

The Epistle To The Ephesians



**A Study Guide With Introductory Comments,
Summaries, Outlines, And Review Questions**

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The Epistle To The Ephesians

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This study guide was developed in preparation for teaching adult Bible classes.

- ◆ The objectives for each section are usually things I plan to emphasize during the class.
- ◆ I have found that summarizing and outlining helps me to better understand the Word of God. It is a practice I highly recommend to others.
- ◆ I generally delete the answers to the review questions before printing the material and giving it to the students. But that you might know what answers were intended by the questions, I have included them in these guides.

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The outlines were developed in the course of my ministry as a preacher of the gospel. Feel free to use them as they are, or adapt them to suit your own personal style. To God be the glory!

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The Epistle To The Ephesians

Introduction

AUTHOR

The apostle **Paul (1:1; 3:1)**. Early sources in church history that attribute this letter to Paul include: Irenaeus (200 A.D.), Clement of Alexandria (200 A.D.), and Origen (250 A.D.). Polycarp (125 A.D.) attests to its canonicity in his own epistle to the Philippians (chapter 12).

THE RECIPIENTS

There are reasons to believe that this epistle was not designed for just one congregation, but intended to be passed around to several churches in the area surrounding Ephesus. The earliest manuscripts do not contain the phrase "in Ephesus" (cf. **1:1**). The epistle itself is in the form of a general treatise rather than as a letter written to a specific church. For example, there are no specific exhortations or personal greetings. It is thought by some (Conybeare and Howson) that this letter is the epistle that was first sent to Laodicea (cf. **Co 4:16**), and designed to be shared with other churches, including Ephesus. Because Ephesus was the leading city of the region, and the main center of Paul's missionary activity in the area (cf. **Ac 19:1,8-10**), it is understandable why later scribes might have assigned this epistle to the church at Ephesus. Without question it was intended for *"the saints ...and faithful in Christ Jesus."* (**1:1**)

PAUL'S MINISTRY IN THE REGION

Paul first came to Ephesus for a short visit toward the end of his second missionary journey (**Ac 18:18-19**). Located on the SW coast of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), Ephesus was one of the great cities in that part of the world. A Roman capital, it was a wealthy commercial center and home for the worship of the goddess Diana (cf. **Ac 19:23-41**). Though Paul briefly studied with the Jews at the local synagogue and was invited to stay longer, he made plans to visit them again after a quick trip to Jerusalem (**Ac 18:20-21**).

On his third missionary journey Paul made it back to Ephesus for an extended stay of three years (cf. **Ac 19:1,10; 20:31**). After his initial success in converting twelve disciples of John (**Ac 19:1-7**), Paul spent three months teaching in the local synagogue (**Ac 19:8**). Resistance to his doctrine forced him to leave the synagogue, but he was able to continue teaching in the school of Tyrannus for a period of two years. The end result is that the gospel spread from Ephesus throughout Asia Minor (**Ac 19:9-10**). A disturbance created by some of the local idol makers finally forced Paul to leave Ephesus (**Ac 19:23-20:1**).

Toward the end of his third journey, Paul stopped at nearby Miletus, and met with the elders of the church at Ephesus. Reminding them of his work with them, he charged them to fulfill their own responsibilities as overseers of the flock of God, and then bid them a tearful farewell (**Ac 20:17-38**).

TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING

Ephesians is one of Paul's four "prison epistles" (**3:1; 4:1; 6:20**; cf. Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon). The general consensus is that these epistles were written during Paul's imprisonment at Rome (cf. **Ac 28:16,30-31**). If such is truly the case, then Paul wrote Ephesians around **61-63 A.D.** from **Rome**. The indication is that the epistles to the Colossians, Philemon and the Ephesians were carried to their destination by Tychicus and Onesimus (cf. **6:21-22; Co 4:7-9; Phile 10-12**).

PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE

Unlike other epistles written to specific churches, this epistle does not deal with specific problems in a local congregation. Instead, Paul addressed great themes that pertain to the Christian's position in Christ, as a member of the body of Christ, the church. As expressed in his prayer for his readers, it was his desire that they might know:

- ◆ What is the hope of God's calling (**1:18**)
- ◆ What are the glorious riches of God's inheritance in the saints (**1:18**)
- ◆ What is God's great power toward those who believe (**1:19**)

In the first three chapters, Paul answers his own prayer by expounding upon their spiritual blessings in Christ. The last three chapters focus on the conduct (or "walk", cf. **4:1,17; 5:2,8,15**) expected of those so richly blessed. Therefore Paul writes to:

- ◆ **Remind Christians of their spiritual blessings in Christ (1:3)**
- ◆ **Exhort Christians to have a "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called" (4:1)**

THEME OF THE EPISTLE

A grand epistle like Ephesians almost defies coming up with one main theme. With its exalted view of the church in God's plan of redemption, it is common to suggest the theme as **"The Church, The Fullness of Christ"**. Another theme which does justice to the content of the epistle and one that I suggest for this study is that offered by Warren Wiersbe:

"THE BELIEVER'S RICHES IN CHRIST"

KEY VERSE: Ephesians 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,"

OUTLINE (adapted from The Bible Exposition Commentary, Vol. 2, Warren W. Wiersbe, p.7)

INTRODUCTION (1:1-2)

I. DOCTRINE: OUR RICHES IN CHRIST (1:3-3:21)

A. OUR SPIRITUAL POSSESSIONS IN CHRIST (1:3-14)

1. From the Father (1:4-6)
2. From the Son (1:7-12)
3. From the Spirit (1:13-14)
- First Prayer: for enlightenment (1:15-23)

B. OUR SPIRITUAL POSITION IN CHRIST (2:1-22)

1. Raised and seated on the throne (2:1-10)
2. Reconciled and set into the temple (2:11-22)
- Second Prayer: for enablement (3:1-21; with verses 2-13 as a parenthesis)

II. DUTY: OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN CHRIST (4:1-6:20)

A. A CALL TO WALK IN UNITY (4:1-16)

1. Preserving the unity of the Spirit with proper attitudes (4:1-7)
2. Edifying the body of Christ by the grace given us (4:8-16)

B. A CALL TO WALK IN PURITY (4:17-5:21)

1. Walk not as other Gentiles (4:17-32)
2. Walk in love (5:1-6)
3. Walk as children of light (5:7-14)
4. Walk as wise (5:15-21)

C. A CALL TO WALK IN HARMONY (5:22-6:9)

1. Husbands and wives (5:22-33)
2. Parents and children (6:1-4)
3. Masters and servants (6:5-9)

D. A CALL TO WALK IN VICTORY (6:10-20)

1. Standing strong in the power of the Lord (6:10-13)
2. Equipped with the whole armor of God (6:14-20)

CONCLUSION (6:21-24)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE INTRODUCTION

1) To whom is this epistle addressed? (1:1)

- The saints and faithful in Christ Jesus; actual identity uncertain

- 2) From where and when did Paul write Ephesians?**
 - From Rome, sometime around 61-63 A.D.
- 3) What three other epistles were written about this time? What are the four epistles sometimes called?**
 - Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon
 - The "prison epistles"
- 4) When did Paul first come to Ephesus (Ac 18:19-22)**
 - Toward the end of his second missionary journey
- 5) When and how long did he spend most of his time at Ephesus? (Ac 18:23; 19:1; 20:31)**
 - On his third missionary journey; three years
- 6) For what three things did Paul pray that they might know? (1:15-19)**
 - The hope of God's calling
 - The glorious riches of God's inheritance in the saints
 - God's great power toward those who believe
- 7) What is the twofold purpose of this epistle? (1:3; 4:1)**
 - To remind Christians of their spiritual blessings in Christ
 - To exhort Christians to have a "walk" worthy of their calling
- 8) What is the "theme" of this epistle, as suggested in the introduction?**
 - The Believer's Riches In Christ
- 9) What serves as the "key verse" of this epistle?**
 - Ephesians 1:3
- 10) According to the outline above, what are the two main divisions in this epistle?**
 - Doctrine: Our Riches In Christ
 - Duty: Our Responsibilities In Christ

The Epistle To The Ephesians

Chapter One

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To review the wonderful blessings God has provided in Christ
- 2) To understand what Paul desired the Ephesians that they know
- 3) To notice the greatness of God's power toward those who believe
- 4) To consider the exalted position of Christ and His church

SUMMARY

Following a brief salutation (**1-2**), Paul begins this epistle with an expression of praise to God for the spiritual blessings that are in Christ (**3**). In this doxology is a list of blessings divided into three sections. The first section describes those blessings related to the Father, how He has chosen us in Christ, predestined us to adoption as sons to Himself, and made us accepted in the Beloved (**4-6**). The second section focuses on those blessings in relation to the Son, e.g., redemption through His blood, forgiveness of sins, the revelation of His will concerning Jesus Christ, and the inheritance we have obtained, as predestined according to God's will (**7-12**). The third section describes blessings related to the Holy Spirit, how we are sealed with the Spirit of promise, and how He serves as a "guarantee" (or deposit) of our inheritance (**13-14**). The key phrase throughout this section is "in Him" (or "in Whom") which stresses the point that all spiritual blessing come through Jesus Christ and enjoyed by those who are "in" Him (cf. **1:1,3**).

The last half of the chapter contains Paul's first of two prayers that are in this epistle. The prayer in this chapter is for their "enlightenment", that their knowledge and understanding might increase. Paul especially desires that they might know God more fully, what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the great power of God toward those who believe (**15-19**). Regarding this "power", it is the same power God used to raise Jesus from the dead and seat Him at His right hand. The exalted position now enjoyed by Christ includes authority over all things, especially the church which is described as "His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." (**20-23**)

OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION (1-3)

A. THE AUTHOR (1a)

1. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ
2. By the will of God

B. THE RECIPIENTS (1b)

1. The saints (who are in Ephesus)
2. The faithful in Christ Jesus

C. THE SALUTATION (2)

1. Grace and peace
2. From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

D. THE THEME OF THE EPISTLE (3)

1. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is to be blessed (praised)
2. For He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

II. OUR SPIRITUAL POSSESSIONS IN CHRIST (3-14)

A. BLESSINGS INVOLVING THE FATHER (4-6)

1. We are chosen by God (4)
 - a. Chosen in Christ before the world began
 - b. Chosen to holy and without blame before Him in love
2. We are predestined by God (5-6a)
 - a. Predestined to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself
 - b. Predestined according to the good pleasure of His Will
 - To the praise of His glorious grace
3. We are accepted by God (6)
 - a. Accepted by virtue of His glorious grace
 - b. Accepted in the Beloved (Christ)

B. BLESSINGS INVOLVING THE SON (7-12)

1. God has redeemed us (7a)
 - a. Redeemed in Christ
 - b. Redeemed through His blood
2. God has forgiven us (7b-8)
 - a. Forgiven us of our sins
 - b. Forgiven us according to the riches of His grace
 - 1) Which God has made to abound toward us
 - 2) Abounding in all wisdom and prudence
3. God has revealed His will to us (9-10)
 - a. Revealed the mystery of His will
 - 1) According to His good pleasure
 - 2) Which He purposed in Himself
 - b. Revealed how He will gather together in one all things in Christ
 - 1) Things in heaven
 - 2) Things on earth
4. God has given us an inheritance (11-12)
 - a. An inheritance predestined by God
 - 1) According to His purpose
 - 2) Who works all things according to His will

- b. An inheritance...
 - 1) For those who first trusted in Christ
 - 2) So they can be to the praise of God's glory

C. BLESSINGS INVOLVING THE HOLY SPIRIT (13-14)

- 1. The Holy Spirit is our "seal" (13)
 - a. Having trusted in Christ after hearing the word of truth, the gospel of salvation
 - b. Having believed, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise
- 2. The Holy Spirit is our "guarantee" (14)
 - a. The guarantee of our inheritance
 - b. The guarantee until the redemption of the purchased possession
 - To the praise of God's glory

III. PAUL'S FIRST PRAYER: FOR THEIR ENLIGHTENMENT (15-23)

A. THAT WHICH PRECIPITATED HIS PRAYER (15-16)

- 1. Having heard of their:
 - a. Faith in the Lord Jesus
 - b. Love for all their saints
- 2. Resulting in his:
 - a. Unceasing thanks for them
 - b. Making mention of them in his prayers

B. THE CONTENT OF HIS PRAYER (17-23)

- 1. To whom addressed (17a)
 - a. The God of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - b. The Father of glory
- 2. That God would...
 - a. Give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation (17b)
 - b. Enlighten the eyes of their understanding (18a)
- 3. That they might know...
 - a. The knowledge of God (17c)
 - b. The hope of His calling (18b)
 - c. The riches of the glorious inheritance in the saints (18c)
 - d. The exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe (19a)
- 4. Regarding this power toward us who believe...
 - a. It is according to working of God's mighty power in Christ (19b-20a)
 - b. The same mighty power which...
 - 1) Raised Christ from the dead (20b)
 - 2) Seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places (20c-21)
 - a) Far above all principality, power, might, dominion, and every name
 - b) Not only in this age, but also in that which is to come
 - 3) Put all things under His feet (22a)
 - 4) Gave Him to be head over all things to the church (22b-23)
 - a) Which is His body
 - b) Which is the fullness of Him who fills all in all

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?**
 - Introduction (1-3)
 - Our spiritual possessions in Christ (3-14)
 - Paul's first prayer: for their enlightenment (15-23)

- 2) Why is God to be blessed (praised)? (3)**
 - Because He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

- 3) What blessings have we received that pertain especially to the Father? (4-6)**
 - He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
 - He predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ
 - He made us acceptable in the Beloved (Jesus)

- 4) What blessings have we received that pertain especially to the Son? (7-12)**
 - God has redeemed us through His Son's blood
 - God has revealed His will to us
 - God has forgiven us of our sins
 - God has given us an inheritance

- 5) What blessings have we received that pertain especially to the Holy Spirit? (13-14)**
 - We have been "sealed" by the Holy Spirit
 - We have received the Spirit as a "guarantee" of our inheritance

- 6) What had Paul heard, that prompted his prayers in their behalf? (15-16)**
 - Of their faith in the Lord Jesus; of their love for all the saints

- 7) Concerning what did Paul pray that his readers might know and be enlightened? (17-19)**
 - The knowledge of God
 - The hope of His calling
 - The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
 - The exceeding greatness of His power toward those who believe

- 8) According to what is God's power toward those who believe? (20)**
 - The power God worked in Christ, in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand

- 9) What is Christ's exalted position at God's right hand? (21)**
 - Far above all principality, power, might, dominion, and every name that is named, both now and in the age to come

- 10) What has been placed under His feet? Over what is He the head? (23)**
 - All things; the church

- 11) What is the church in relation to Christ? (23)**
 - His body; the fullness of Him who fills all in all

The Epistle To The Ephesians

Chapter Two

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To consider the riches of God's grace toward sinners, how we are saved by grace through faith
- 2) To understand the Gentiles' condition outside of Christ, the effect Jesus' death had on the Law, and what Gentiles can now become in Christ

SUMMARY

Having expressed his desire that his readers might know the exceeding greatness of God's power toward those who believe (**1:19**), Paul reminds them of how they had been dead in sin but made alive together with Christ. Indeed, they were raised and made to sit together with Christ in the heavenly places, that God might show even more riches of His grace in the ages to come. All this God did by His love, grace, and mercy. While it involved their faith, it did not involve any works whereby one could boast. The end result is that they have been created in Christ to walk in good works, as God planned beforehand (**1-10**).

Paul also wants them to remember how far they have come as Gentiles, courtesy of Jesus Christ. Once strangers from the promises made to Israel and without God in the world, they can now draw near through the blood of Jesus. By His death on the cross Jesus abolished the law of commandments which separated Jews and Gentiles, and has reconciled them both to God in one body. The Gentiles can therefore be fellow-citizens and members of God's family; they are also part of that grand temple being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus as the cornerstone, in which they serve as a habitation of God in the Spirit (**11-22**).

OUTLINE

I. RAISED AND SEATED ON THE THRONE (1-10)

A. OUR CONDITION OUTSIDE OF CHRIST (1-3)

1. Dead in trespasses and sins (**1**)
2. Walking according to the course of the world and the devil (**2**)
3. Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind, by nature the children of wrath (**3**)

B. MADE ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST (4-10)

1. God made us alive together with Christ (**4-5**)
 - a. By virtue of His mercy and great love
 - b. Even when dead in trespasses
 - c. By His grace we have been saved
2. God raised us with Christ (**6-7**)

- a. Made to sit with Him in heavenly places
- b. That in ages to come God might show the exceeding riches of His grace
3. Saved by grace through faith **(8-9)**
 - a. Not of ourselves, it is the gift of God
 - b. Not of works, lest any man should boast
4. We are thus God's workmanship **(10)**
 - a. Created in Christ Jesus for good works
 - b. Created to walk in good works which God prepared beforehand

II. RECONCILED AND SET INTO THE TEMPLE (11-22)

A. THE GENTILES' CONDITION "WITHOUT" CHRIST (11-12)

1. Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel
2. Strangers from the covenants of promise
3. Having no hope and without God in the world

B. THE GENTILES' CONDITION "THROUGH" CHRIST (13-18)

1. Made near by the blood of Christ **(13)**
2. Can now be "one body" with the Jews, because...
 - a. Jesus has made Jew and Gentile both one, breaking down the wall of division between them **(14)**
 - b. Jesus abolished in His flesh the law of commandments contained in ordinances that had separated them **(15)**
 - c. Jesus now reconciles them both to God in one body through the cross **(16)**
 - d. Jesus preached peace to those afar off and those near **(17)**
3. Can now have access by one Spirit to the Father **(18)**

C. THE GENTILES' CONDITION "IN" CHRIST (19-22)

1. They are now "fellow citizens with the saints" **(19)**
2. They are now "members of the household of God" **(19)**
3. They are now part of "a holy temple in the Lord" **(20-22)**
 - a. Built upon a foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus the cornerstone
 - b. Joined together and growing as a holy temple, a habitation of God in the Spirit

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- Raised and seated on the throne (1-10)
- Reconciled and set into the temple (11-22)

2) What was our condition outside of Christ? (1-3)

- Dead in trespasses and sins
- Walking according to the course of this world and the devil
- Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind, by nature the children of wrath

- 3) What motivated God to save us? (4)**
 - His rich mercy and great love
- 4) What did God do, even though we were dead in trespasses? How? (5)**
 - Made us alive together with Christ; by grace
- 5) What else has He done? Why? (6-7)**
 - Raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places with Christ
 - To show the riches of His grace and kindness toward us in Christ in the ages to come
- 6) Upon what basis have we been saved? Upon what basis have we not been saved? (8-9)**
 - By grace through faith, as the gift of God
 - Not of ourselves or of works, lest anyone should boast
- 7) What are we now in Christ Jesus? For what purpose? (10)**
 - God's workmanship
 - Created in Christ Jesus to walk in good works which God prepared beforehand
- 8) What was the Gentiles' condition outside of Christ? (11-12)**
 - Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel
 - Strangers from the covenants of promise
 - Having no hope, without God in the world
- 9) What has Christ done through His blood? (13)**
 - Those who once were far off are now brought near
- 10) How has Jesus become "our peace" through His death on the cross? (14-17)**
 - By breaking down the middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile
 - By abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments contained in ordinances that had separated Jew and Gentile
 - By reconciling them both to God in one body
 - By preaching peace to those afar off (Gentile) and those near (Jew)
- 11) What do we both have through Christ? (18)**
 - Access by one Spirit to the Father
- 12) What can Gentiles now become because of what Christ has done? (19)**
 - Fellow citizens with the saints
 - Members of the household of God
- 13) Upon what are we being built? (20)**
 - The foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ as the chief cornerstone
- 14) What kind of building are we? For what purpose? (21-22)**
 - A holy temple in the Lord
 - To be a habitation of God in the Spirit

The Epistle To The Ephesians

Chapter Three

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To understand the "mystery" so long hidden that is now revealed, and the role of the church
- 2) To examine Paul's prayer for the Ephesians' enablement, what it means for us today

SUMMARY

In this chapter Paul reminds his readers of God's grace that has been shown him regarding the revelation of the "mystery". By reading what he had written earlier, they would understand how the "mystery" pertained to Gentiles becoming fellow heirs in Christ, and Paul felt privileged to preach among the Gentiles what for ages had been hidden. Knowing that what he did was part of God's eternal purpose in Christ to make His manifold wisdom known by the church, he asked his brethren not to be discouraged by any tribulations he experienced on their behalf (1-13).

The chapter also contains Paul's second prayer for the Ephesians. He prays for their enablement, that the Father would strengthen them by His Spirit, that Christ might dwell in their hearts through faith, that they be able to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, and so be filled with all the fullness of God. He concludes his prayer and this chapter by ascribing that glory be given to God in the church by Jesus Christ for all eternity (14-21).

OUTLINE

I. THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY (1-13)

A. A MYSTERY ONCE HIDDEN, NOW REVEALED (1-7)

1. Interrupting himself, Paul makes mention of God's grace (1-2)
 - a. A measure of grace given to him
 - b. Given for the benefit of his readers
2. That by revelation God made known to Paul the "mystery" (3-4)
 - a. Concerning which he wrote previously
 - b. Which as they read, they will understand his knowledge in the mystery of Christ
3. A "mystery" once hidden, but now revealed (5)
 - a. In other ages it was not made known to men
 - b. But has now been revealed
 - 1) By the Spirit
 - 2) To God's holy apostles and prophets
4. The "mystery" involved the Gentiles (6)
 - a. That they should be fellow heirs, of the same body
 - b. That they should be partakers of God's promise through the gospel

5. Paul's role as a minister of this "mystery" was a gift from God (7)
 - a. A gift of God's grace
 - b. A gift given to him by the effective working of God's power

B. PAUL'S TASK AS A MINISTER OF THIS "MYSTERY" (8-13)

1. To preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ (8)
 - a. Even though he was "less than the least of all the saints"
 - b. Yet this grace was given to him
2. To make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery (9-13)
 - a. Which from the beginning was hidden in God who created all things
 - b. But with the intention of now making God's wisdom known
 - 1) Made known by the church
 - 2) Made known to principalities and powers in heavenly places
 - c. According to God's eternal purpose which He fulfilled in Christ Jesus
 - 1) In whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him
 - 2) For which Paul does not want them to lose heart over his tribulations in their behalf, which was for their glory

II. PAUL'S SECOND PRAYER: FOR THEIR ENABLEMENT (14-21)

A. HIS INVOCATION (14-15)

1. In view of God's grace to the Gentiles, Paul bows his knees in prayer (14a)
2. He addresses the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named (14b-15)

B. HIS PETITION (16-19)

1. That they would be strengthened by the Spirit of God (16-17)
 - a. According to the riches of His glory
 - b. With might through His Spirit in the inner man
 - c. So Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith
2. That they might comprehend the love of Christ (18-19a)
 - a. Being rooted and grounded in love
 - b. To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge
3. That they might be filled with all the fullness of God (19b)

C. HIS DOXOLOGY (20-21)

1. Glory to God, for what He is able to do! (20)
 - a. Able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think
 - b. According to the power that works in us
2. Glory to God, in the church! (21)
 - a. By Christ Jesus
 - b. Throughout all ages, world without end

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?**
 - The revelation of the mystery (1-13)
 - Paul's second prayer: for their enablement (14-21)
- 2) How does Paul identify himself as he begins this chapter? (1)**
 - As the prisoner of Jesus Christ for the Gentiles
- 3) What dispensation, or measure, of grace was shown by God toward Paul? (2-3)**
 - That by revelation God made known to him the "mystery"
- 4) What did Paul say we can have by reading what he had written? (3-4)**
 - We can understand his knowledge in the mystery of Christ
- 5) What does Paul reveal concerning the revelation of this mystery? (5)**
 - In other ages it was not made known, but has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets
- 6) What is the "mystery" that has now been revealed? (6)**
 - That Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise through the gospel
- 7) Though viewing himself as "less than the least of all the saints", what gracious task was given to Paul? (8-9)**
 - To preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ
 - To make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery which was hidden from the beginning
- 8) What was the intent for proclaiming the revelation of this mystery? (10)**
 - That the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to principalities and powers in the heavenly places
- 9) According to what was all this being done? (11)**
 - The eternal purpose or plan which God accomplished in Christ Jesus
- 10) What has Christ therefore made possible for us? (12)**
 - Boldness and access to God with confidence through faith in Him
- 11) In view of God's grace given to Paul, what does he therefore ask? (14)**
 - For them not to lose heart over his tribulations on their behalf
- 12) In Paul's second prayer for the Ephesians, for what does he ask? (14-19)**
 - That they would be strengthened by the Spirit of God
 - That they might comprehend the love of Christ
 - That they might be filled with all the fullness of God

13) What does Paul say God is able to do? How? (20)

- Exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think
- According to the power that works in us

14) In what entity does Paul seek to ascribe glory to God? How? For how long? (21)

- In the church
- By Christ Jesus
- Throughout all ages, world without end

The Epistle To The Ephesians

Chapter Four

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To see the importance of walking in unity and purity
- 2) To appreciate the gifts Christ has given the church for our edification, and the need for each one to do their share

SUMMARY

Beginning with this chapter and proceeding through the rest of the epistle, Paul exhorts the Ephesians to walk in a manner worthy of their calling. Having described earlier how Jesus attained unity between Jew and Gentile through His death on the cross, Paul now pleads with them to "walk in unity". With humility, gentleness, longsuffering, forbearance and love, they should be diligent to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. The unity of the Spirit is then defined as consisting of one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God (1-6).

Perhaps as motivation, Paul reminds them of the gracious gifts Christ gave His church following His ascension to heaven. Such gifts included the offices of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, which are designed to equip the saints for ministry and bring the body of Christ to maturity. In this way, it should not be misled by false doctrine, but instead by speaking the truth in love should grow in Christ as each member does it share (7-16).

The last half of this chapter addresses the need to "walk in purity". Contrasting how they once walked as Gentiles in licentiousness and greediness, they are reminded of the truth which is in Jesus. This truth calls upon them to put off the old man with its deceitful lusts, to be renewed in the spirit of their mind, and to put on the new man that is created in righteousness and holiness. Therefore they are called upon to put away lying, anger, theft, and all forms of evil speaking, lest they grieve the Holy Spirit by whom they were sealed for the day of redemption. Instead, they are to speak with truth and grace, work hard to help those in need, and be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving just as God has forgiven them in Christ (17-32).

OUTLINE

I. A CALL TO WALK IN UNITY (1-16)

A. PRESERVING THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT (1-7)

1. To walk worthy of our calling (1)
2. With the proper attitudes (2-3)
 - a. Lowliness and gentleness
 - b. Longsuffering, bearing with one another in love

- c. Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
- 3. The unity of the Spirit defined (**4-6**)
 - a. One body
 - b. One Spirit
 - c. One hope of your calling
 - d. One Lord
 - e. One faith
 - f. One baptism
 - g. One God and Father of all

B. EDIFYING THE BODY OF CHRIST (8-16)

- 1. For to each one grace was given as measured out by Christ (**8-10**)
 - a. As foretold in Scripture
 - b. Having ascended far above all the heavens to fill all things
- 2. Gifts Christ gave to His church (**11**)
 - a. Apostles
 - b. Prophets
 - c. Evangelists
 - d. Pastors
 - e. Teachers
- 3. Purpose of such gifts (**12-16**)
 - a. Equipping the saints for the work of ministry
 - b. Edifying the body of Christ, till we all come to:
 - 1) The unity of the faith
 - 2) The knowledge of the Son of God
 - 3) A perfect man
 - 4) The measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ
 - c. That we might no longer be children...
 - 1) Tossed about by every wind of doctrine
 - 2) Tricked by the cunning craftiness of those who lie in wait to deceive
 - d. That we speak the truth in love...
 - 1) So we may grow up in all things into Christ, the head
 - 2) To cause growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love
 - a) As we are joined and knit together by what each joint supplies
 - b) As every part does its effective work in doing its share

II. A CALL TO WALK IN PURITY (17-32)

A. NOT AS THE GENTILES WALK (17-19)

- 1. Who walk in the futility of their mind (**17-18**)
 - a. With understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God
 - b. With ignorance, because of the hardening of their heart
- 2. Who have given themselves over to licentiousness (**19**)
 - a. Being past feeling
 - b. To work all uncleanness with greediness

B. BUT AS LEARNED FROM CHRIST (20-32)

1. Having heard and been taught by Him, and the truth which is in Him (20-24)
 - a. To put off the old man which grows corrupt in its deceitful lusts
 - b. To be renewed in the spirit of one's mind
 - c. To put on the new man which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness
2. Therefore putting away things of the old man (25-31)
 - a. Such as lying, instead speaking truth
 - b. Such as anger, giving place to the devil
 - c. Such as stealing, instead working to give to those in need
 - d. Such as corrupt speech, instead speaking with grace to edify those who hear
 - e. Such as grieving the Holy Spirit, by whom we were sealed for the day of redemption
 - f. Such as all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, all malice
3. Instead be kind to one another (32)
 - a. Tenderhearted, forgiving
 - b. Just as God in Christ forgave us

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- A call to walk in unity (1-16)
- A call to walk in purity (17-32)

2) How is the Christian to walk? (1)

- In a manner worthy of our calling

3) What attitudes are consistent with the Christian walk? (2-3)

- Lowliness, gentleness, longsuffering, bearing with one another in love
- Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

4) What seven facets make up the unity of the Spirit? (4-6)

- One body, one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all

5) What gracious gifts has been given by Christ to His church? (7-11)

- That which enabled some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers

6) What is the purpose of such gifts or functions? (12-14)

- To equip the saints for service
- To edify the body of Christ
- To help all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God
- To help all mature and no longer be children, troubled by false doctrine

7) As we speak the truth in love, what are we to be doing? What assists us in this? (15-16)

- Growing up in all things in Christ

- Our connection to Christ as the head, and the effective working of every member doing its part

8) How should we no longer walk? (17)

- As the rest of the Gentiles

9) How are those in the world walking? Why? (17-19)

- In the futility of their mind and being past feeling, they are given to licentiousness, uncleanness and greediness
- Their understanding is darkened, being alienated from God because of the ignorance in them due to the hardness of their heart

10) In contrast, what truth have we learned from Christ? (20-24)

- To put off the old man which grows corrupt according to its deceitful lusts
- To be renewed in the spirit of our minds
- To put on the new man that was created by God in righteousness and true holiness

11) What sort of things are we to therefore put away? (25-32)

- Lying, anger, theft, corrupt and evil speech, bitterness, wrath

12) What sort of things should we be doing instead? (25-32)

- Speaking with truth and grace, working to help those in need, being kind, tenderhearted, forgiving others as God in Christ forgave us

13) Why should we be concerned about doing such things? (30)

- Lest we grieve the Holy Spirit, by whom we were sealed for the day of redemption

The Epistle To The Ephesians

Chapter Five

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To see the importance of walking in love, light, and wisdom
- 2) To understand the responsibilities wives and husbands have toward each other
- 3) To appreciate the high esteem and great love the Lord has for His church

SUMMARY

Paul continues to exhort Christians to walk in a manner worthy of their calling (cf. **4:1**). Having described the need to walk in unity and in purity, he now urges them to imitate God and "**walk in love**" with Christ as their example. Such love requires that all forms of immorality and filthy speech not even be named among them. Since the wrath of God is to come upon the sons of disobedience, Christians must not be deceived by nor partake with those who engage in such evil deeds (**1-6**).

Having passed from darkness to light in coming to Christ, we should also "**walk as children of light**". This includes producing the fruit of the Spirit such as goodness, righteousness and truth, thereby demonstrating what is acceptable to the Lord. We cannot participate in the shameful works of darkness, but instead must expose them. This we do by letting Christ's light shine in us, for such light will naturally make the darkness manifest by way of contrast (**7-14**).

As the days are evil and the time is short, Christians must "**walk as wise**" and make the best use of their time. This requires an understanding of the Lord's will. Christians are also to be filled with the Spirit, as evidenced by singing together, praying with thanksgiving, and submitting to one another in the fear of God (**15-21**).

The chapter ends with what we might describe as a call to "**walk in matrimonial harmony**". Wives are exhorted to respect their husbands, submitting to them as to the Lord. Husbands are commanded to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and even as they love their own bodies. In the course of such instructions Paul takes the opportunity to reveal the Lord's desire to present to Himself a glorious church, holy and without blemish, which is why He gave Himself for it (**22-33**).

OUTLINE

I. A CALL TO WALK IN LOVE (1-7)

A. AS CHRIST LOVED US (1-2)

1. Be followers of God as dear children (**1**)
2. Walk in love as Christ loved us (**2**)

- a. Who gave Himself for us
- b. As a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God

B. NOT IN IMMORALITY AND WORLDLINESS (3-7)

1. Things which should not even be named among saints (3-4)
 - a. Fornication
 - b. All uncleanness
 - c. Covetousness
 - d. Filthiness
 - e. Foolish talking
 - f. Coarse jesting
 - Rather, giving of thanks
2. For such have no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God (5)
 - a. No fornicator or unclean person
 - b. No covetous man, who is an idolater
3. Upon sons of disobedience will come the wrath of God (6-7)
 - a. So don't let anyone deceive you with empty words
 - b. Do not be partakers with them

II. A CALL TO WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT (7-14)

A. AS THOSE WHO ARE NOW LIGHT IN THE LORD (7-10)

1. Though once darkness, they are now light in the Lord (7a)
2. They should walk as children of light (7b-10)
 - a. Bearing the fruit of the Spirit (or light) in all goodness, righteousness and truth
 - b. Proving what is acceptable to the Lord

B. HAVING NO FELLOWSHIP WITH WORKS OF DARKNESS (11-14)

1. Instead expose them (11-12)
 - a. For they are unfruitful
 - b. It is even shameful to even speak of those things done in secret
2. Which shall be exposed (13-14)
 - a. When made manifest by the light
 - b. Thus we should be the light which Christ gives us

III. A CALL TO WALK AS WISE (15-21)

A. WALKING CIRCUMSPECTLY (15-17)

1. Not as fools but as wise (15)
2. Redeeming the time, for the days are evil (16)
3. Not as unwise, but understanding the will of the Lord (17)

B. FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT, NOT WINE (18-21)

1. Singing (19)
 - a. Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs
 - b. Making melody in your heart to the Lord

2. Giving thanks (20)
 - a. Always for all things
 - b. To God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
3. Submitting to one another in the fear of God (21)

IV. A CALL TO WALK IN MATRIMONIAL HARMONY (22-33)

A. DUTIES OF WIVES (22-24)

1. Submit to their own husbands, as to the Lord (22-23)
 - a. For the husband is the head of the wife
 - b. Even as Christ is the head of the church and the Savior of the Body
2. Be subject to their husbands in everything, just as the church is subject to Christ (24)

B. DUTIES OF HUSBANDS (25-32)

1. Love their wives, as Christ loved the church (25-27)
 - a. He gave Himself for it
 - b. He did this that He might:
 - 1) Sanctify and cleanse the church through the washing of water by the word
 - 2) Present it to Himself a glorious church
 - a) Having no spot or wrinkle
 - b) Holy and without blemish
2. Love their wives as their own bodies (28-32)
 - a. For he who loves his wife loves himself
 - b. For no one hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it
 - 1) Even as the Lord does His church
 - 2) For we are members of His body
 - c. For in marriage man and woman become one, just as with Christ and His church

C. SUMMARY OF DUTIES (33)

1. Let each man love his wife as himself (33a)
2. Let the wife respect her husband (33b)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- A call to walk in love (1-7)
- A call to walk as children of light (8-14)
- A call to walk as wise (15-21)
- A call to walk in matrimonial harmony (22-33)

2) What are Christians to be? (1)

- Followers of God as dear children

3) How are we to walk (live)? (2)

- In love, even as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us

- 4) What things are not fitting for saints? (3-4)**
 - Fornication
 - All uncleanness
 - Covetousness
 - Filthiness
 - Foolish talking
 - Coarse jesting

- 5) What is fitting for saints? (4)**
 - The giving of thanks

- 6) Who has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God? (5)**
 - No fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous person

- 7) Of what is a covetous person guilty? (5)**
 - Idolatry

- 8) What is to come upon the sons of disobedience? (6)**
 - The wrath of God

- 9) What are we now in the Lord? How then should we walk? (8-10)**
 - Light in the Lord
 - As children of light, proving what is acceptable to the Lord

- 10) What is the fruit of the Spirit (light)? (9)**
 - Goodness, righteousness, and truth

- 11) What are Christians to do regarding unfruitful works of darkness? (11)**
 - Have no fellowship with them
 - Expose them

- 12) How else are Christians to live? Why? (15-16)**
 - Circumspectly, as wise, redeeming the time
 - Because the days are evil

- 13) What other responsibilities do we have as Christians? (17-18)**
 - To understand the will of the Lord
 - To be filled with the Spirit

- 14) What is either the means or the evidence of one filled with the Spirit? (19-21)**
 - Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
 - Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord
 - Giving thanks for all things to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ
 - Submitting to one another in the fear of God

15) What are the responsibilities of wives toward their husbands? (22-24)

- To submit and be subject to their husbands, as to the Lord

16) What is revealed about the relation of Christ to His church? (23)

- He is the head of the church and the Savior of the body

17) What are the responsibilities of husbands toward their wives? (25-31)

- To love their wives as Christ loved the church
- To nourish and cherish their wives, as they do their own bodies

18) Why did Jesus love and give Himself for the church? (25-27)

- That He might sanctify and cleanse the church
- That He might present it to Himself a glorious church
- That it might be holy and without blemish

19) What is Paul's summation regarding marital responsibilities? (33)

- A husband is to love his wife as himself
- A wife is to respect her husband

The Epistle To The Ephesians

Chapter Six

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To understand the responsibilities of children and their fathers
- 2) To suggest how principles governing servants and masters can be applied to employees and their employers
- 3) To see the need to adorn ourselves with the whole of armor of God, that we might be strong in the power of His might, and not just our own strength

SUMMARY

The final chapter begins with what might called an exhortation to **"walk in familial harmony."** Children are told to obey their parents, while fathers are instructed not to provoke their children to wrath but bring them up in the Lord's nurture and admonition. As many households in the first century A. D. contained servants, commands are also given on the duties of servants and their masters (**1-9**).

The last major section of this epistle is a call to **"walk in victory"**, with a charge to stand strong in the power of the Lord's might. To be able to withstand the wiles of the devil and spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places, Christians needs to adorn themselves with the whole armor of God. This armor includes such elements as truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the Word of God. Standing strong also requires fervent and watchful prayer, not just for one's self, but for all Christians. Even Paul solicits their prayers that he might be bold as an ambassador in chains as he makes known the mystery of the gospel (**10-20**).

A brief explanation is then given concerning Tychicus, who is to let them know how Paul is doing. The epistle then concludes with a prayer for peace to the brethren, love with faith, and grace for all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in all sincerity (**21-24**).

OUTLINE

I. A CALL TO WALK IN FAMILIAL HARMONY (1-9)

A. DUTIES OF CHILDREN (1-3)

1. To obey their parents in the Lord (**1**)
2. To honor their father and mother, the first commandment with promise (**2**)
3. That they may enjoy the promise of the commandment (**3**)
 - a. To do well
 - b. To live long on the earth

B. DUTIES OF FATHERS (4)

1. Do not provoke their children to wrath (**4a**)
2. Bring their children up in the training and admonition of the Lord (**4b**)

C. DUTIES OF SERVANTS (5-8)

1. Be obedient to their masters according to the flesh (**5-6a**)
 - a. With fear and trembling
 - b. In sincerity of heart, as to Christ
 - c. Not with eye service, pleasing only men, but as servants of Christ
2. Do the will of God from the heart (**6b-8**)
 - a. Doing service with good will
 - b. Serving as to the Lord, and not to men
 - c. Knowing that whoever does good receives the same from the Lord

D. DUTIES OF MASTERS (9)

1. Treat their servants in the same way (**9a**)
2. Do not threaten their servants (**9b**)
 - a. For their own Master is in heaven
 - b. And there is no partiality with Him

II. A CALL TO WALK IN VICTORY (10-20)

A. STAND STRONG IN THE POWER OF THE LORD (10-13)

1. A call to stand strong in the Lord, in the power of His might (**10**)
2. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may stand against the wiles of the devil (**11**)
3. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against... (**12**)
 - a. Principalities and powers
 - b. The rulers of the darkness of this age
 - c. Spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places
4. Therefore take up the whole armor of God (**13**)
 - a. That you may be able to withstand in the evil day
 - b. Having done all, to stand fast

B. EQUIPPED WITH THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD (14-20)

1. Therefore stand fast with the armor of God, which includes... (**14-17**)
 - a. Your waist girded with truth
 - b. The breastplate of righteousness
 - c. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
 - d. The shield of faith above all, to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one
 - e. The helmet of salvation
 - f. The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God
2. Praying always, being watchful (**18-20**)
 - a. Praying with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit
 - b. Being watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints
 - c. Praying for Paul
 - 1) That utterance may be given to him

- 2) That he might speak boldly, as he ought to speak
 - a) To make known the mystery of the gospel
 - b) For which he is an ambassador in chains

III. CONCLUSION (21-24)

A. TYCHICUS AND HIS REPORT (21-22)

1. Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will let them know how Paul is doing (21)
2. He has been sent to comfort their hearts (22)

B. PARTING WORDS OF PEACE, LOVE, AND GRACE (23-24)

1. Peace to the brethren (23a)
2. Love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus (23b)
3. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus in sincerity (24)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- A call to walk in familial harmony (1-9)
- A call to walk in victory (10-20)
- Conclusion (21-24)

2) What responsibilities do children have toward their parents? (1-2)

- Obey their parents in the Lord; honor their father and mother

3) What promise comes with the commandment to honor one's parents? (3)

- "That it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth"

4) What responsibilities does a father have toward his children? (4)

- Not to provoke them to wrath; bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord

5) In what way are servants to be obedient to their masters? (5-7)

- With fear and trembling
- In sincerity of heart, as to Christ
- Not with eye service, as men-pleasers
- As servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart
- Serving with good will, as to the Lord and not to men

6) What should motivate a servant to this kind of service? (8)

- Knowing that what good one does will bring about the same from the Lord

7) How were masters to treat their servants? (9)

- In the same way servants were to serve their masters; without threatening

- 8) What ought to motivate masters to treat their servants kindly? (9)**
- Knowing that their Master is in heaven, and He shows no partiality
- 9) In what are Christians to be strong? (10)**
- In the Lord and in the power of His might
- 10) How can we stand against the wiles of the devil? (11)**
- By putting on the whole armor of God
- 11) Against what do we wrestle, if not against flesh and blood? (12)**
- Principalities and powers
- The rulers of the darkness of this age
- Spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places
- 12) What benefit is there to take up whole armor of God? (13)**
- May be able to withstand in the evil day
- Having done all, to stand
- 13) List the armor of God as described in verses 14-17**
- Waist girded with truth
- Breastplate of righteousness
- Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
- Shield of faith to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one
- Helmet of salvation
- The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God
- 14) What else should we add to this armor? (18)**
- Praying always with watchfulness, with perseverance making supplication for all the saints
- 15) For what did Paul ask that they pray for in his behalf? (19-20)**
- For boldness to make known the mystery of the gospel
- 16) How did he describe himself? (20)**
- An ambassador in chains
- 17) Who was going to tell them more about Paul's condition? (21-22)**
- Tychicus
- 18) How is this man described? (21)**
- A beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord
- 19) For what does Paul pray as he closes this epistle? (23-24)**
- Peace to the brethren, and love with faith
- Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity