



Building Fund



Digital Bulletin

Capital Campaign Goal = \$450,000
May - November 2026 - \$324,230

Lessons from the Churches: Ephesus

Spiritual Warfare | Ephesians 6:10-24 | 10.11.26

Big idea: Followers of Christ are not on a cruise ship, but a battleship. All hands are on deck. Nowhere is this highlighted more than in Ephesians 6. Warfare is Bible language; like all wars, there are casualties. Ephesians 6 gives divine information to help us recognize and resist the schemes of our enemy.

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole **armor** of God, that you may be able to stand against the **wiles** (schemes) of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Three things believers should never underestimate:

1. The depravity of our heart **Ephesians 4:22-32**
2. The **deception** of our spiritual enemy **Ephesians 6:11-12**
 - Our internal conflict, our sinful nature, and our external enemy - Satan
3. The death-defying power of our risen Lord **Ephesians 1:15-21**

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may **devour**.
⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

- **Satan's goal** is to damage and destroy every meaningful relationship we have, starting with the believer and Christ, then the marriage and family and church.
- **Satan places** his ministers within the **church**. **2 Corinthians 11:14-15**

→ There are various ways the armor is defined....

Belt of Truth: This piece secures all other parts of the armor. It represents holding fast to the absolute truth of God's Word.

Breastplate of Righteousness: This protects the vital organs, especially the heart. It refers to the righteousness of Christ given to believers at salvation, which protects them from condemnation and accusations.

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace: These provide firm footing and readiness. It signifies the peace with God that keeps believers anchored, allowing them to advance the Gospel.

Shield of Faith: A large, defensive shield used to deflect attacks. It represents complete trust in God's promises, which extinguishes the "fiery darts" of doubt, temptation, and fear.

Helmet of Salvation: This protects the mind and thoughts. It represents the assured hope of eternal security in Christ, guarding the believer against destructive doubts.

Sword of the Spirit: The only offensive weapon listed, and it's defined clearly as Scripture that exposes lies and counters temptation. Re **Matthew 4:1-11** * see **gotquestions.org**

Matthew 4:5-6 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: (Psalm 91:11-12) 'He shall give His angels charge over you, 'and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

Psalm 91:11-12 For He shall give His angels charge over you, ***To keep you in all your ways.** ¹²In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

→ Satan left out that it's about Jesus doing the will of GOD; Psalm 91 is *not* about Jesus testing the protective skills of his angels, as Satan proposed.

1. Satan was bold enough to tempt Christ.
2. Satan knows the Bible well.
3. Satan knows how to mislead others to **distort** the Bible.

This is exactly why **Ephesians 6** teaches that we must be **battle-ready**!

Ephesians 6:13-20 Therefore take up the whole **armor** of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—¹⁹and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:21-24 But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; ²²whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts. ²³Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in **sincerity**. Amen.

1 Corinthians 16:22 If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. (Anathema) O Lord, come!

- We cannot serve GOD perfectly on this side of Heaven... but we can serve Him in honesty and sincerity!

→ Guests are encouraged to email their questions and comments to Pastor Jerry | jpelfrey@gbcmason.org

Upcoming Events:

- 10 18 26** Four-Week Jonah series by Pastor Joe
- 11 7 26** Men's Bible Study and Breakfast | 8:30-Noon \$5 (teens are free!)
- 12.5.26** Ladies' Christmas Tea | Hostess Sign-ups begin 10.18.26
- 12.12.26** Stockings for Seniors | A fun family event @ GBC 6-7:30pm
- 1.10.27** State of the Church Dinner | 5-6:30 *more details coming soon!
- 1.24.27** **Need to Know** Apologetic Conference – 4-6pm, with dinner to follow.
* Featuring Biblical Archaeologist Corey Peterson! Sign-ups coming soon!

Capital Campaign: May – November (Goal: \$450,000)

- **\$334,000 received to date, with 7 weeks remaining to reach our goal**
- **No Capital Campaign offerings requested December – February**