

Introduction

How have you been reflecting on the work, the sacrifice and the life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ over this holiday period? What comfort or meaning have you found in those ideas and the reality they should have on your experiences of life? Does your soul feel fed and delivered? Or are you feeling burdened, heavy and overwhelmed? It's easy to lose sight of the great deliverance that God has worked on our behalf in the mundane business of our regular existence. I'm not sure if our current experience of Covid-19 is mundane or eye opening. Perhaps time will tell, but it's best to consider the risk of losing sight of Jesus all the same.

It is great to have a time of year to stop for a few days and consider the impact and implications of exactly what God has done for each and every one of us through Jesus Christ. A time to lift our eyes Godward once more and reflect on how well we have done in the last twelve months at fixing our eyes on Jesus. But the funny thing is, Jesus didn't inaugurate this time of year to remember the thing we remember this time of year. Scripture simply says that we do this "remembering" thing as often as we choose. Perhaps if we held the same solemn reflection that often overtakes us this time of year, into each day or week, we might fight a great resistance against the things that war against us.

While this time of year was not inaugurated as an annual event, there is nothing wrong with having one. I would simply ask that you consider the original event that is commemorated this time of year, an event inaugurated almost three and a half thousand years ago. That's right, its Passover time. This year Passover began on Wednesday evening, which my family celebrated in our own non-Jewish way. Following that there are seven days for the feast of Unleavened Bread. Now, I am not suggesting we all become Jewish and live by the law. But I think a little ritual and ceremony in our family, you know tradition, goes a long way to creating great memories and connections in our families and among our friends.

For our family we lit six candles representing the six days of God's creation, and a seventh to symbolise the rest of God that is to one day come upon this world. I spoke to the children about the first Passover and God's deliverance of His chosen people out of 400 years of bondage (we then showed them a funny video retelling the events). We pulled it all together by speaking about the great and powerful deliverance God has worked on behalf of all mankind by paying the penalty for all sin through Jesus Christ, the perfect Passover lamb. Now it's to these two ideas of deliverance I want to turn your attention this morning; the deliverance by the powerful hand of God for the children of Israel and then the power for deliverance that worked through Christ and works in us.

Deliverance to something

When we consider the first Passover and the history around this event we are reminded of God's powerful acts on behalf of His people. Passover focuses on the last out of ten plagues God used to display just how powerful He is. Not only how powerful God is but also to display how faithful and trustworthy He is. God had promised to deliver the children of Israel before they even entered the land of Egypt over four hundred years before. The promise of deliverance from slavery to something greater was a key part of their faith that these people often missed.

We find them repeatedly calling out the Moses and to God angry that they were delivered from Egypt only to be delivered to death and defeat. The evidence was clear, God is mighty to save, but they couldn't see it in their own experience through faith. Funnily, God always displayed a mighty hand to save them, but they never believed He would, even though He always did. They complained, God heard, God responded with power, they saw it, they were sorry, then they complained, and the cycle just repeated. Tragically, it didn't just repeat for the first generation of the Exodus; it's a cycle that's been repeated throughout Israel's history as a nation.

The problem for these Israelite's was the belief that they have been delivered to defeat. Sure, when God's power was on display there were times of rejoicing and singing praises and repentance. Then a day or two later there was the same old lie, that God had only delivered them to be defeated in a new, creative, ingenious way. Even if they had thought back to all that God had already done for them in Egypt and through the wilderness, the hearts of these people would still have been able to snatch self-defeat out of the jaws of victory.

The same is true in the hearts of each and every one of us. This Passover season is a perfect time for us to reflect on God's faithfulness and the power which worked mightily in Israel from their inception and that worked mightily in Christ to bring us to deliverance through a new life. It's also a perfect time to remember and reflect on one simple principle, "God did not deliver you to defeat." This morning, I want to remind you that not only were you not delivered to defeat but that the grace and power of God has given you everything for victory.

Think about it simply, slowly, and hopefully we can stop thinking, like the first generation of the Exodus, "God just wants us to die". Through faith in Jesus Christ for the free gift of eternal life, you now have new life. That was an act of God's power to graciously offer you this free gift. Now you have new life, what next? Did God just give you the free gift of eternal life so that He could slowly torture you through failure and defeat for the remainder of your natural physical life?

Ephesians 6:10-20; The Panoplia of God.

Yes, before you say anything, I know it's called "the Armour of God". I just don't call it that. Why? Last time I checked a sword was not a piece of armour. The Panoplia (Greek word) is literally the kit that God provides you with as a soldier. We are all soldiers of Christ, but you were not enlisted in God's army to fail, you were not delivered into the army for defeat. You were given the right kind of gear to have victory over your enemies, created by God, empowered by God, made God-tough.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but mighty/powerful in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled."

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Just consider a few things from this quote found in 2 Corinthians. First, we are walking in the flesh, and no, that's not a bad thing, it's a fact. Paul isn't talking about walking in sin here but the simple fact that we are currently living in this world in the body we have. But the fight we have is not purely a flesh-bound fight and so can't be

won with flesh-bound tactics. We don't win this war with conventional human warfare. Secondly, the only weapons that are effective in this war are the ones made God-strong, things of His power. Third, the God-strong weapons are for three things; pulling down arguments and intellectual idols, capturing thoughts and dealing with disobedience. Notice they are all beyond the flesh but things that manifest themselves through our fleshly bodies. For victory we don't get distracted by the perimeter issues but strike at the heart.

"For the word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and of marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." **Hebrews 4:12**

Piercing blows that cut deep like, "Am I seeing things from a soulish, fleshly, worldly perspective or a spiritual perspective?", "Hasn't God give me enough evidence in His word and in life?", "Do I know what victory even looks like?", "Why don't I trust God for this?".

In Ephesians 6:10-20, Paul is setting out an illustration which his readers saw daily. Each time they saw a Roman soldier Paul wanted them to stop for a moment, look them up and down and remember victory comes to the prepared. In case you haven't noticed we don't see Roman soldiers each day. Actually, its exceptionally rare to see one. Perhaps you need to find something you see every day to remind you that things decked out with stuff built God-tough win.

Ephesians 6:10-13; Kit up and know your enemy.

This section begins with the word "finally", and we will deal with it as the final idea. For now, let's get an idea of what these verses mean. First, we are commanded to find strength in the Lord and find it in the power of His might. One of the ways we find this strength is by putting on God's gear. Do you need an illustration of this? Here's a good one. David put on Saul's gear but won in God's. Human armour couldn't save that boy. David realised it wouldn't work for him. But faith in the living God gave him the power to overcome fear of defeat and handed him victory over the enemy. Samson had power for victory, not by human weapons, but by the Spirit of God, God's power and the jaw of a donkey. It's not a conventional war we fight so don't rely on conventional gear.

The second thing Paul points out is that we don't fight a battle against normal armies. Behind all that is seen is that which is unseen; the angelic realm behind the scenes, the realm where our real war is waged. It is behind all conflict we see great and small. There are temptations, tricks, tactics and lies behind the things we see. We need to be reminded that our ultimate battle is not against other people but against a demonic realm.

Thirdly, Paul reminds us again, "Put that blasted gear on!" Well, he didn't use those words, but you get the idea. The repetition is good and should be like a ringing shout in our ears, like a drill sergeant on one of those moves, like on Forrest Gump. Why pick it up and put it on? So that you have the ability to withstand the evil day and because you are prepared you will be able to stand firm. The picture is beautiful if you can imagine it. The enemy rushes forth bashing against your defensive line. You buckle a bit here and lean a bit there, but they are repelled, you withstood their attack. Then once you have withstood the frontal assault, you straighten up, dust

yourself off and stand firm in your rightful place once more. Perhaps even letting out a little Gandalf, "None shall pass!"

So now the final bit, "finally". This word is key to our understanding of everything that follows. Earlier I said that Paul wanted his readers to remember every time they saw a Roman soldier that victory comes to the prepared. This "finally" gives us the details of what it means to be prepared. Simply put, Ephesians 6:10-20 is the concluding illustration of the whole letter to the church at Ephesus. Miss that and you will not be prepared with the right gear or be missing key pieces of kit.

Just consider three things Paul mentions in verses 10-13; strength and power, the devil and his cronies and the evil day. These ideas are not new. This isn't the first time that Paul raises these things for thought or discussion.

"...and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at the right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come." **Ephesians 1:19-21**
[Ephesians 1:5-22 for context].

Notice, power and angelic realm. Did you ever notice that before or pay attention to it? Now how powerful was this power? It raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him in at the right hand of the Father. Paul says this is the same power that God works for us. We were also raised from the dead, made alive together; with Christ and each other. We are raised up and seated in the heavenly places together with Christ and each other. How? By grace we were saved. Just read Ephesians 2:1-10. We also know that this is the same resurrection power God can work in us daily, if we walk by the Spirit and not by our flesh. It's the same power He can work on our behalf to heal, deliver, provide and many other things beyond what we could think or ask for.

"...that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power." **Ephesians 4:6-7** [Ephesians 3:1-13 for context]. Paul's spiritual gift, and ours, is an effective working of God's power in and through us.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." **Ephesians 3:20-21.**

In fact, Ephesians 1:3-3:21 is about the things God has done above what anyone could ever think or ask or dream; an aspect of what it means to be blessed with the spiritual blessings in the heavenly places. Israel and Gentile brought together in one body, so the Gentiles are brought in to share in something new; the New Man, that is, the universal church. Paul calls this a mystery, something not known before by anyone or anything except God alone. That means this is a total surprise to Satan and his forces. The first time Satan knew of this "new thing" was when Paul and others started preaching it (Ephesians 3:1-13). Do you think that made the Devil happy? Yes, Satan and Co. have feature in the book of Ephesians.

"...in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience..."
Ephesians 2:2.

"...to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places..." **Ephesians 3:10.**

"Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil." **Ephesians 4:26-27.**

So, the angelic realm and its fallen side are not new to this letter. Paul didn't just splash it in for effect at the end of the book. You have been born anew, born into the New Man, delivered into the kingdom of light, stolen out of the kingdom of darkness where Satan ruled you. He doesn't like that. He also doesn't like this whole New Man thing. This new entity God has brought on the scene with its Jew and Gentile mix, spiritual gifts and Christ as its head; a living breathing powerful organism made up of everyone who has eternal life. The truth is, Satan couldn't take it down with a full-frontal assault, so with his lies he tries to pick people off one by one, the stragglers, the sick, the weak, both physical and spiritual. That big lie raises its head again, "Has God really delivered you for victory? Or is He just torturously prolonging your embarrassing demise?". That's why Ephesians 6:10-20 is so important.

So, power and the fallen realm are discussed in the letter but what about this "evil day"?

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, [by] redeeming the time, because the days are evil." **Ephesians 5:15-16.**

When is the evil day? Every day in this life ending in "y". So, don't stomp around like a buffoon trampling delicate things around you but in a considered manner, by making the most of every moment and opportunity you have. That applies to every area of life. Always remember these days are evil enough, with their own struggles, trials and suffering, without you adding to it.

We can sum it up this way; there is power for victory, the enemy is real and its go time people.

Ephesians 6:14-20; God's kit.

So now it's time to stand, it's go time people. It is the evil day and the enemy is real. Stand firm in your place, your position, the thing God created you for. Take up your place in God's plan, your place in the New Man and stand your ground no matter what. If it's baking, then defend those ovens. If it's cleaning, then stand firm in those bathrooms. Wherever you are in all that God has given you to do you will be attacked for doing it. It won't always seem obvious to you, but if you just think for a moment about the most common attack it will be plain as day. The father of lies fights with lies. This is the most common thing Satan uses. "What's the point?", "Will anyone know if I...?", "Does this even matter?" or "I know God is powerful when it comes to others but can that power really work in me?"

The trick though is not to rush out head long and grab just any kit and jam it on. If it's not God's kit, it won't withstand the battle, and neither will you. That's right, you may think you are the most intelligent, brilliant, strongest, most strong-willed person who has ever existed. You can do this your way. Yeah, well, we know of a creature who fit

all those descriptors. He is the one we are talking about who is trying to break all this down; Satan.

So how do we stand and what kit do we need? A waist girded with truth and a breastplate of righteousness. Sandals for spreading the gospel of peace. But above all these other things we need the shield which is our faith. We take up the helmet that is our salvation and the sword which is God's word. Then lastly, and yes, it is in the section, we take up prayer.

The girding of truth (belt of truth).

*"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the **word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit."*

Ephesians 1:13.

*"...if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as **the truth** is in Jesus: that you [have] put off, concerning the former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts and [are being] renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you [have] put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."* **Ephesians 4:21-24.**

"Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbour,' for we are members of one another." **Ephesians 4:45.**

What truth does Paul say is needed for this fight? All truth is important. But in the "all truth" it's easy to forget or overlook specific truths. There is a simple truth, often overlooked or neglected in our daily lives, that Paul says is a vital piece of God's kit. You were saved by grace alone (Ephesians 2:1-10) and became a part of the New Man (Ephesians 2:14-18). The New Man is the universal body of Christ made up of Jew and Gentile in one new body. You put it on the moment you were born anew. You became a new creation and part of this new creation. We are all in this together as one community of faith. The greatest lie you can tell yourself or other is that you have no place to stand firm in this body, or that the other is not worthy to stand next to you. The truth that girds us and keeps us from tripping over ourselves at the first sign of battle, "We are many, but we are one!". Like the Roman army we are stronger when we stand together, stand firm and when you fight your part in this battle. Consider 1 Corinthians 12 and Hebrews 10:24-25.

The breastplate of righteousness.

*"...and that you [have] put on the new man which was created according to God, in true **righteousness** and holiness."* **Ephesians 4:24.**

"...for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth..." **Ephesians 5:9.**

If you wanted into this spiritual battle wearing a breastplate to protect your vital organs, what would you want it to be crafted out of? Your righteousness? Or God's righteousness? Vital to your protection is the righteousness of God that was gifted to you the moment Christ gave you the free gift of eternal life. You could never earn it, live up to it, or do anything even close to resembling it. When Satan whispers that lie

in your ear, "You are not good enough." Just remind him, "I know, but I've got God's good and that's good enough".

But sitting in God's righteousness is not the point. Standing in it is. Stand firm knowing it was a gift given to you. Stand up in and for the righteousness of God starting in your own life. Live out that righteousness to bring glory to God. We were created to mirror the righteousness and holiness of God.

The sandals for spreading the gospel of peace.

*"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, **the gospel of your salvation**; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit."*
Ephesians 1:13.

*"For He Himself is our **peace**, who has made both [Jew and Gentile] one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two [Jew and Gentile], thus making **peace**, and that He might reconcile them both [Jew and Gentile] to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached **peace** to you who were afar off and to those who were near..."* **Ephesians 2:14-17.**

*"...that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through **the gospel**..."* **Ephesians 3:6** [Ephesians 3:1-13 for context].

*"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of **peace**."* **Ephesians 4:1-3.**

The gospel of peace needs feet that are ready to spread its message. When the Satan, the lion, roars division, or waves of minions rush you, your sandals should grip into your patch of dirt and hold you in place. Then with those same sandals you advance, capture more ground, always being able to rely on them to keep your footing steady and sure. Not tripping or slipping but gripping the ground with each step you take and each blow you bear up under.

What is this gospel of peace? Well it starts with the new birth, the free gift of eternal life, by grace you were saved. But you were saved to something. You were delivered from death to life, from the kingdom of darkness to light, from defeat to victory. You were delivered from conflict to peace. A peace that in this time is seen in the unity of the body of Christ; the New Man. It's a peace made between God and man and a peace between Jew and Gentile. The gospel of peace includes at its' heart the message that we should not be warring with each other but standing firm together.

Faith as a shield.

*"Therefore, I also, after I heard of your **faith** in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers..."*
Ephesians 1:15-16.

*"For by grace you have been saved through **faith**..." Ephesians 2:8a.*

*"...in whom [Christ] we have boldness and access with confidence through **faith** in Him." Ephesians 3:12.*

*"...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through **faith**..." Ephesians 3:17a.*

*"...endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is only one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one **faith**, one baptism" Ephesians 4:3-5.*

*"...till we all come to the unity of the **faith** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ..." Ephesians 4:13.*

Yes, that's right, above all, faith is important. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Whatever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23). The thing that is our most important defence is our faith; who and what we believe in and what we are believing for. The Roman shield spoken of here was large enough that the soldier could successfully hide behind it. If soldiers linked these shields together they could form a shelter for their unit.

Your faith should be linking with the faith of others to produce a protective shield for the members of the body of Christ that are closest to you. If your faith can see, then you can see that you were delivered for victory. That kind of faith is contagious and can spread. As you lift up your shield of faith, with your peace and unity sandals, your I'm-good-in-God breastplate and truth-of-who-we-have-become belt, you infect the soldiers next to you. The ones who might be struggling to stand firm in the patch of dirt God gave them to minister in, to defend. As you raise your faith as a shield those around you are encouraged to lift theirs as well, clicking them together, linking as walls and a roof, to make an advancing faith bunker that can never be shaken.

We all remember the "fiery darts" we've heard about since Sunday school. No, the devil isn't playing darts; it's a flaming arrow from a bow or a Scorpio. Some shots have mild impact, others can be a brutal blow. It's not only the blow that injures but the burning fire from the strike can take hold and spread. Paul says that our faith is not only a shield to protect but it has the power to repel the direct blow and its fiery fallout. It is a faith that can see that you were saved for victory, and so was the believer next to you, we all were. We are one body, we are all in this together.

The helmet of salvation.

*"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your **salvation**; in whom also having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." Ephesians 1:13.*

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ, by grace you have been saved," Ephesians 2:5.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith..." Ephesians 2:8a.

Understanding our salvation is a helmet that will protect your brain. This is the place where some of your best ideas came from, but also a place where our worst

decisions, thoughts and opinions about ourselves and others haunt us. This helmet that is meant to protect that often unused brain, is focusing on one simple truth, you were saved by God's grace. The thing that keeps your head screwed on in life is knowing that you were saved not because of what you have done but because of God's free grace. You do nothing to earn it and nothing to keep it. It's a gift.

Satan will lie to you and tell you that you don't have it or have lost it or can't live up to it. Don't believe the lie. Eternal life is a free gift for anyone who believes in Christ for it. It can never be earned, and it can never be lost (John 5:24). Satan often uses the half-truth-lie, "you're not good enough", "you don't deserve it" and "how could God possibly give you that, I mean look at you!". The truth is self-evident, all those statements are true. But the lie is in denying God's free grace. Free grace is our helmet, "Yes Satan, that may be true, but God is a God of grace and eternal life is a free gift".

The Sword of the Spirit.

*"In Him you also trusted, after you heard **the word** of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise," Ephesians 1:13.*

*"Let no corrupt **word** proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." Ephesians 4:29.*

*"Let no one deceive you with empty **words...**" Ephesians 5:6a.*

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by **the word**, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and with blemish." Ephesians 5:25-27.*

The sword; the sharp, pointy, two-sided stabby thing. And that description is an apt way to referring to the finesse with which we often wield it. I don't think it was accidental Paul uses a word, for word, in Ephesians 6:17 that can refer to the "words which are spoken". Your tongue is, after all, a sharp, pointy, two-sided stabby thing. The last thing we all need, while our faith-shields are locked together, our sandals are gripping the raw dirt of our unity in Christ, carefully girded by truth and righteousness, head protected by free grace and standing firm, is for some numpty to start carelessly, with ill thought, through bravado, start swinging their sword around in a confined space. Be careful with the sharp pointy thing. Make sure it's the Spirit's sword you've picked up and not your own.

The way we speak about the truth found in Ephesians, the way we speak to each other about the different pieces of kit God has provided us, the way we encourage each other to bear up under the strain and stand firm in your God given patch of dirt, will tell you if you have grabbed the right sword or not. We read God's truths, hopefully we hear what He intended, then we carefully and lovingly speak those words up and down the ranks of God's army; this one new body. Yes, sometimes that's a yell, other times it's a whisper or a joke, but the goal of the words spoken is shields up, feet firm, helmet on and give no inch.

But, like in the Roman army, strategically and swiftly, the swords up and down the ranks flash forth from between the shields and strike blows at the enemy, his minions

and his kingdom. The most powerful strikes sound like this, "I know who I am", "Jesus gives you eternal life for free", "I know what God has given me", "I am mighty in God", "My strength is in Him", "we were made for victory" and perhaps an occasional "None shall pass!".

Prayer; the Ballista or Onager in your arsenal.

The last one doesn't have a corresponding piece of equipment, so let me give you one. It's artillery that fires behind enemy lines to soften their defences and weaken their strongholds. Paul says use it. I think it's best we start using it and seeing it as an essential part of our kit made God-tough.

I haven't give you any quotes on this one. I want you to read through Ephesians and see where the prayers of Paul fit in his writing. Not only does Paul say it's important here, not only does he say we need it and he needed it, but Paul demonstrates the need and power of prayer in this letter.

Conclusion

Just as God's divine power has given us everything necessary for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), that great power has built for us the gear we need to stand and withstand, to wage a war against the hidden realm. Notice that Paul mentions that this realm exists, and that the devil and his minions are out there, but He doesn't get fixated on the details. The things Paul focuses on are what we are called to do about it, how we are to respond to that war. The answer is simple, take up what it means to be who you are in Christ and live it out. That is a crushing and fatal blow to our enemies attempts.

The pieces of equipment of God spoken of in Ephesians 6:10-20 all revolve around the truths revealed by Paul in this great letter. We are saved by grace, not by any work you can do, have done, or will do in the future. Eternal life is a free gift based purely on God's grace and received by your faith alone. At the moment you believed you were placed in the body of Christ, the universal church, the New Man. You now live and move and breath in the unity created in this body by God. We are all one and we are in this together. This unity is what the enemy will seek to destroy.

Paul is telling his readers that every time they see a Roman soldier they need to remember that they were delivered for victory and not for defeat. Likewise, God has given you the kit and the power, and it's time to use His provisions, not try to fashion your own. Pray for each other, lift your faith together and stand in the unity God created, taking up your place and standing firm. Together we will all withstand; by God's grace, by God's mighty power, by God's resurrecting Spirit, for God's glory with the equipment God has given you.