

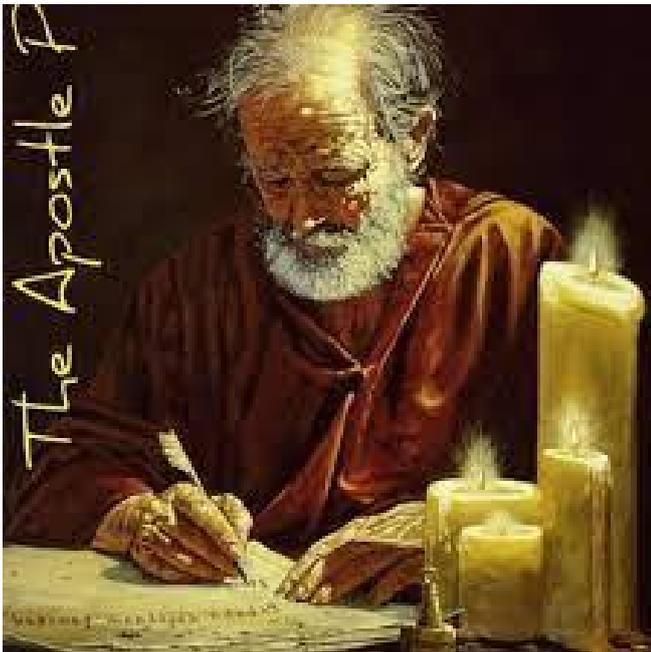
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Personal Notes from the Rabbi

6: 19-23

Personal notes from the rabbi REFLECT: Do those around you feel encouraged and built up as you come into contact with them? What have you learned from this book that has affected you the most? What will you do differently as a result of this commentary?

The prayers of the Ephesians, were effective in strengthening Sha'ul for his work as an ambassador for Messiah.



And pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel (6:19). The conjunction “and” connects what follows to the previous comments. All believers encounter spiritual battles in this fallen world; even Rabbi Sha’ul was not exempt. In fact, he probably realized that he even experienced more of that battle because of his extremely important ministry. The apostle was a man of prayer and

humbly requested **prayer** on **his** behalf and the behalf of others. It is a beautiful gesture illustrating the close connection between this **Rabbi** and **his** readers.

Prayer in itself is a gesture of humility as we call out to **ADONAI** for assistance in things that are far beyond our control. The specific **prayer** of **the apostle** was for **fearlessness in making known the mystery of the Good News**. It was still a secret in most of the Jewish community. It would take a special **fearlessness** for **him** to speak up in the diverse communities where **he** was being sent. Rejection and physical danger were always present. Therefore, **he** asked for **prayer**, and so should we!

For which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should (6:20). Before **Sha'ul** could fulfill **his** calling as **the apostle to the Gentiles (Galatians 2:7-8)**, **he** needed to be released from the Roman prison. The description of **him** in prison reminds us of the great paradox that **he** faced as a representative of **Messiah**. **He** was **an ambassador**, a person with authority to serve in another country. Normally such **an ambassador** would receive honor, respect and even protection from his or her host nation. Not so with **Sha'ul**. Even though **he** was **an ambassador** for **the Kingdom of Yeshua**, **he** was not received with open arms in most places. How ironic . . . **an ambassador** sitting in a prison cell! Yet **the Rabbi** exuded confidence that **ADONAI** still wanted to use **him** despite (or maybe because of) **his** terrible situation.

We know from other letters that **Sha'ul** was often chained directly to some of **his** Roman prison guards. This could have been depressing for **him**, but **God** reached **his** "captive audience" through this unusual situation. Evidently, many became followers of **Yeshua** while watching the renegade **Rabbi (Phil 1:12-13 and 4:22)**. The **prayers of the Ephesians** were effective in strengthening **Sha'ul** for **his** work as **an ambassador** for **Messiah**.

Tychicus will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing (6:21). **The Rabbi** mentions his personal assistant in ministry since **Sha'ul** was sitting in a Roman prison. **Tychicus** was a believer from Asia Minor who accompanied **Sha'ul** to **Jerusalem (Acts 20:4)**. **The apostle** sent **him** to **Ephesus** with **his letter (Second Timothy 4:12)**, and the letter to **Colossae (Colossians 4:7)** and perhaps to **Titus** at **Crete (Titus 3:12)**. **Sha'ul** showed **his** high regard for that dear **brother and faithful servant in the Lord**. **Ephesians** includes the truth that all believers have a vital role in **the Body of Messiah (to see link click [Bf - The Gifts of Messiah to His Church](#))**. **Tychicus** is a great

example of one who faithfully used **his** personal gifts for the benefit of **Messiah's** Kingdom. **He** may not have been a teacher, but **he** was a faithful assistant and thus advanced the Kingdom of **God**.

I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may comfort and encourage you (6:22). Just as **Sha'ul** was a *shaliach* (a legal representative) sent by **Yeshua**, **Tychicus** was a *shaliach* sent by **Sha'ul**. Not only did he faithfully perform **his** mission of carrying this letter to the Messianic communities of Asia Minor, **he** also carried personal news as well. It lifted the spirits of the believers to hear that, although their **Rabbi** was in prison, **he** was doing well. Perhaps this verse is an indication of the spiritual gift of **Tychicus** as **he** was said to be **an encourager (Acts 11:23-24, 14:21-22, 15:32)**. The Greek word *parakaleo*, literally means *to be called alongside*. Such a person not only feels for others but walks next to them in their time of need. What most people need today is some comfort and encouragement, much like that brought by this brother **Tychicus**.

In typical rabbinic fashion, **Sha'ul** closes **his** letter with a **blessing** containing similar themes with which **he** started (see [Ak - The Greeting](#)). **Shalom to the brothers and sisters** (Greek: *adelphoi*, the context being *believers*), **and love with faith from God the Father and the Yeshua Messiah (6:23a)**. **Shalom** is **peace**, but much more. In Greek philosophy, **peace** is the absence of conflict. In Judaism, **shalom** also implies health, blessing and true happiness. Certainly the believers of **Ephesus** would gladly receive this benediction from their **Rabbi**. **The apostle** also prayed that **ADONAI** would give **them love with faith**. **Sha'ul** had already described **the love of God** and how **it** ultimately fulfills all **the Torah** (see [Be - Walking Together in Unity](#)). Once again the writer uses the unique Greek word *agape* to describe the unselfish **love of God**. This is why **he** recognizes that these qualities can only be given as a **gift** from **God** through **faith** in **Yeshua Messiah (2:8-9)**. **Grace be to all who love our Lord Yeshua Messiah with undying love (6:23b)**. **Grace** is also referenced in the closing blessing. **The Rabbi's** final word to **them** is that **they** would never forget the free **gift** of **God** and **His** undying **love** for **His** children. Reading this blessing given to **the Ephesians**, we cannot help but be greatly encouraged in our walk with the **Messiah!**

So ends the letter of **Rabbi Sha'ul** to **his** friends in the city of **Ephesus**. It is a great overview of the many spiritual blessings found **in Messiah**. The letter is also filled with practical and challenging encouragement on how to apply these truths to

our everyday lives. **The Ephesian** congregation was a diverse group of Jews and Gentiles, united together **in Messiah**. **They** experienced many blessings in **their** own lives and definitely had an impact on the first century world in which **they** lived. But **the Rabbi** was not just writing to **them**. What is **Paul** saying to us? Through our studies of this letter, may we have a fresh appreciation for all that **the God of Isra'el** has done for all people; Jews, Messianic Jews, Christians, seekers or skeptics. May there be a renewed blessing on our families, our congregations, and our communities. May we also have a dramatic effect on the world through **Yeshua**, our **Redeemer** and **King**.²⁷⁰ Amen

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** for blessing me **in Messiah** with every spiritual blessing. **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Messiah (Ephesians 1:3)**. Thank **You** for adopting me as **Your** child, redeeming me by **Your** blood, and **sealing** me with **Your Ruach Ha'Kodesh**. **After you heard the message of truth - the Good News of your salvation - and when you put your trust in Him, you were sealed with the promised Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Ephesians 1:13)**. How great to know that my inheritance is secured by the **Ruach Ha'Kodesh**. No enemy is big enough to keep me from living with **You** in heaven for all eternity. **The Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance, until the redemption of His possession - to His glorious praise! (Ephesians 1:14)**. It is a comfort in this world with so many wrongs and problems that **You** are our great and loving **Shepherd**, who is Almighty and knows everything including the future. I am always totally secure in **You**! **My sheep hear My voice. I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life! They will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand (John 10:27-28)**. Thank **You** so much for giving me every spiritual blessing **in Messiah** and for keeping me safe in **Your hand**. Praise **You**, for in **Your** gracious thoughtfulness **You** have equipped me with the weapons I need to fight any battle and be victorious (**Ephesians 6:10-18**). **You** are a wonderful Heavenly **Father**! I can't wait until I can live with **You** and praise **You** throughout all eternity! In **Messiah's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*