

## The letter Paul wrote to the Christians at Ephesus

### This page tells a bit more about Paul's letter to the Christians at Ephesus

Paul wrote this letter to the Christians that were living in the city called Ephesus, in the country that we now call Turkey. Paul belonged to the tribe that are called Jews, or Jewish people, but the people at Ephesus didn't belong to that tribe.

Paul wrote this letter about 2,000 years ago, more than 30 years after Jesus went back to heaven. At that time the nation called the Romans were the bosses of a lot of countries. (The Romans come from the big city called Rome.) They didn't like Paul telling people about Jesus, so they grabbed him and put him in jail in Rome. Paul wrote this letter while he was in jail.

In this letter, Paul tells about the very great things that Jesus Christ does for everyone. Jesus joins all the Christians together into one family. So we Christians have to learn how to be strong and fight against the devil. We have to love each other and live the way God wants us to live.

We have to take notice today of what Paul wrote a long time ago to the Christians at Ephesus.

<sup>1</sup> I am Paul, and this letter is from me. God picked me to work for Jesus Christ. I'm sending this letter to all you Christian people there at Ephesus, all you people that follow Jesus Christ properly. <sup>2</sup> I'm asking God our Father,

and Jesus Christ our leader, to be good to you, and to make you feel happy and quiet inside yourselves.

*God gives us a lot*

<sup>3</sup> God is the Father of our leader, Jesus Christ. He joined us to Jesus, and he gave lots of good things for our spirits. So we have to thank him, and praise him a lot.

<sup>4</sup> Long ago, before he made the world, God picked us to join us to Jesus Christ, and to get us to be really good, with nothing bad in us at all. <sup>5</sup> He loved us, so he got Jesus to bring us into his own family, so we can be God's own kids. This is what God wanted to do, and he was really happy to do it. <sup>6</sup> So we thank him so very much for this. God loves his son, Jesus, very much, and after we are joined on to his son, God is really good to us too. <sup>7</sup> You know, Jesus died for us, and his blood came out for us. We were prisoners of the devil, but Jesus paid for us with his own blood, and he set us free. So now God will not punish us for all the bad things we did. Yes, God is so very good to us. <sup>8</sup> He does all this for us, and he also helps us know things properly and think the right way.

<sup>9</sup> God let us know the secret things that he wants to do, that make him very happy. God is using Jesus to show everyone what he is doing. <sup>10</sup> And he will finish doing these things at the right time. Then he will bring everything together, the things in heaven, and the things on the earth. God will bring them all together, and Jesus Christ will be the leader and boss of everything.

<sup>11</sup> A long time ago God wanted us to be his own people, and at that time he picked us to join us to Jesus Christ.

<sup>12</sup> At first he picked the Jewish people. They were the first to trust Jesus Christ, and to wait for him to save them. God wanted the Jews to be the first people to praise him,

and to say how great he is. <sup>13</sup> Now it is your turn. You people that are not Jews, you heard that good story that God saves you, and you believed in Jesus Christ. And God gave you his Holy Spirit, just like he promised. It is like he put his sign on you, to show everyone that you belong to him. <sup>14</sup> Now God promises us that one day we will be properly free from doing wrong things. He gives us the Holy Spirit now. It is the first part of the good things he gives us. It shows us for sure that he will give us the rest. So we really thank God, and say that he is very great.

*Jesus is the leader of the church*

<sup>15</sup> People have told me that you keep on trusting our leader, Jesus. And they have told me that you love God's people. So, since they told me these things about you, <sup>16</sup> I never stop thanking God for you, and I always remember to pray for you. <sup>17</sup> I pray to our very great Father, the God of our leader, Jesus Christ. I pray that his spirit will help you to think properly and show you about God, so that you will know him better. <sup>18</sup> God has promised his people very great things, and now he has them ready for you. I pray that he will show you them clearly, like he will switch on a light in your minds, so you can know and be sure about these good things. <sup>19</sup> I pray that you will know that God is stronger and more powerful than anyone else, and that he will help us people that trust him.

God is very powerful. <sup>20</sup> People killed Jesus Christ, but God used his power to make him alive again and take him up into heaven. This shows that God is really powerful. God put Jesus in the most important place in heaven. He is sitting right next to God, on his right-hand side. <sup>21</sup> Jesus is now the big boss of all the other bosses everywhere. He is the big boss of all the spirits everywhere. He is the

big boss over the spirits that are in this world now, and he's the big boss the spirits that will be in the world that will come later. Not one of them is stronger than Jesus. Only Jesus has God's power. <sup>22</sup> God pushed all that mob down and put them under Jesus's feet. And he made Jesus the leader of his people. Those people are his church. <sup>23</sup> Jesus lives in his church, like it is his body and he is its head. He comes into his people and fills them up. He is in everything everywhere.

## 2

### *God is really good to us*

<sup>1</sup> In the past you didn't know about Jesus. It is just like your spirit was dead. <sup>2</sup> You didn't do what God wants. You used to do some bad things, just like the other people in this world do. You used to do the things the devil wants. He is the boss of those strong bad spirits that are in the air. That devil is working now inside everyone that will not do what God wants. <sup>3</sup> And it wasn't only you mob that were bad. We were all bad. We were like those other people in this world. We did whatever we wanted to do. We did whatever our own bodies and minds told us to do. And this made God angry with us, just like he is angry with everyone else.

<sup>4-5</sup> But God didn't punish us. He felt very sorry for us. God loved us, even though we were doing bad things. It is like our spirits were dead. But he was very good to us, and he saved us. He loved us so much that he made our spirits alive, just like he made Jesus Christ alive. <sup>6</sup> And God joined us to him, and he lifted us up to sit with Jesus Christ, where he is the boss of spiritual things. <sup>7</sup> God did those things to show everyone that he is very good to us. He showed this to people in the past, and he shows it to

us now, and he will keep on showing it to everyone for ever. He is showing them that he is better than anyone else. He is really good to everyone that belongs to Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> God is really good to you. You believed in Jesus and God saved you. You didn't do anything good, but God saved you anyway. It didn't cost you anything. <sup>9</sup> You can't save yourself by the things you do, not even if you do a lot of good things. No way. God saves you. Nobody can say, "I'm really good, that is why God saved me." Nobody can talk like that. No way. <sup>10</sup> God is the one that made us what we are, and he wants us to do good things. He has already got those good things ready for us to do. He turned us into new people, and joined us to Jesus Christ, so now we can do those good things.

*Jesus Christ brings us all together, Jews and other people*

<sup>11-12</sup> Think about what you were before. You were not Jews, so you didn't belong to that special mob called Israel. You didn't know that God promised to send Jesus Christ to save us. God didn't promise to look after you, like he did for the Israel mob. And you didn't agree to keep his law, like the Israel mob did. You didn't know anything about those things. You were living without God, and there was nothing good for you in this world. You didn't know anything about the young man's operation that God told the Jewish people to do on all their boys. That's why the Jewish people rubbish you. But don't worry about that. They are only talking about the operation that people do to their bodies. They are not talking about the job that God does inside us. <sup>13</sup> At first you were far away from God. But then you believed that Jesus died, and his blood came out for you, so now God has joined you to Jesus Christ and brought you really close to himself.

<sup>14</sup> But at first you mob, that are not Jews, were enemies with us Jewish mob. There was something that made us be enemies with each other. It was like a wall standing between us. But Jesus broke down that wall, and he brought us together, and he made us become one new group. He has made us friends with each other now.

<sup>15</sup> He let people kill his body, and he died for all of us. In that way he made all those Jewish laws useless, and he stopped the Jews from being enemies with other people.

<sup>16</sup> Jesus Christ died on the cross for everybody, for the Jewish people and for the people that are not Jews. That is the way he brought both mobs back to God, to be God's friends. He stopped them from being enemies with each other, and he brought them together into one new group.

<sup>17</sup> Jesus came and told people God's message. He told them they could be friends with God and with each other. He told that story to you mob that are not Jews. You were far away from God at that time. And he told that story to us Jewish mob too. We were close to God at that time.

<sup>18</sup> Jesus Christ died for all of us, so now the Holy Spirit helps us all to come close to God, our Father. It is the same Holy Spirit that helps us both. He helps Jews, and he helps people that are not Jews.

<sup>19</sup> And now, you mob that are not Jews, you are not strangers any more. You don't belong to a different tribe any more, but you belong to God's family, and you are in God's mob now. <sup>20-22</sup> It is like God has built a special house for himself. At first he used Jesus Christ. He is the most important one. Then God used Jesus's close followers, and the people that told God's messages. They are like the cement slab that the house sits on. Now God is using you mob, with us Jewish mob, to make the rest of the house. It is like we are the bricks and the wood. You mob are

not Jews, but you are still part of that house. God's Spirit carefully joins us together, to make that house bigger all the time, and God lives in his special house. That picture of a house shows us that God is living in us all the time.

### 3

#### *God picked Paul to help the people that are not Jews*

<sup>1</sup> I am Paul. And I'm in jail. You see, you mob are not Jews, and the bosses didn't like me telling the message about Jesus to people that are not Jews. So they put me in jail. <sup>2</sup> I know you heard about what God did. He is very good to you, and he picked me to tell you his message.

<sup>3</sup> God showed me something that nobody else knew. He told me what he is doing, so I wrote some words about it. <sup>4</sup> When you read those words you will be able to understand that I know that secret about Christ. <sup>5</sup> God didn't show that secret to the people that lived before me. But now God picked some of his special messengers and teachers, and other people that tell God's messages, and his spirit has told them that secret message. <sup>6</sup> That secret message is this, God will give good things to the people that believe his good news about Jesus. It doesn't matter if they are Jews, or not Jews. God saves them both, if they believe in Jesus, just like he promised. They both belong to the same mob now. They both belong to God, like arms and legs belong to the same body.

<sup>7</sup> God was really good to me. He used his power to help me to be strong. Then he gave me this special job. I have to tell people this good news about Jesus. <sup>8</sup> I'm not important. All of God's people are more important than me. But God was good to me and gave me this special job. He sent me to tell the people that are not Jews about the really great things that Jesus Christ can give

them. These things are so great nobody can understand them properly. Jesus Christ is very rich, and he can give us these good things. <sup>9</sup> And God sent me to help everyone to understand that secret message. A long time ago when God made everything he didn't tell anyone that story. He kept it secret at that time. <sup>10</sup> But now God wants to use his church people to tell everyone that message, to show everyone that God understands all about everything. He wants them to show this to the bad spirit bosses everywhere, even those in the sky.

<sup>11</sup> God always wanted to save everybody, and he sent our leader, Jesus Christ, to do it. <sup>12</sup> We trust in Jesus and we are joined to him, so we can come to God, and we can be sure that he will listen to us. We don't have to be afraid of him. <sup>13</sup> So when some people make trouble for me, don't let that bother you. I tell you God's word, and they don't like it, so they make trouble for me. But don't worry. I want you to be strong. You can always feel happy whenever they make trouble for me.

*Paul asked God to help the Christians be strong*

<sup>14</sup> When I think about all this, all the things that our Father has done, I get down on my knees and pray to him. <sup>15</sup> He made everything in the world, and everything in heaven, and he put every family here too. <sup>16</sup> He is very great, so he can work powerfully in you. I pray that he will do that. I pray that his spirit will make your spirits strong, inside yourselves. <sup>17</sup> I pray that you will trust Jesus Christ properly, so that he will live inside you. I pray that you will know that God loves you a lot. This will keep you standing strong for him, like the roots of a tree keep it standing up strong. <sup>18-19</sup> I pray for you, and for all God's people. I pray that you will know how much Jesus Christ



loves us. He loves us so much that nobody can properly know all about it. But I want you to understand that he loves everybody very much, so that you will become like him in the way you live. I want your lives to be filled up with God.

<sup>20-21</sup> We have to thank God now. His power works in us and he does really great things. He can do a lot more than we can ask him for. He can do more than we can even think about. And we are God's people. We are his church. So we always have to praise God and show everyone that he is very great and good. We have to show them what Jesus Christ does, and that he is really great. And we have to keep doing it for ever and ever. Yes, that's the way it has to be.

## 4

### *God's people have to be friends with each other*

<sup>1</sup> So now I am asking you to live the right way. You see, I follow our leader, Jesus, so they put me in jail. And it's like that for you too. God picked you to be his own people, so you have to live his way. <sup>2</sup> Don't think that you are more important than other people. You have to be good to other people, you have to listen to them and try to understand them. Don't get angry with each other, but you have to love each other all the time. <sup>3</sup> Try hard to let God's spirit keep you together as friends, without any trouble between you.

<sup>4</sup> All of God's people are like parts of one body, with the one Holy Spirit living in all of us. God picked you to be his own people, so we are sure that one day he will make us all really happy. <sup>5</sup> We all have only one leader. There is only one true message that we all believe. They baptised all of us to show that we follow Jesus. <sup>6</sup> There is only one

God. He is the Father of all of us. He is the biggest boss over everything. He is inside us all, and he is using us all.

<sup>7</sup> You see, Jesus Christ has been good to us. He has given us each a spiritual gift. He gives each one of us the spiritual power to do something properly. He himself picks the one to get each gift. <sup>8</sup> Long ago, God got one of his men to write this in his book, “He went up to the highest place, and he made many prisoners follow him. And he gave gifts to men.”

<sup>9</sup> That man wrote, “He went up.” But think about it. He couldn’t go up unless he first came down. You see, at first Jesus Christ came down to the low parts of the earth, and then he went back up. <sup>10</sup> It was the same man, Jesus, that came down here and then went up high, above all the sky. So now he can be everywhere.

<sup>11-12</sup> And Jesus Christ gives these special gifts to his people, so that they can help other people in the church. He gave some of his people the power to be his special workers and leaders. And he gave other people the power to tell everyone his messages. And he gave some people the power to get other people to believe in Jesus. And he gave some people the power to be pastors, to look after Christians and teach them God’s way. He gave all these gifts to get God’s people ready to work together for him. And we are God’s people. We are like the body of Jesus Christ here on the earth. God works in us like this, so that this body gets bigger and stronger. <sup>13</sup> God will keep using the people with these gifts till he gets us all to believe in God’s son, and we get to know him properly, so that we all join on to each other and work together properly. Then we, God’s people, will become like Jesus Christ himself. We will become what God wants us to be.

<sup>14</sup> So don't be like little kids. Some people might try to trick us, and get us to believe things that are not true. They might try to teach different ideas, and mix up our minds. But we will not be like children any more. We will not change what we believe whenever somebody new comes and tells us something different. But instead, we will be strong. <sup>15</sup> We will love people, and at the same time we will tell them the true message, so that we will become more like Jesus Christ. It's like we are his body and he is the head. <sup>16</sup> He holds the whole body together. He's like the strings in a body that join every part together. Each of us is a different part of his body, and if every one of us does our job properly, and if we love each other, the whole body will grow, and it will get stronger.

*You have to turn around and be like God*

<sup>17</sup> I'm telling you this message that our leader, Jesus, wants me to tell you, so you have to take notice of it. Don't live any more like the people that don't know God. They can't think straight. <sup>18</sup> They can't understand anything properly. It is like their minds are in darkness. They don't want to know God, and they are a long way away from him. He doesn't give them life. They do bad things, but they never feel sorry about it. <sup>19</sup> They don't know what is right, or what is wrong, any more. They only want to do all kinds of bad things, and dirty things, and they really want to keep on doing those wrong things.

<sup>20</sup> But you didn't learn anything like that when you learned about Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> I'm sure that you heard the good story about Jesus, and learned the true things that Jesus taught to people. <sup>22</sup> You see, we all have a bad part inside us that gets us to only think about what we want for ourselves, and it gets us to go wrong, and it gets us

to do bad things. But now you have to turn around and be a different kind of person. So don't take any notice of that old bad part inside you. Don't think about those bad things any more, <sup>23</sup> but let God's spirit show you how to think in a new way. <sup>24</sup> This is a new thing inside you, and it makes you more like God. His spirit wants you to only do what is right, and what is good, and what is true. So you have to let his spirit make you into a new person, more like God.

<sup>25</sup> You know, we all belong to Jesus, like each one of us is a part of his body. So stop lying to each other. Only say the things that are true. <sup>26</sup> And if you get angry, don't do anything wrong. Don't stay angry all day, but quickly stop being angry. <sup>27</sup> Don't give the devil a chance to get you to do wrong.

<sup>28</sup> If you steal things from other people, you have to stop doing that. Instead, you have to do honest work to get things for yourself, and you have to give things to other people that need them. <sup>29</sup> And don't swear, or say anything that is bad. But say good things that will help people, and make them stronger. In this way your words will be good for those that hear you.

<sup>30</sup> Don't make the Holy Spirit sad. Remember, he is in you, so you can be really sure that you belong to God, and that one day God will save you properly. <sup>31</sup> So don't get upset with people, and don't think about them in a bad way. Don't get angry with them. Don't argue or fight with people. Don't yell at anyone, or say bad things about them. Don't do anything bad to anyone. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be good to each other, and try to understand the way others feel. If somebody does wrong to you, don't do payback to them but let it go. Be good to each other, just like God is good to you. He didn't do payback to you. You belong

to Jesus Christ now, so he didn't punish you for those bad things you did.

## 5

*You are God's kids, so you have to be like him*

<sup>1</sup> You are God's kids, and he loves you, so try to be like God all the time. <sup>2</sup> Keep on loving other people just like Jesus Christ loves you all the time. He loves us so much that he took our blame, and he died instead of us. Do you remember that in the old times people used to kill an animal and burn it, so that it made a good smell, to give it to God and make him happy? Well, just like that, Jesus let people kill him. This was like he gave himself to God. This is what God wanted. So we have to love people, just like Jesus did.

<sup>3</sup> So, don't ever sleep with somebody that is not your own wife or husband and do what married people do together. And don't be greedy, wanting lots of money and things. You are God's own people, so don't even think about doing bad things like that. That's not the way for God's people to live. <sup>4</sup> And don't talk in a dirty way or tell dirty jokes, like fools do. It's not right for God's people to talk like that. Instead, when you talk, you have to thank God a lot. <sup>5</sup> Listen, this is true. If you do those bad and dirty things, you will never get the good things that God gives to his family, the people that are joined to Jesus Christ. It's like this, you can't be one of God's mob if you think in a dirty way, or if you sleep with somebody that is not your wife or husband, as if you are married to them, or if you are greedy, wanting lots of money and things. (Greedy people really respect money and things more than they respect God.)

<sup>6</sup> Don't let anyone trick you about those bad things. Don't believe their lies. God will get really angry with people that do those bad things, and he will punish those people that will not listen to him or do what he says. <sup>7</sup> So don't join in with that kind of people to do what they do.

<sup>8</sup> You see, you used to be like that before. You didn't know what was right, like you were in the darkness. But then you came to our leader, Jesus, and now you are in the light. So live like people that belong to the light. <sup>9</sup> You know, if people have God's light in them, they live in a way that is true, right, and good. <sup>10</sup> So try to find out what God says is right, and do that. <sup>11</sup> People that belong to the dark do wrong things. Don't ever join in with them in doing those things that are wrong and useless. But instead, tell everyone that they are really wrong. <sup>12</sup> Those people do bad things when nobody can see them. Those things are so bad that if we talk about them, we feel ashamed. <sup>13</sup> But whenever light shines on something, everyone can see it. <sup>14</sup> The light shows us what it really is. So some people say this,

“Wake up, you that is asleep.

Get up. Don't stay down there like you are dead, and light from Jesus Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup> So, you have to be very careful to live the right way. Don't be stupid, but be people that understand what is right and good. Don't live like stupid people. <sup>16</sup> Lots of people do lots of bad things these days, so take every chance you get to do good. <sup>17</sup> Don't be fools. But instead, understand what the God wants. <sup>18</sup> Don't get drunk. If you drink too much grog you will go wild and stupid. Don't do that, but instead, let the Holy Spirit keep on filling you up. <sup>19</sup> Use God's songs to talk to each other. You know, you can sing hymns and songs that the Holy Spirit gives

you. Sing and make music to God from inside yourselves.  
<sup>20</sup> Remember our leader, Jesus Christ, and always thank God, our Father, for everything.

*Treat each other properly*

<sup>21</sup> You know that you have to respect Jesus Christ, and agree to what he wants. Well, each of you has to also agree to what others of you want.

*Wives*

<sup>22</sup> You ladies that are wives, you have to agree to what your husbands want, just like you agree to what our leader, Jesus, wants. <sup>23</sup> You see it is like this. Each body has a head that controls it. Jesus Christ is like the head of the body that is his church. That body is us, his people. He is the one that saved us. In the same way husbands are like the head of their wives. <sup>24</sup> And just like we, his people in the church, we always have to agree to what Jesus Christ wants, so wives always have to agree to what their husbands want.

*Husbands*

<sup>25</sup> Now I'm talking to you men that are husbands. You have to always love your wives properly, just like Jesus Christ loves the people in his church properly. Jesus let people kill him so that he could save us, his church. <sup>26</sup> He washed his church with water and with his word, to properly clean us. <sup>27</sup> So now we can be properly good, with nothing wrong with us at all. We can be like a beautiful bride that he brings to himself, a bride that has no spots or wrinkles anywhere.

<sup>28</sup> Well, husbands have to love their wives properly, just like Jesus loves us. You know that everyone loves his own body and looks after it properly. Well, in the same way, husbands have to love their wives and look after them,

just as much as they love their own bodies. A man that loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> No man ever hates his own body. No, instead he feeds it and takes care of it. Jesus Christ does that too. He takes care of his people, the church. <sup>30</sup> We all belong to Jesus, like we are parts of his own body.

<sup>31</sup> In God's book we read, "This is why a man will now leave his mother and father and marry a woman. The man and his wife will join with each other, and their bodies will be like one body." <sup>32</sup> These words tell us important things that are hard to understand. I reckon they show us a picture of the way Jesus Christ and his church are joined together like one. <sup>33</sup> So I say this to you married people. Every one of you husbands has to love your own wife as much as you love yourself. And every wife has to respect her husband.

## 6

### *Children*

<sup>1</sup> Now I'm talking to you children. You are joined to our leader, Jesus, so you have to do what your father and mother tell you to do. This is the right way to live. <sup>2</sup> You see, God made this law, and then he promised something with it. (This was the first time God did that.) He said, "Always respect your father and your mother. <sup>3</sup> If you do that you will be happy, and you will live for a long time on the earth."

### *Fathers*

<sup>4</sup> Now I'm talking to you Fathers. Don't make your children angry. But instead, as they are growing up, you have to teach them the way God wants them to live, and show them how to live the right way.

### *Workers*



<sup>5</sup> Now I'm talking to you workers, you people that have to work for other people all the time. Your bosses are only people, but no matter, you have to respect them properly, and do whatever they tell you. Work hard for them, like you are working for Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> Do what they say, and try to make them happy. Don't only do it when they can see you, but also when they can't see you. Work happily in your job, like it was Jesus Christ that gave it to you, and then you will be doing what God wants. <sup>7</sup> Your bosses are only people, but try to work properly for them, like you are working for Jesus, not working for people. <sup>8</sup> Remember this, if you do a good job, Jesus, our leader, will pay you with something good later. He will do this, no matter if you work for nothing, like a prisoner, or if you are free.

#### *Bosses*

<sup>9</sup> Now I'm talking to bosses. You have to do the same, you have to be good to your workers. Don't say anything to frighten them. Don't tell them you want to punish them. Remember that God in heaven is your boss, and he is the boss of your workers too. And he treats everyone the same, no matter whether you are a boss or a worker.

#### *Be like strong soldiers for God*

<sup>10</sup> The last thing that I want to say to you is this. You are joined to our leader, Jesus, and he is very strong, so you have to use his strong power to fight against the devil. <sup>11</sup> You know that a soldier puts on special gear to stop the enemy from hitting him? Well, you do that with the special gear that God gives us. Then you will keep strong against the devil and you will not let him trick you. He tries all sorts of clever ways to hit us. <sup>12</sup> You see, we are not fighting against people, but we are fighting against a

big mob of devils. We are fighting against the bad spirit bosses that we can't see in this bad world. And we are fighting against the powerful bad spirits that live above the earth too. <sup>13</sup> So you have to use all the special gear that God gives you. Then you will be able to stand up to those bad spirits whenever they come at you, and they will not be able to beat you. And at the end of the fight you will still be standing strong.

<sup>14</sup> So put on that special gear from God, so you can stand up against the devil. This is what that gear is.

- You know that a soldier wears a belt, to hold his clothes on tight, so he can move quickly in a fight. Well, just like that, you take notice of what is true, so you can fight better against the devil.
- And a soldier wears a steel plate, to stop the enemy from hitting his chest. Well, you have to always do what is right, and this will be like a steel plate for you, to stop the devil from hitting you.
- <sup>15</sup> And a soldier wears strong boots, so that he can always be ready to fight. Well, you have to remember the good news, that Jesus gets us to be friends with God. Then you will be ready to fight the devil.
- <sup>16</sup> You know that a soldier always has a shield, to stop the spears that the enemy throws at him. In the same way you have to always trust God. Whenever you do this, it is like you are holding up a shield that stops things that the devil throws at you. They are like burning spears, but if you trust God he will stop them and put them out.
- <sup>17</sup> And a soldier wears a steel hat, that stops the enemy from hitting his head. Well, you remember that God has saved you. That will be like a steel hat for you, to keep you safe.

- And you know the long knife a soldier has, called a sword? He uses it to fight back against his enemy. Well, in the same way, you can use God's word to fight back against the devil, and his Holy Spirit will help you.

<sup>18</sup> To do all this you have to pray in the way that God's spirit leads you. Pray about every problem, and pray in all kinds of ways, and ask God for whatever you need. So always keep on praying for all God's people. <sup>19</sup> And pray for me too. Ask God to give me the right words to say every time I start to tell people the good news about Jesus. Pray that I will not be afraid to tell them that message properly. God kept it secret for a long time, <sup>20</sup> but now he has sent me to tell this good story to everybody. The bosses didn't like me telling that story, so they put me in jail. I want you to ask God to stop me from being frightened, so that I keep on telling his good story.

### *The end of Paul's letter*

<sup>21-22</sup> Now I'm sending Tychicus to you to tell you how I'm going, and he will tell you what I'm doing these days. He is my Christian friend that I love, and he is a good worker for God. He will tell you all the news about me, and the news about the others that are here with me. And I also want him to help you feel strong and brave.

<sup>23</sup> You mob are my good friends. You believe in God, our Father, and you believe in our leader, Jesus Christ. So I'm asking them to be really good to you, and to help you to be happy and quiet inside yourselves, and to love God and other people, and to keep on trusting Jesus.

<sup>24</sup> I ask God to be very good to everyone that loves our leader, Jesus Christ, for ever.

*From Paul*

Plain English Version  
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for Australian Aboriginal people who speak English as a second  
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