye of God is on YOU too!!!
- Give up threats –
 - You can get more with honey and help...
 - Be the kind of boss you would want to work for!

Therefore...

- Be strong – *endunamoo*, increase strength
- In the strength of His might
 - *kratos* – force, power, usually of God’s power
 - *ischus* – ability, might, especially physically
- GET INTO THE FULL ARMOR!!!
- Paul had been chained to “full armor” 3 yrs!
 - The battle is still HIS, and HE WON!!!



His “standers” ...

- Our part is to:
 - RESIST in the evil day, stand against,
 - *histemi* – stand firm in the midst, intact
 - having done everything – (chapters 1-6:9)
- Put on – *enduo*, sink into ‘clothing’
- Schemes: *methodeia*, trickery, deceit, see 4:14
- *diablos* – accuser, slanderer

Our struggle

- *pale* (1x) – to vibrate, wrestle, throw, swing
 - To struggle until one is thrown and held down
- It is not against:
 - Flesh / blood – humans, children of God Ga 1:16
 - Simply = people!
 - This doesn't mean that we won't have enemies!
 - Man is often used as a tool of the enemy

Our Struggle is...

- *arche* – rule, principality (1:21, 3:10!!!)
- *exousia* – authority, positional (1:21, 3:10)
- *kosmokrator* 1x – “world takers” Jn 14:30
 - Darkness – of our society and our souls!
- *pneumatikos* – spiritual – of man or angels
 - *poneria* – wickedness, depravity
 - heavenlies – 1:3,20; 2:6; 3:10

Our Struggle

- This is not just about angelic forces...
 - Sinful tendencies/leanings; evil passions/ambitions; evil customs/laws; false doctrines/teachings; social trends;
 - If we “do everything” from Chs. 1-6:9...
- Full armor of God, not ‘you’
- Battle within...