

Faithful, Available, Teachable

Ephesians 6:21-24*

The Apostle Paul comes to the close of this letter to the believers at Ephesus introducing Tychicus, who will deliver this letter to the church. Paul's views of his friends and fellow Christians and his concern for them deserve to be copied. By viewing other Christians as in the Lord and by desiring God's gifts for them, we change the way we relate to them. We cannot extend God's peace and love honestly to people we do not care about. God has provided all you need in Christ; therefore, live worthy of the gift!

Tychicus, beloved and faithful (21-22)

Closing blessings (23-24)

EPHESIANS 6 *Resting in the Finished Work of Christ*

Satan is called the “accuser of our brothers” (Rev. 12:10). He stands ready to whisper venomous accusations to us in our quiet moments and hurl demonic defamations in our busy ones.

The secret to withstanding Satan's accusations is not what we do; it is what Christ did on the cross. The secret to withstanding Satan's accusations is to rest consciously in what Jesus did on the cross. If we truly understand it, we can stand against Satan's accusations. If we don't, we might not be able to.

As John White wrote in his book *The Fight*:

God's answer to your guilty conscience is the death of His Son. Your answer to a guilty conscience is usually something you do, like confessing harder, praying more, reading your Bible, paying more than your tithe in the offering, and so on. Do you not understand? The Father does not welcome you because you have been trying hard, because you have made a thoroughgoing confession, or because you have been making spiritual strides recently. He does not welcome you because you have something you can be proud about. He welcomes you because His Son died for you. Are you blasphemous enough to suppose that your dead works, your feeble efforts can add to the finished work of a dying Savior? “It is finished!” he cried. Completed. Done. Forever ended. He crashed through the gates of hell, set prisoners free, abolished death and burst in new life from the tomb. All to set you free from sin and open the way for you to run into the loving arms of God.

Now do you understand how ‘the brethren’ overcame the Accuser by the blood of the Lamb? They refused to let his accusations impede their access to God. A simple confession was enough. They face the Accuser boldly saying, “We already know the worst you could ever tell us, and so does God. What is more the blood of Jesus is enough.” Therefore, when you find the grey cloud descending, whether it be as you pray, as you work, as you testify or whatever, when you find the ring of assurance going from your words because of a vague sense of guilt, look up to God and say, “Thank you, my Father, for the blood of your Son. Thank you, even now, that you accept me gladly, lovingly in spite of all I am and have done—because of His death. Father and God, I come” (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1976, 87).

Resist the efforts of Satan to accuse you, to bury you with guilt, to make you feel worthless and unqualified to come to Christ again. It is part of his warfare strategy to make you ineffective as a witness and unhappy as a disciple. Be on guard against his schemes. Recognize them. Stand firm against him in the strength which God provides.²

* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

² Max Anders, *Galatians-Colossians*, vol. 8, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 193–195.