

A Proper Perspective on the “Real” World: Pastoral/Theological Exegesis of Ephesians 6:10-20

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Abstract

Early in the book of Ephesians, the Holy Spirit writing through Paul leads the believer in praise of God for the “mystery” of God’s work on our behalf (1:3-10) and proceeds to intercede for the Ephesians that “the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...” (1:18). Indeed, much of the book unfolds so as to provide insight for the believer about one’s life in Christ, role among the believers, and the call to live among family and community. Throughout the book, the tensions of living a radical life in Christ remain a subtheme. This underlying motif is brought to the centre of focus in the climactic revelation of mystery for the believer reached in the final chapter where the Holy Spirit provides a proper perspective of the reality of the world in which the believer lives. Understanding this proper perspective is crucial for the follower of Christ. In this article, the author will examine the structural and thematic context of 6:10-20 in the letter of Ephesians and unpack the significance for the present disciple of Christ. As the exegesis unfolds, one is confronted by the nature of the “real” world beyond the flesh and blood, is presented with the call to holy living in light of this reality, and is challenged to act boldly in response to the true enemy of our faith.