



February 8, 2026

UNITED: Ephesians 6:14-18 - Word of God

SUMMARY: I grew up treating the Bible like a flawless magic book. College shattered that view when I learned about editing, genres, and cultural shaping, and for a time I couldn't read Scripture at all. Healing came when I learned to see the Bible as God intends it: an incarnational work, breathed out by God through real people in real moments.

Those human textures aren't flaws. They're how God tells the rescue story until it lands. Read rightly, all of Scripture leads to Jesus and forms us for worship, clarity, and participation in His kingdom.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:14–18, Exodus 17,

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Matt shared his personal journey from a "magical literalism" to an "incarnational" view of Scripture. Reflect on your own relationship with the Bible. Has your understanding of how God inspired and delivered Scripture evolved over time? If so, what prompted that shift, and how has it impacted your faith?
2. The sermon highlighted that "genres matter" and that we should "read genres, not just sentences." When you approach a new book or passage in the Bible, what is one specific question you can ask yourself about its genre (e.g., "Is this a historical narrative, a poem, a law, or a prophecy?") to help you understand God's intended message more accurately?
3. God "accommodates people" by working through human hands and cultural forms to deliver His truth. How does this understanding of God's method of revelation encourage you when you feel inadequate or imperfect in serving Him, knowing that He uses real people in real times?
4. The sermon emphasized that "Scripture points constantly to Jesus" and functions as a "map for worship, formation, and mission." This week, as you read your Bible, what is one specific way you can look for how the passage (even in the Old Testament) points to Christ, and how can that discovery lead you to worship, personal growth, or a clearer sense of your mission?
5. Pastor Matt mentioned that "wrestling with that tension [of divine and human] invites humility: Scripture demands reverence and careful interpretation, not simplistic claims." In what specific areas of your life or conversations about faith might you be tempted to offer "simplistic claims" about the Bible, and what is one step you can take to cultivate more "careful interpretation" and humility?
6. The sermon warned against the "magical literalism that treats genre and metaphor as science." Can you identify a specific instance where you might have previously misinterpreted a biblical passage by not considering its genre or metaphorical language? What was the impact of that interpretation, and how might you approach similar passages differently now?