

GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE THE ARMOR WE NEED TO FIGHT THE ENEMY.

Chosen with the Promise of Spiritual Armor

Paul also wrote a letter to the church in the city of Ephesus. The people were doing the things they had been taught, so Paul wanted to encourage them. This letter is a good example of writing someone just to say “good job” and not waiting until they do something wrong. What’s so amazing is that Paul was writing to encourage the Ephesians and remind them of the promises of God while he was in prison! He had been taken prisoner for preaching about Jesus.

Paul reminded the Ephesians of two of God’s main promises for those who follow Jesus. First, they had been chosen by God to follow Jesus from before the world was even made! That’s right—before God even made the light and the dark, He chose everyone who would ever follow Jesus. Now He didn’t choose them because of anything special about them, because compared to Jesus everyone is just a sinner who can’t do anything good without God. But instead, God chose them because He knew what would make it most clear that He is the only God, the One who is good and powerful and should be worshiped. Paul explained that because God had chosen the followers of Jesus long ago, God promises that each of them will one day get to be with Jesus as He is made King forever.

Second, Paul knew that living in this world is difficult because we still have hearts that get hard and sin. Followers of Jesus can always ask Him to forgive them and receive that forgiveness, but we need to do more than that to try to fight sin. We need to say no to the enemy and instead say yes to God. Paul said it’s like being in a war! That’s how serious it is. It’s not a war against people. It’s a war against Satan and the bad things in this world that want us to disobey God. Well, we all know that soldiers don’t go to war dressed in their normal clothes or without weapons! They go to war wearing armor, and Paul said God has promised to give those who follow Jesus the armor they need to beat sin.

