

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

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INSTRUCTIONS Please Read Carefully

- The King James Bible is the text used to prepare these Bible study courses, but you may use your own Bible.
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- Send the Test with your answers to the address listed below.. Please do not send the lesson material, it is yours to keep for future reference..
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HOME BIBLE STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

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THE BOOK OF THE HEAVENLY PLACES

HEAVENLY PLACES, PART ONE: HEAVEN'S GIFTS TO SINFUL PEOPLE

LESSON ONE, CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF EPHESIANS

This is a free home Bible study course. You will never be asked for money to finance this work. The King James Version of the Bible is used in this study, but you may use whichever translation you have. The wording may be a bit different, but the teaching is the same. Each chapter will have a chapter **summary**, **definitions** of terms and **questions** on the chapter. You are asked to **read the entire chapter assignment first**, answer the questions and then return the entire lesson in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

The church in Ephesus had more written to it than any other church in the New Testament and studying this book helps us know what heaven wants Christians to be.

In Acts 18, Paul left Aquila and Priscilla behind in Ephesus while he continued on his missionary journey. In Acts 19, Paul baptized twelve disciples of John the Baptist and from that point “all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks” (Acts 19:10). Paul summoned the elders of the Ephesian church to the Mediterranean island of Melitus (Malta) in Acts 20, and the Lord Jesus wrote a letter to Ephesus in Revelation 2. It is generally believed that Paul wrote Ephesians from Rome in 62 AD.

The city of Ephesus was a major first century city, located in Asia Minor, which is the same area as our present day **Turkey**. The temple of Diana, Roman goddess of hunting, was located here and this temple was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Diana's priestesses were prostitutes. Paul chose Ephesus in which to work because it had a direct line of communication between the city of Rome and the eastern part of the Roman Empire. Ephesus' road system was one of the best in the ancient world.

CHAPTER ONE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS: “Chosen us”, God’s plan for sinners to become Christians. “Predestinated”, heaven and hell. “Good pleasure of his will...the counsel of his own will”, God is in charge. “Redemption”, to buy back. “Abounded”, very much. “Prudence”, understanding. “Mystery of his will”, the gospel. “Dispensation”, plan; a period of time. “Sealed”, see 2 Timothy 2:19; God knows those who belong to him. “Earnest”, pledge; down payment. “Wisdom”, applied knowledge. “Enlightened”, having light. “Wrought”, worked.. “Heavenly places”, here meaning **heaven**; elsewhere in Ephesians meaning the **church**. “Principality”, a power, either on earth or heaven or even hell. “Dominion”, human government.

PLEASE READ ALL THE FIRST CHAPTER

CHAPTER ONE SUMMARY: What heaven provides mankind: All spiritual blessings in Christ; destinies for the good and evil; salvation through the blood of Christ; the fullness of time; sealed with the Holy Spirit; way of salvation; all things are under Christ.

God created man in his own image (Genesis 1:27), he loves his creation and sent his son, Jesus, to provide salvation (John 3:16). In Ephesians, Paul begins discussing the “**heavenly places**” and great spiritual teaching with a general term, “**all spiritual blessings**”, meaning that there is no other source for salvation but heaven. He also uses other terms such as “**chosen**” (v 4), “**predestinated**” (v 5a), “**adoption**” (v 5b), “**accepted in the beloved**” (v 6), “**redemption through his blood**” (v 7a), “**forgiveness of sins**” (v 7b).

Predestination is a word that has been misused in the world of religion. “**Pre**” means “**before**” and “**destiny**” means where souls go at **death**. The Bible teaches that God has predestinated mankind in the sense that he has made **heaven for the righteous** and **hell for the devil, his angels and anyone person who dies while serving the devil**. Jesus called the road to hell the “broad way...and many there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13).

The way God has arranged helping humanity to be prepared for this predestination is that he has made a plan whereby human beings can be “adopted” into the family of God, the church (1 Timothy 3:15). This way of adoption is called the “**New birth**” (John 3:1-21) and is comprised of being “**born of water and the spirit**” (John 3:3-5). This process is explained in Acts 2:38, “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be **baptized** [water] every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission** of sins, and ye shall receive the **gift of the Holy Ghost** [Spirit].” “Water” is “baptism”, followed by salvation and the “gift of the Holy Ghost” – **water and spirit**. In between water and spirit is remission [forgiveness] of sins.

SOME IMPORTANT WORDS

Faithful and obedient believers are promised **heaven** as their **destiny** but unbelievers and disobedient believers are promised **hell** as their **destiny**. God wants no one to be lost (2 Peter 3:9) and neither did Paul, so to teach people how to avoid being lost, Paul mentions some important words in chapter one, which can help us on our journey to heaven as our destiny.

Redemption through his blood. The word “redemption” means “**paying a ransom**” or “**buying something back.**” Jesus’ work is to buy sinners back from serving Satan through the saving power of the Lamb of God, which is why his cousin, John the Baptist said in John 1:29, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” Close to redemption is **forgiveness of sins**, which means “total free deliverance from sins.”

The **dispensation of the fullness of times** means that when salvation [Jesus] came into the world, it was exactly the **right time** for him to enter this world. The world was at **peace**; Greek was the universal **language**; **roads** connected all the Roman Empire together and the sea lanes were clear of **pirates**. History calls this time the “Pax Romana”, the Peace of Rome.

Obtain an inheritance. “Inheritance” means “**something assigned; something gained because of a family member’s death.**” When a person becomes a Christian and remains faithful till death, his inheritance is heaven. **Trusted in Christ.** The definition of “**faith**” is “**trust in God that he will keep his promises.**” Nobody can say “I trust in God” and then disobey his will, the Bible!

SOME RESULTS OF SALVATION

Faithful Christians have **wisdom**, which is “**knowledge being used; applied knowledge.**” Darkness clouds the eyes of unbelievers, but faithful Christians have their **understanding being enlightened**. That’s why Jesus calls himself the “light of the world” (John 8:12; 9:5) and Christians are also called “lights” (Matthew 5:14) because his light is reflected in the church.

A sinner’s salvation is based upon the **grace** of God (v 7) through the power of God (the **gospel**) and one of the power sources for the gospel is the fact that God **raised him [Jesus] from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places**” (v 20). Colossians 3:1 says of this, “If ye then be **risen with Christ** [baptism; read Romans 6:4 blow], seek those things which are **above**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.” “**Risen with Christ**” refers to Romans 6:4, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that **like as Christ was raised up from the dead** by the **glory** of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

CHRIST RULES

Our society makes a joke about something or somebody “rules”, but **Jesus is the one who is in charge**. It was through Jesus that God **created** the worlds. Hebrews 1:2, “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds...**”. He is Lord of all and is called “**King of kings and Lord of lords**” in Revelation 19:16.

V 21. A “**principality**” is a power, either in politics, religion or even in hell (Satan). “**Power**” refers to the authority these principalities hold. “**Might**” means the works these principalities do and “**dominion**” is a specific term referring to any kind of ruler, especially political. In these ways, **Jesus** is King of kings and Lord of lords and he exercises his power through the gospel as taught in Revelation 19:15, “And out of his mouth goeth **a sharp sword** [the gospel], that with it he should **smite the nations**: and he shall **rule them with a rod of iron**: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” He has authority over things earthly and heavenly (v 21b).

He also has authority over “**all things to the church**” (v 23). Matthew 28:18-19, “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All **power** [authority] is **given unto me in heaven and in earth**. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...”. **Jesus** is the head of the church, not a **Pope**, not a council of **elders**, not a **convention**, not a **presbytery**, certainly not a **preacher** and surely not anyone human. **When the religious world understands this, there will be no more division in it, which division is cursed by Christ.**

LESSON TWO, CHAPTER TWO

PLEASE READ ALL THE SECOND CHAPTER

As part of his plan of salvation, God has provided **heaven for the saved** and **hell for the condemned**. To avoid hell, he sent his son into the world at just the right time to die on the cross so that, through the gospel, sinful man can be forgiven of sins, redeemed and be spiritual beings. In chapter two, Paul continues this discussion of “**heavenly places**” [what God has done and what man must do].

CHAPTER TWO SUMMARY: Made alive from sins through God’s grace and mercy; saved by grace through faith; created in Christ; the Law of Moses taken away as law; being part of God’s family

CHAPTER TWO DEFINITIONS OF TERMS. “**Quickened**”, made alive. “**Trespases**”, willful sins. “**Course of this world**”, doing one’s own thing without God in the picture. “**Conversation**”, the way a person lives. “**Mercy**”, God’s tenderness. “**Grace**”, the unearned gift of God to man. “**Heavenly places**”, here meaning Christians will go to heaven. “**Ages to come**”, from the writing of Ephesians to the end of time. “**Kindness**”, God’s gentleness. “**Workmanship**”, a thing that is made; through his word, God makes us what he wants us to be. “**Uncircumcision**”, Gentiles. “**Circumcision**”, Jews. “**Aliens**”, strangers. “**Commonwealth**”, a free community; here meaning fellowship with God. “**Nigh**”, close by. “**Peace**”, harmony with God’s will. “**The middle wall of partition...ordinances**”, the law of Moses. “**Reconcile**”, to change a relationship. “**Enmity**”, opposition, hatred. “**Strangers and foreigners**”, travelers; not related by blood or by nationality. “**Fellow-citizens**”, a resident of the same town; here meaning fellowship with God. “**Household of God**”, the church; read 1 Timothy 3:15.

THEIR PAST LIVES

Sinners are “**dead** in trespasses and sins” (v 1), a description of spiritual death, which is **separation** from God. Speaking of being dead in sins, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:29, “Else what shall they do which are **baptized for the dead**, if the **dead rise not at all**? Why are they then **baptized for the dead**?” The meaning here is not that living people can be baptized for dead people; rather it means that when a person is **dead in sins** and is baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3,4; Galatians 3:27), he becomes alive through Christ and in Christ and only when he is baptized into the death of Christ.

This “spirit that now worketh in the **children of disobedience**” (v 2) is Satan. He’s still working and he does it through **false teaching** and people living immoral lives. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 11:13-14, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light**.” When a preacher or Bible teacher preaches something not in the Bible or when he adds something to the Bible, he/she fulfills this description of Satan. **Make no mistake about it: when a person believes something not taught in the Bible, he is serving Satan and “fulfill...the desires of the flesh and of the mind”** (v 3)

WHEN THE EPHESIANS BECAME CHRISTIANS

Mothers are tender toward their children and there is only one tenderness that is deeper than a mother’s and that is the tenderness God has for mankind. **Tenderness** is another word for **mercy**. It is God’s **grace** and **love** that cause his tenderness to us (v 4) and “by **grace** are ye saved through **faith**” (v 8). Even when we were dead in sins, God has made us alive [quickened] through Christ, (by grace ye are saved...)” (v 5). A sinner who is **dead in his sins** is made alive when he is “**raised to walk in newness of life**” after he has been baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3, 4).

Nobody should downplay the role that baptism has in the grace of God because when a person is baptized that's when the grace of God becomes real to him. It's the reason that Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be **saved**; but he that believeth not shall be condemned."

When we are "raised up" from the watery grave of baptism, we have a home in heaven promised to us, which is the "**heavenly place [s]**" mentioned in verse 6. We do not save ourselves because says in verses 9,10, "Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." But, we do obey God.

WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED TO SINNERS

From the writing of Ephesians to the end of time (ages to come, v 7), God's grace will always be constant for us. His grace showed itself by his kindness to sinful man through Jesus. **The sin of man deserves punishment**, but **grace** has made punishment for sins a thing that God does not want. Grace does not give us a license to sin like we would get a driver's license to allow us on the roads. **Grace gives us the opportunity -- and fervent desire -- to believe and obey God.**

Sinful man is saved by God's grace when the sinner has faith and obeys God (vv 8-10). Some teach that we are saved by "**grace alone, plus nothing, minus nothing**", but that popular phrase is so silly that it just begs to be checked out! If grace, plus nothing, minus nothing is the only thing that saves us, where does **faith** come into this equation? And **repentance**? And **baptism**? **Grace is God's part and a faith which obeys God is man's part** in the salvation of sins. Many teach that baptism has no part in man's salvation because it's a work and Ephesians 2:0 says salvation is "not of works." **People don't baptize themselves, so baptism is not a "work."** It is obeying the Lord's wishes.

It is also true that we are not saved by anything we've done to deserve salvation. We didn't deserve God's **love** – but he gave it anyway. We didn't deserve Christ's **sacrifice** – but he died anyway. We don't deserve to go to **heaven** – but it's prepared for us anyway. That's why we are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works", because that's what God wants us to do (v 10).

Jews called themselves "**Circumcision**" and they called Gentiles "**Uncircumcision.**" Paul now reminds these Gentile Christians that they **were** totally lost without God (v 12), but through Christ's blood, they are now in God's **favor** (v 13). They were in God's favor because of **Christ** and not because of the Jews' law, the Law of Moses, which we call the "**Old Testament**" today.

WHAT JESUS DID WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT, AS LAW

What happened to the Old Testament when Jesus died on the cross? Paul said Jesus' death brought peace by making "both one" (v 14a). Both what? He made Jew and Gentile **one** because he "abolished in his flesh the...law of commandments...to make in himself one new man" (v 15). Galatians 3:27-28 reads, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither **Jew nor Greek**, there is neither **bond nor free**, there is neither **male nor female**: for ye are all **one in Christ Jesus**."

Jews did not "put on" Moses again and Greeks did not "put on" idols again – they both "**put on**" **Christ** when they were baptized into him. That's when a person is reconciled (has his/her relationship **changed**) and then God puts anyone into one body (the church, Colossians 1:18) by the cross. **The Old Testament is still inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16,17), but it has been taken away at the cross by Jesus' death, as law, and replaced by the new covenant, the New Testament.**

The word "**peace**" means "resting; to set at one again; harmony of our will with God's will." We have our relationship to God changed (reconciled) because of his grace and when we have faith and do his will: That's the only thing that can bring peace to a human heart and it is through the revelations of the Holy Spirit (the **word of truth**) that peace can come (v 17,18). For the Gentiles, they were "no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God...(v 19). The household of God is identified in 1 Tim. 3:15, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the **house of God**, which is **the church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth." The church is the "**pillar**" (something that supports something else) and the "**ground**" (the supporter of that which supports something else) of the **truth**. The reason that the church is so important is that it has been "built upon the **foundation** of the **apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief **corner stone**..." (v 20).

The church is built upon the apostles through the teaching they received from heaven. **No church which has come into existence after the first century was built by an apostle.** The church was built upon what the prophets said about it and **no church which was set up before or after the time the prophets spoke about is the church built on the prophets.** Any church today which was set up by some man and not Jesus Christ is **not the church whose corner stone is Christ himself.** The true church of Jesus Christ is the only place that is a temple fitly framed by the Lord and built as a place for God to dwell (vv 21,22).

HEAVENLY PLACES: PART 2

THE PLACE OF THE CHURCH IN GOD'S PLAN

LESSON THREE, CHAPTER THREE

PLEASE READ ALL OF CHAPTER THREE

Revelation 21:3: “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the **tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.**” We know that God is in **heaven** and now we know that God is also in his tabernacle, the **church**. **The church is also a “heavenly place”** and, here in chapter three, Paul turns his attention to how the people of God, the church, can please God.

DEFINITIONS OF CHAPTER THREE TERMS: “**Prisoner**”, Paul was writing Ephesians from a prison cell in Rome, Italy. “**Dispensation**”, a period of time; a time of law. “**Mystery**”, the gospel of Christ. “**Fellow-heirs**”, fellowship with God regardless of race. “**Effectual**”, a strong working. “**Minister**”, servant. “**Unsearchable riches of Christ**”, the gospel truth. “**Tribulations**”, problems; sorrows. “**Breadth, length, depth and height**”, the fullness of the gospel. “**Fullness of God**”, God will reveal no more truth to mankind. “**Ages**”, dispensation; here, meaning all generations of time.

CHAPTER THREE SUMMARY: Both Jew and Gentile Christians will inherit the same blessings; God's wisdom is shown through the gospel; God, Christ and the Holy Spirit dwell in Christians through the gospel; the church is to glorify God.

The book of Acts ends with Paul living in Rome in his own rented house, but as a prisoner. He was released from that imprisonment and did more mission work before his final imprisonment when he met his death (2 Timothy). Ephesians is sometimes called one of the “**Prison Epistles**” because Paul is writing it during his first imprisonment, hence his statement that he was a “prisoner of Jesus Christ” (v 1). The gospel Paul preached to these Gentiles was real because it was from heaven (v 3). It was not some “**philosophy among philosophies**”, it was the absolute **truth** of God.

THE TRUTH OF GOD

Paul said in verse 3 that the truth of God was written down. When anybody reads what Paul wrote, he can understand what God wants (v 4). This is what Paul meant in 1 Corinthians 14:37, “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that **the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.**” In many Bibles, the words of Jesus are in red ink and some religious people say, “I'll just live by the words in red”, but Paul teaches that what he wrote are the commandments of God.

The truth of God is the entire Bible.

The Bible was written by men approved and appointed of God as 2 Peter 1:21 teaches, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**” This is what Paul refers to in verse 5 when he spoke of truth being revealed by “his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.”

The **purpose** of the truth was to bring **salvation** to every person, regardless of race, creed or color (v 6) and Paul, the servant of Christ, was commissioned [given a job] to do just that – preach the gospel to all peoples (v 7) even though he was the **last apostle** appointed and was a former **persecutor** of the church (v 8). Throughout the Bible, God revealed his will in **steps**. The Old Testament prophets always stepped **toward** the fullness of God’s will and the New Testament is God’s **final step** and is the fullness of God’s revelation to sinful man.

“**Created all things by Jesus Christ**” (v 9b) is an interesting statement. Didn’t God create the world (Genesis 1:1)? He surely did, but this statement says he did it “**by Jesus Christ.**” The answer is found in Hebrews 1:1-2, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days **spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed **heir of all things**, by **whom also he made the worlds...**”. God, Christ and the Holy Spirit were all present in Genesis one during the creation of the worlds which is the reason Genesis 1:26 reads, “And God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” **Don’t be deceived when people try to separate God, Christ and the Holy Spirit by teaching something the Bible doesn’t teach.**

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS KNOW?

Do human beings still receive revelations from God? Does God pick out some super special Christian man or woman and give them some extra wisdom that the rest of us don’t have? Many religions are based on this notion and many media evangelists claim these special revelations. But it just not so, according to the Bible. The ultimate “heavenly place” (heaven) has given to the church (the earthly heavenly place, v 10), these revelations and **when the first century ended, these revelations stopped.**

Paul says we have “access with confidence by **the faith** of him” (v 12). Anytime the definite article “**the**” appears before the word “faith”, it means **the gospel truth** and it is only through the gospel truth that we have access to God. Paul was humbled by that fact (v 14) by bowing before Jesus Christ in his spirit and in his life. 1 Peter 5:6 teaches, “**Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time...**”. “**Humble**” means “to bring **low**; to take **no pride** in one’s own self.”

When a person humbles himself before God, only then will he be filled with all that heaven can give him. We are “strengthened with **might by his Spirit** in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts **by faith...**” (vv 16,17) So, we hear people saying the Holy Spirit told them to teach something; but when their teaching is compared to the Bible, their teaching doesn’t stand up. **That kind of wrong thinking has no strength because it’s based on the weakness of some person’s own thinking and not the gospel of Christ.**

There are no more revelations coming from heaven because the gospel truth of Jesus Christ, the New Testament, is the only thing that is described as having “breadth, length, depth and height” (v 18). **To claim more revelations from heaven is to deny the Bible.**

The only way for man to **know** the “love of Christ, which passeth knowledge” is to **accept** what Jesus has **taught**. He specifically says in John 14:15, “**If ye love me, keep my commandments.**” Besides all that, these so-called special revelations do nothing but confuse people and turn them away from the Bible while 1 Corinthians 14:33 clearly teaches, “**For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.**” Churches based on men’s ideas and notions instead of the Bible are founded upon nothing more substantial than the morning mist.

LESSON FOUR, CHAPTER FOUR

PLEASE READ ALL OF CHAPTER FOUR

CHAPTER FOUR SUMMARY: Christian unity; the seven “ones” which bring about unity; heaven’s gifts; the completed revelation of God’s will; how to preach the mind and spirit of Christ

There is probably more wonderful instruction for living the Christian life in this one compact chapter than in many other chapters of the Bible (though all the Bible is important). Paul covers just about everything – from knowing the **true doctrine of God**, which makes Christians **one**; to living the **Christian life**, down to even doing a **good job at our jobs!**

CHAPTER FOUR DEFINITIONS OF TERMS: “**Beseech**”, beg; ask. “**Vocation**”, a calling; a work to do. “**Lowliness**”, humility. “**Longsuffering**”, patience. “**Forbearing**”, to endure; to be patient with. “**Body**”, the church. “**Hope**”, confidence expectations based upon faith. “**Faith**”, trust in God’s word that he will keep his promises. “**Measure**”, a limited amount; a degree. “**Apostle**”, one sent with a commission. “**Prophet**”, one who speaks publicly on behalf of another. “**Evangelists**”, preachers/teachers of the gospel. “**Pastors**”, a shepherd; here meaning elders in the church, not preachers. “**Perfecting**”, equipping. “**Edifying**”, building up. “**Body of Christ**”, the church. “**Stature**”, maturity in Christ. “**Sleight**”, a fraud; the opinions of men. “**Craftiness**”, to trick someone. “**Compacted**”, knit together on the basis of something that is proved. “**Henceforth**”, from now on. “**Vanity of their mind**”, empty opinions; what man thinks and not what God commands. “**Alienated**” away from; outside of something. “**Lasciviousness**”, giving oneself over to the passions of the flesh. “**Conversation**”, manner of life. “**The old man**”, one’s former life serving Satan. “**New man**”, what a person becomes after conversion to Christ. “**Corrupt communication**”, evil words. “**Bitterness**”, a poisoned mind and heart. “**Clamor**”, crying out because of grief. “**Malice**”, wickedness.

HOW TO BE UNITED IN CHRIST

Division in religion is wrong! Jesus prayed in John 17:21-22, “That they all may be **one**; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be **one in us**: that the **world may believe that thou hast sent me**. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they **may be one**, even as **we are one...**”. God and Christ are united, but the great majority of people today who call on the name of Christ today are **not** united.

This division is called denominationalism” and comes from the idea that “**it doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you’re sincere.**” No one can deny that man’s opinions have really messed Christianity up, but God and Christ want us to be **united!** **How?** That’s what Paul begins to discuss next and it’ll worth our while and time to find out what this inspired apostle tells us about unity.

- Christians’ lives are to be lived because we have been called out of the world as 2 Thessalonians 2:14 teaches, “Whereunto he **called you by our gospel**, to the obtaining of the **glory** of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Christians are to keep the “**unity of the Spirit** in the bond of **peace**” (v 3) and Paul gives **seven things** which produce unity among Christians everywhere.
 - There is one **body**. Colossians 1:18 says, “And he is the **head of the body, the church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” The **church** is the body of Christ and there is **only one church**. The church of the Bible is the church that **does what the Bible teaches**. If a church is teaching things not in the Bible, it is a denomination and promotes division. **Unity in Christ can only be had when people know that there is only one church.**
 - There is one **Holy Spirit**. The purpose of the Holy Spirit was to bring truth from heaven down to men as we are taught in 2 Peter 1:21, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost**.” When a teacher or a church teaches something **not** in the Bible, that teacher and that church are **not** founded upon the Holy Spirit.
 - There is only **one hope**, “Which **hope** we have as an **anchor of the soul**, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil...” (Hebrews 6:19). Hope is what we **expect**. It’s connected to “faith” [trust in God that he will keep his word]. If we do what God has commanded (**faith which works through love**, Galatians 5:6), then we **expect** (hope) to receive what God has promised. “Hope” is not just crossing-your-fingers-wishful thinking – its taking hold of God’s promises by **faithfully obey him and them**.
 - There is only **one faith**. People ask, “What faith are you?” and they want to know if a person is Catholic, Protestant or Jew. **There is only one faith** which can bring unity. Jude 3 says, “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the **common salvation**, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should **earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints...”. “The faith” is another phrase for “**the gospel, the truth, the word of God.**”

- **Real Bible unity will be had among believers when only the Bible is taught and obeyed.**

There is only **one baptism**. There is only one baptism that will do us any good. It's not **John the Baptist baptism** because John is dead, but Christ (and his baptism) live forevermore. It's not **baptism of fire** because that won't come until the judgment day. It's not **Holy Spirit baptism** because only the **apostles** received this baptism in Acts 2. It **is** baptism in water. Any religious teacher who claims that baptism is not a part of God's plan preaches for a denomination which practices division in the name of Jesus Christ. **Baptism** gets us started in living the Christian life and when a person does **not** get started right, they'll always end up **wrong**. Ignoring the "one baptism" is the basis for just about all religious division in the world today – and Jesus didn't pray for that at all.

- There is only **one God**. Hindus worship a multitude of gods such as Vishnu. Buddhists worship themselves and try to be one with Nirvana, their term for absolute serenity and where they think God dwells. Muslims worship Allah, but Exodus 6:3 says, "And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by **my name Jehovah** was I not known to them." **There is only one God** and he is the father of all who obey him.

When religious people follow these principles, religious division will disappear. Let's trust in these things because trusting in anything else won't bring unity or salvation.

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE BASIS OF SALVATION

When a person becomes a Christian, he receives the benefits of God's **grace**. The word "grace" means "**a gift freely given**" and salvation is the "gift of Christ" (v 7). Our salvation is based upon the divinity (deity) of Jesus Christ, the son of God. When Jesus ascended back to God (Acts 1), he showed his **power** over death and the grave. People who believe that and obey his message will no longer be captive to sin (v 8). The phrase "descended first into the lower parts of the earth" refers to Jesus' being in the world of the dead for three days and three nights in the abode of the blessed, which he called "Paradise" (Luke 23:43). He had to **die** first, then be **buried**, then **resurrected** from the dead and **ascend** back to God (vv 9-10).

GIFTS GIVEN BY JESUS

There are five types of people which Christ gave to do his work then and now: **Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.**

APOSTLES

In Acts 1, Peter led the disciples in asking God to choose a replacement for Judas Iscariot, the apostle who betrayed Jesus. In verses 21 and 22, he gives the qualifications of an apostle: "Wherefore of these **men** which have **companied with us** all the time that the Lord Jesus **went in and out among us**, beginning **from the baptism of John**, unto that same day that he was **taken up from us**, must one be ordained to be a witness with

us of his resurrection.” The reason there are no apostles today is because **no man living can fit these qualifications**. Don’t be deceived by false claims from people who claim to be apostles.

PROPHETS

We sometimes think of “prophets” as inspired people who tell the future, but the basic definition of a “**prophet**” is “**one that speaks publicly on behalf of another**”, (though sometimes they would foretell the future). The gift of prophecy was a Holy-Spirit-given gift as you can find in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. You can also find in 1 Corinthians 13:8-10, “Charity [love] never faileth: but whether there be **prophecies, they shall fail**; whether there be **tongues, they shall cease**; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we **prophesy in part**. But when **that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.**” The gift of prophecy would stop when “that which is **perfect** is come” arrives on the scene. The “that which is perfect” refers to the complete **revelation** of God which is the **New Testament**. The purpose of the prophets in the New Testament church was to receive the revelation of truth directly from heaven and **communicate truth to the local church**. Today, preachers use the **Bible** to communicate the truth to the church. When John said “Amen” in Revelation 22:21, inspiration passed from men to the Book.

EVANGELISTS

In the New Testament days, evangelists were preachers of the gospel who traveled into the “highways and byways” to preach the gospel and they still do that work today.

PASTORS

The word “**pastor**” comes from a word meaning “to **shepherd**; to **tend** to something precious” and in the New Testament, this word is always used to refer to the **elders** of a local church. We are taught something about that in 1 Peter 5:1-4: “The **elders** which are among you I exhort, who am **also an elder**, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: **Feed the flock of God which is among you**, taking the **oversight** thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being **lords over God's heritage**, but being **ensamples** to the flock. And when the **chief Shepherd** [Jesus] shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” In Acts 20, Paul called the elders of the church in Ephesus to the island of Melitus and he told them in verse 28: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the **flock**, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to **feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

How is an elder **qualified** for this office? Read 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and you’ll find what is required of a man to serve as an elder in the Lord’s church. One of those qualifications is that he is to be **married** and have faithful **children**. Some young people in a large religious organization call themselves “elders” today, but they are not married. Some preachers call themselves “pastors”, but are not married.

Pastors in the New Testament church were elders and not evangelists/preachers unless the preacher was qualified and appointed by the local church to serve as an elder.

TEACHERS

A teacher in the local church is one who teaches on a local level whose responsibilities are unlike the evangelists who travel far and wide to preach the gospel. In our day, we would call these people Sunday school teachers or personal workers or ministers/preachers of the local church.

THREE OF THESE ARE PERMANENT; TWO ARE NOT

“Apostles” and “prophets”, as we have seen, were present **during the New Testament day** and during those days **only**. **Evangelists, pastors (elders) and teachers will be with the church always.**

THE PURPOSE?

These five functions mentioned above are for **1)** the perfecting of the saints, **2)** for ministry, **3)** for edifying (building up) the church **until 1)** unity is achieved, **2)** knowledge is achieved, **3)** perfection is accomplished and **4)** mature (stature) comes about. When Paul was writing Ephesians, the entire New Testament had not been fully written, so the apostles and prophets were charged during this “temporary time” to be God’s representatives through the direct operation of the Holy Spirit. Now that **the New Testament has been fully completed, the evangelists, pastors and teachers take what is written and teach it for all time until Jesus returns again.**

THE CHURCH FITS TOGETHER

Christ is the “**glue**” that holds the church together and each individual member, in whom Christ is living, makes up the church (v 16). The church is not a **building** – it is the **people** of Christ. Christians do not misbehave themselves by the “vanity (foolishness) of their mind” (v 17); they know the Bible, have **fellowship** with God and walk in the **light of God’s word** (v 18). Christians who **willfully** sin (and some do) and who keep on sinning without repentance are walking in **darkness** because of their ignorance of God’s word (v 18b). When a Christian takes one small baby step away from the teachings of the Bible, they go on to uglier and meaner things and are capable of doing – and believing – anything (v 19).

Christians have put off evil (v 22) and are people whose minds are filled with the **knowledge** of God (v 23). They are newly created born-again people who are righteous and holy (v 24). **And Christians don’t have anything to do with some things:**

- Christians don't **lie**. There is no such thing as a "small" lie and a "big" lie. Lying is "speaking something that is **false**." If we're tempted to lie, we should keep our mouths **shut**.
- Christians **speak truth** with their neighbors. This involves teaching their sinful neighbors the gospel truth so they can be saved as well (Romans 1:16). It also involves speaking the truth with other Christians because when we lie to one, it's the same as lying to all (v 25).
- Christians can get angry, but **not** to sin. Here's how it works: "Be ye **angry**, and **sin not**: **let not the sun go down upon your wrath**," Anger is wrong when it becomes a **grudge**. Jesus showed anger, Paul and Peter showed anger but they **never let their anger take hold of them**.
- Christians to not **give place to the devil**. 1 John 2:16 tells us how people give place to the devil: "For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh**, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**, is not of the Father but is of the world."
- Christians **do not steal** from their employers, but gives them a good day's work (v 28). That includes taking paper clips, pencils or even **loafing** on the job, which is the same thing as stealing.
- Christians don't **use their mouths** for anything but speaking good things. Christians don't **lie**, **curse**, tell **dirty jokes** (or listen to them), talk **mean** about something else or **criticize** others. **Their hearts are right with God and their mouths follow suit**.
- Christians are **spiritual** people. The way the Holy Spirit is grieved is when a Christian sins with the works of the flesh. Here they are in Galatians 5:18-21: "But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness** [immoral thinking], **lasciviousness** [immoral life style], **Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance** [fussing and fighting], **emulations** [fussing and fighting with force], **wrath, strife, seditions** [religious division], **heresies** [opinions of men], **Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings** [carousing around; in our vernacular 'let everything go'], and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things **shall not inherit the kingdom of God**."
- And the rest of these things have no part in a Christian's life. **Bitterness** – a poisoned mind. **Wrath** and **anger** – violent shooting off at the mouth. **Clamor** – fussing and fighting. **Evil speaking** – saying anything not good or productive of.
- And these things need to be in a Christian's life abundantly. **Kind** – gracious and easy in dealing with others. **Tenderhearted** – full of compassion. **Forgiving one another** – always accept an apology and never hold another's sin over their heads.

LESSON FIVE, CHAPTER FIVE

PLEASE READ ALL OF CHAPTER FIVE

CHAPTER FIVE SUMMARY: Being careful in living the Christian life; heaven is for faithful Christians; always please the Lord in everything and everything else will take care of itself; take advantage of all opportunities to be spirit-filled people; the relationship of husband and wife and the relationship between Christ and the church, a great mystery.

Some reminders: A person can know much about the Bible, but if he/she does not practice what is known, that person's life is miserable. This fundamental Bible principle is emphasized by Paul over and over and in chapter 5, he really gets down to basic common ground by discussing what it means to be "followers of God" (v 1).

CHAPTER FIVE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS: "Sweet-smelling savour", the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was the sweetest thing ever done for man. "Fornication", sexual immorality. "Uncleanness", being nasty physically and spiritually. "Covetousness", wanting something someone has to a fanatical degree. "Filthiness", cursing; obscene talk. "Foolish talking", literally, talking like a moron. "Jesting", dirty jokes. "Whoremonger", a male prostitute; any person who commits sexual immorality. "Unclean person", impure; foul and vulgar. "Reproved", a discovered fault; telling someone about that fault. "Circumspectly", with wisdom. "Redeeming the time", taking advantage of all opportunities to serve God. "Excess", literally, riot; here, meaning using a good thing for a bad reason. "Psalms", singing from the book of Psalms. "Hymns", songs of praise. "Spiritual songs", a general term for songs which touch the soul of man. "Submission", to be under obedience. "Head", where ultimate authority and responsibility are. "Savior", one who has released someone else from a burden. "Subject", the same word as "submit". "Sanctify", set something or someone apart. "Wrinkle", something that is folded. "Washing of water by the word", water baptism for the remission of sins. "Without blemish", pure in doctrine and pure in morals. "Nourish", feed. "Cherish", to care for. "Mystery", something hid; here, meaning Paul compares Christ and his church with the relationship between a husband and his wife. "Reverence", respect.

"Walking in love" means more than just saying, "I do love Jesus." John 14: 15 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" and 2 John 1:6 teaches, "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, that, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it." There are 27 books in the New Testament and most of the information contained in them concerns living the Christian life, especially in the writings of the apostle Paul. Ephesians 5 is one of the strongest chapters Paul wrote about living the Christian life.

Christ loved us so much that he **sacrificed** himself to **save** us from our sins – and Christians respond by living the **life** Christ taught (v 1). Living a Christian life does **not** include living a life of sin. Christians are not sexually **immoral**, are not **vulgar** with their speech, don't tell dirty **jokes**, don't **curse** (use God's name in vain), are not **nasty** physically or morally, are not **greedy** of what someone else has (covetousness) and don't worship **idols** (vv 3-5).

God punishes those who go back into the world as Romans 11:22 teaches us very plainly, "Behold therefore the **goodness** and **severity** of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, **goodness**, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also **shalt be cut off**." Be warned: **words without action, faith without obedience and love without doing what Jesus wants do no one any good at all.**

When Paul sums up in verse 11, he covers all bases: **“Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”** Don’t even be tempted to consider (speak of) these ungodly works (v 12) because God knows our innermost thoughts (v 13) and will hold us accountable. Walking in sin is not walking in the light (v 14); it is a **fool’s** walk (v 15).

PAUL’S POSITIVE ADVICE

- Be concerned with taking every opportunity to serve Christ [redeeming the time], (v 16)
- Know what the **will** of God is by knowing what the **word** of God says (v 17)
- Obey these two commandments: **1)** don’t be drunk with wine and **2)** be filled with the spirit (v 18)

DRUNK WITH WINE: The word “drunk” means “saturated to the point of intoxication.” Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 5:23, “Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy **stomach's sake** and thine often **infirmities.**” In the New Testament days, wine was used as a medicine and this is what Paul is talking about here in 1 Timothy 5. Too much wine (drunk) is an abomination in the sight of God and part of living the Christian life is **not to take advantage of something basically okay by going overboard!** Someone says, “Well, Jesus made wine, didn’t he? So it must be okay to drink as much of it as we want.” This is a reference to John 2:1-11 where Jesus did his first miracle by turning water into wine. But what **kind of wine?** It was something called the **“good wine”** (v 10). A search of a good Bible dictionary reveals that “good wine” or “best wine” was **not alcoholic**, but grape juice containing spices. Leave wine out of your life, except for medicine, and you’ll be obeying this first command Paul gives.

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT. The second command is to be **filled with the spirit.** “Spirit-filled” is the same word as **“spiritual”** and refers to a Christian who is practicing what the word of God preaches. Paul gives five ways to be filled with the spirit:

- ① Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
 - ② Singing
- Making melody in your heart to the Lord
- ④ Giving thanks to God through Jesus
 - ⑤ Submitting (obeying) to one another in the fear of God (vv 19,20)

Colossians 3:17 is a companion passage and it reads, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do **all** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” That covers everything in a Christian’s life: the way we live, the way we worship and the way we talk. The worship we give to God is to be done in “spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). We must make a comment here on the kind of music God wants in worship to him.

Before the latter part of the nineteenth century, most Protestant churches did not have instruments of music in their worship to God and even some of their founders were against it. One founder of a large Protestant church said, "I have no objection to the organ in our chapels, provided it is neither seen nor heard."

What we must consider now is the question, "**Can a piano or organ be filled with the spirit?**" and the obvious answer is, "Of course not." Neither should the worship Christians give to God be filled with anything except "**making melody in your heart to the Lord.**" Another famous Protestant preacher said, "You might as well use a machine to play as use a machine to make music for God."

- Paul continues his teaching about living the Christian life by going into the relationship between a husband and his wife.
 - Wives are to be in obedience to their **own** husbands in every thing (vv 22, 24)
 - The husband is the **head** of the wife, like Christ is the head of the church (v 23)
 - - NOTE:** Living together without being married is **not** God's plan for man. God requires that a man and woman be married and raise their children in God's word. Verse 31 teaches, "For this cause shall a **man leave his father and mother**, and shall be **joined unto his** wife, and they **two** shall be **one** flesh." We often talk about a woman "cutting the apron strings", but here Paul says that a **man** is to leave father and mother. Why? **Because when a couple gets married, a new home is being formed and the husband is the head of it.** When people do what God wants, only then will they be happy, but when they **just live together, they are committing adultery.** This is the biggest moral mistake being made in America during our times.
 - Husbands are to love their wives like Christ loved the church and died for it. A Christian husband will **not** be a dictator, but will be head of his house like Christ is the head of the church – with **love** and **sacrifice**.
 - A husband who loves his wife loves himself because she is part of him – one flesh with him (v 25,33)
 - A Christian wife is to **respect** her husband (reverence) (v 33)
- There is a comparison between the husband and wife and Christ and the church (v 32)
 - The church is in obedience to Jesus (v 24). **Whatever he wants, the church does it.** If the church does something **not found** in the New Testament (the will of Christ) or if the church **adds** something to the New Testament, that church is **not** the New Testament church.
 - Christ **sanctifies** (sets apart) the church with the **cleansing of washing of water by the word** which is a reference to Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, **by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost...**". Titus 3:5
 - Christians are not to have any **spot, wrinkle** or **blemish** in them. The word "**wrinkle**" means "to fold something into something else." Paul teaches that **false doctrine** and **immorality** cannot be "folded" into the church.

LESSON SIX, CHAPTER SIX

PLEASE READ ALL OF CHAPTER SIX

CHAPTER SIX SUMMARY: Christians serve God from the inside out; Christians are to wear the full armor of God; Christians care about other Christians

CHAPTER SIX DEFINITIONS OF TERMS: “**Honor**”, to hold parents as valuable; to respect. “**Provoke**”, to put anger alongside a relationship. “**Wrath**”, hatred; resentment. “**Nurture**”, education, training, instruction. “**Admonition**”, mild rebuke; warning. “**In the Lord**”, according to the word of Christ. “**Servants**”, here, meaning slaves; today, meaning employees. “**Masters**”, ones in charge. “**Singleness**”, sincerity; focus; dedication. “**Eye service**”, someone that needs watching over all the time. “**Men pleasers**”, hypocritical honor given to those in charge. “**Wiles**”, from a word meaning “method.” “**Spiritual wickedness in high places**”, people in authority who are evil and serve the devil. “**Loins**”, the waist and below. “**Girt**”, to put on a belt; to bind. “**Breastplate**”, protection around the chest area. “**Shod**”, to wear. “**Darts**”, spears or arrows. “**Perseverance**”, being persistent; sticking to something. “**Supplication**”, a spiritual request. “**Ambassador**”, a representative.

How is a book like Ephesians concluded? Paul has already told them about **heaven** as being called the “**heavenly places**” and has really emphasized that every blessing they have as Christians comes from heaven. And Paul has made the point that the **church** is also a “**heavenly place**” because Christians **practice** what heaven has taught them. You end a book like this by telling people how to be **prepared** for what this world holds. Paul does exactly that and there are great lessons to be learned.

START WITH THE HOME

Paul has already taught about the wonderful relationship – the God-ordained relationship – between a husband and his wife. Now he tells us about children and that their **fathers** are to be responsible for the spiritual upbringing of their children (v 4). Children are:

- To **obey** their parents as the parents follow the will of the Lord (v 1)
- To **honor (respect)** their parents and receive the promise (v 2) that they would “**live long on the earth**” (v 3).

Is there something **magical** about obeying your parents and then somehow you’ll live a long life? Not really. Think about it: Christian parents teach their children **not** to commit **adultery**, to always tell the **truth**, to be **respectful** to authorities, not to **drink**, not to use **drugs** and to treat everybody as they themselves want to be treated (the **Golden Rule**).

When children listen to their Christian parents and do what they say, they’ll **not have to fear drug rehabilitation, hangovers, venereal diseases, being thrown in jail and being unpopular among their peers.**

When a person lives the Christian life and purges himself (or herself) from things that destroy the body, they will live longer. **All spiritual instruction starts in the home and the salvation of any nation begins in the home.**

Absentee fathers, mothers turning the raising of their children over to **babysitters** or grandparents, fathers who love **sports** more than they love God and parents who don't have enough sense to realize that their **children notice everything their parents do** – and then end up doing those things themselves.

- “**Fathers**, provoke not your children to wrath...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Fathers are the heads of households and that means more than just putting **food** on the table, a **car** in the garage or an **education** in the mind. It means reading the **Bible** with their children, **taking** their children to **church** (not sending them), **praying** with them and leading a Christian **example** for them to follow. **The worst thing that can happen to a child is for the father to be worthless as far as setting a good example is concerned.**

CONTINUE IN THE WORK PLACE

Not only must Christians do what the Lord wants in the home, but also in the work place. Paul even tells us how to be good employees. In the New Testament day, people owned slaves. The book of Philemon tells us that masters, as well as slaves, were Christians in those days. (Philemon, a master, owned Onesimus, a slave). As we apply these teachings to us today, we can substitute “**master/slave relationship**” with “**employer/employee relationship.**” Some of these teachings might not be too popular, but they are still God's will.

- Employees do what their employers want as **if they were serving Christ himself** (v 5)
- Employees do **not work only when the boss is looking and they** do not try to grease their relationship with the boss by **flattery**. An employee's **work** is his recommendation and he **glorifies God** when he works hard and well (v 6)
Good employees will be **rewarded** by Christ (v 6,7). That fact makes it easier to bear when an employee is passed over for promotion because he hasn't tried to fool the boss. It makes it easier when other employees laugh at him because he's being Christian at **work** as well as at **home and church**. **In every phase of a Christian's life, he is serving Christ.**
- Christian **employers** are to treat their employees in the same Christ-serving way (9). Bosses are only human and the best boss is the one that treats his workers in a Christian way. **A Christian boss knows that threats get nowhere, but honesty and fair play accomplish wonders.**

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

HOW TO BE STRONG IN THE LORD

A Christian is not alone in the world. He has **other Christians** to help him and he has the **armor of God** to protect him from Satan (v 11). A Christian’s warfare is against spiritual wickedness, against people who are evil and not against flesh and blood (v 12). **“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”**

- ❶ A Roman soldier’s armor protected his front with a “girdle” about his vital parts and a breastplate over his chest. Christians fight the devil with **truth** and with **righteousness**. If a person is a member of a church which does not teach all the truth and nothing but the truth, he is **defenseless** against the devil. If a Christian compromises his beliefs and lets **immorality** or **dishonesty** sneak into his life, he has **nothing** to protect himself against the darts of the devil.
- ❷ Roman soldiers sometimes would put metal over the tops of their feet because they knew they couldn’t fight if they were crippled. Christians can’t fight unless we know what the gospel teaches and put it into practice in our lives. The shields of Roman soldiers were famous in their day. They not only could put them in front of them as they advanced to ward off sword thrust and spears, but they also formed what they called a “turtle” when they would kneel on the ground with their shields over their heads. Arrows then could be defended against. When Christians have strong faith in God, we will be able to fend off **everything** the devil throws at us by trusting God that he will keep his promises. Romans 10:17 says, “So then **faith** cometh by **hearing**, and **hearing by the word of God.**” When Christians know the Bible, teach it and practice it, the devil is **whipped**.
- ❸ Roman soldiers (and our soldiers today as well) wore helmets to protect the most important of their bodies, their brains. A Christian’s helmet is his **salvation** and the **confidence** it brings. An old song says, “This world is not my home; I’m just passing through” and Christians know that though we may suffer while we’re alive, when we die, we’ll go to heaven. Only those people who obey God will go to heaven and all others will not.
- ❹ Roman soldiers had several different kinds of **swords**, but the one they used in close range fighting was called a “stabbing” sword. It was about two feet long, had two sharpened edges and a groove down the center so that it wouldn’t get stuck in an enemy. **The Bible is the Christian’s sword** as Hebrews 4:12 teaches, “For the **word of God** is quick [living], and powerful, and **sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” **Nothing** is gained when a Christian is ignorant of what the Bible teaches. Jesus conquers with the **Bible** as we read in Revelation 19:15, “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he **should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron:** and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

- **One thing that a Christian does with his armor that a Roman soldier didn't do with his is to pray.** We pray for **strength**. We pray for **wisdom**. We pray for our **enemies**. We pray for those in political **authority**. We pray for the **church**. We pray for **anything** that we wish to pray for because God is our father and he always listens to our prayers. And he answers them according to his own will. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

PAUL SAYS FAREWELL

Tychicus was a companion of Paul in his journeys (Acts 20:4) and nothing much else is said about him, except he was recommended by Paul as being a "beloved brother and faithful minister." This means that he had most probably suffered the same things as Paul had suffered, but still remained faithful to the Lord. **The best recommendation a person can have is to be known as a faithful Christian.**

In this study of Ephesians, the basic message is that of the "**heavenly places**" and we remind the student that the first "**heavenly place**" is **heaven** itself, from which sinful man received the only way to be saved from sin – Jesus Christ and all that he is and stands for. We also remind you that the other "**heavenly place**" is the **church** on earth, the **kingdom** of God, the place where redeemed people serve the Lord and live the Christian life, in order to gain the reward which awaits us – heaven. We pray you've benefited from this study and our next study booklet will be on the book of Colossians. It will be a study designed to meet false philosophies.

We pray your study has been useful for you. God bless you as you continue.

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QUESTIONS OVER LESSON ONE: Introduction and Chapter 1

Fill in the blanks

1. The book of Ephesians was written to the church at _____
2. The author of the book of Ephesians is the apostle _____
3. "Pre" means _____ and "destiny" means where souls go at _____
4. The "new birth" is comprised of being born of _____ and the _____
5. "Redemption" means paying a _____
6. "Dispensation of the fullness of time" means that when _____ came into the world, it was _____ the _____ time for it to happen.
7. The power of God is through the _____
8. God created the worlds through _____
9. A "power either in politics, religion or even in hell" is a _____
10. _____ is the head of the church

True/False. Put a "T" or "F" in the blank spaces. There are no trick true/false questions, but some thought must be given for the answers

- _____ Paul wrote Ephesians from Jerusalem
- _____ The city of Ephesus was home to the temple of Diana
- _____ All spiritual blessings are in Christ
- _____ Human beings are adopted into the family of God
- _____ The cousin of Jesus was the apostle Paul
- _____ The world was at peace when Jesus was born
- _____ The definition of "faith" is "what my church teaches"
- _____ "Heavenly places" is another phrase for heaven
- _____ "Heavenly places" is also another name for the church
- _____ A preacher is the head of the church of the New Testament
- _____ Religious division is not the will of Christ

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON TWO: Chapter 2

Multiple choice. Circle the correct answer

1. "Trespasses" are **A** Willful sins **B** Violation of a traffic law **C** Signs you put on your lawn
2. In the Bible, "peace" means **A** A truce **B** Absence from war **C** Harmony with God's will
3. The "household of God" is **A** The temple in Jerusalem **B** The church **C** A church building
4. The "spirit that works in children of disobedience" is **A** Michael the archangel **B** Judas Iscariot **C** Satan
5. "False apostles" transform themselves into **A** Angels of light **B** Real apostles **C** Preachers

Fill in the blanks

1. People don't _____ themselves, so _____ is not a _____
 2. The sin of man deserves _____, but _____ has made punishment for sins a thing _____ does not _____
 3. Jews called themselves _____ and they called Gentiles _____
 4. Jesus made _____ and _____ one because he "abolished in his _____ the..._____ of _____."
- 21
5. The Old Testament is still _____ of God, but it has been _____ away at the _____ by Jesus' _____ and replaced by the new covenant, the New _____
 6. 1 timothy 3:15: "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to _____ thyself in the _____ of God, which is the _____ of the living _____, the _____ and _____ of the _____."
 7. The church is built upon the apostles _____, which they received from _____ and no _____ which came into existence after the _____ century was built by an _____.
 8. The corner stone of the church is _____

QUESTIONS ON LESSON THREE: Chapter 3

True/False. Put a "T" or "F" in the blank spaces. There are no trick true/false questions, but some thought must be given for the answers

- _____ The tabernacle of God is with men
_____ The tabernacle of God is only in Jerusalem
_____ Paul was a prisoner in his own rented house

- _____ The purpose of God's truth is to confuse every person
- _____ God created the worlds through Christ
- _____ Human beings do not receive revelations directly from God today
- _____ Human beings can study the Bible to find out what God has revealed
- _____ We can love Christ and never do anything he commands
- _____ We show our love for Christ when we do the things he has commanded

Matching. Match the definitions

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| _____ Dispensation | A Another phrase meaning "the gospel truth" |
| _____ Tribulations | B The last appointed apostle |
| _____ Ages | C A period of time; a time of law |
| _____ Confusion | D One of the "Prison Epistles" |
| _____ Heavenly places | E Troubles; problems; sorrows |
| _____ Mystery | F The "hidden" gospel |
| _____ Ephesians | G All generations of time |
| _____ Paul | H What God is <u>not</u> author of |
| _____ The faith | I Heaven and the church |

QUESTIONS ON LESSON FOUR: Chapter 4

Fill in the blanks

1. What are the seven things that Paul says will bring about unity among Christians?

- One _____
- One _____
- One _____
- One _____
- One _____
- One _____
- One _____

2. _____ and Christ are united, but the _____ of people who call on the name of _____ today are _____ united.
3. When a person becomes a _____, he receives the _____ of God's _____
4. The word "pastor" comes from a word meaning "to _____; to tend" and in the New Testament, this word is always used to refer to the _____ of a local _____
5. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are for 1) the _____ of the saints, 2) for _____, 3) for edifying (_____ up)

Matching. Match the definitions

___ Vocation	A An elder in the local church
___ Lowliness	B Bitterness
___ Longsuffering	C A calling; a work to do
___ Body of Christ	D What a person becomes after they're converted to Christ
___ Apostle	E One sent with a commission
___ Prophet	F Manner of life; the way we behave
___ Pastor	G Patience
___ Lasciviousness	H One who speaks publicly on behalf of another
___ Conversation	I Humility
___ New man	J The church
___ Malice	K Giving oneself over to the passions of the flesh

True/False. Put a "T" or "F" in the blank spaces. There are no trick true/false questions, but some thought must be given for the answers

- ___ Christians are called by God through the gospel
- ___ The body of Christ is the church
- ___ Religious division is right
- ___ We can worship more than one God
- ___ God's name is Allah
- ___ God's name is Jehovah
- ___ Grace is a "gift freely given"
- ___ "Paradise" is where the wicked go when they die
- ___ There are apostles still living on earth today
- ___ There are prophets still living on earth today
- ___ There are pastors (elders) still on earth today
- ___ There are evangelists (preachers) still on earth today
- ___ There are teachers still on earth today
- ___ Christians don't lie big lies, but they can deceive with a "white lie"
- ___ Christians are not sexually immoral

QUESTIONS ON LESSON FIVE: Chapter 5

Multiple choice. Circle the correct answer

1. Heaven is for **A** The faithful Christian **B** The Christian who lives a righteous life
C Both of these
2. When Christians "walk in love", it means **A** They know what true Christian love is **B** They do what Jesus commands **C** They know John 3:16 **D** All of these
3. "Walking in sin" is **A** Something it's okay to do in secret **B** Walking in spiritual darkness **C** The best way for a person to live his/her life
4. Christians can't **A** Get drunk on wine **B** Drink wine except for medicine **C** Both of these
5. The phrase "Spirit-filled" means **A** Holy Ghost baptism **B** Hating people

- who are not living the Christian life C Being spiritual
6. Music in the church is A Singing B Singing only C Both of these
7. Christians give thanks to God A Only on Sunday B Through Jesus Christ C Only on Thanksgiving Day
8. People who live together without being married A Commit adultery B Are okay in the sight of God C Will still go to heaven when they die

True/False. Put a “T” or “F” in the blank spaces. There are no trick true/false questions, but some thought must be given for the answers

- ___ Christians don't have to do what the Bible teaches because they are saved
- ___ God is both good and severe
- ___ The “unfruitful works of darkness” means immorality and false doctrine
- ___ Christians can get drunk as long as they don't hurt anyone
- ___ Christians obey God when it pleases them
- ___ Christians obey God always
- ___ Wives are to be in subjection to their own husbands
- ___ When a couple gets married, a new home is formed
- ___ The wife is the head of the husband
- ___ Churches can teach only 75% of the Bible and still be okay with God

Matching

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Fornication | A | Cursing; obscene talk |
| ___ Uncleaness | B | Respect |
| ___ Covetousness | C | Wanting something someone else has |
| ___ Filthiness | D | Sexual immorality |
| ___ Foolish talking | E | Walking in wisdom |
| ___ Redeem the time | F | To set apart |
| ___ Circumspectly | G | Being nasty physically and spiritually |
| ___ Sanctify | H | Talking like a moron |
| ___ Wrinkle | I | Something that is folded |
| ___ Reverence | J | Taking advantage of opportunities to serve God |

QUESTIONS ON LESSON SIX: Chapter 6

Matching

- | | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| ___ Honor | A | Those who hypocritically give their boss honor |
| ___ Provoke | B | A representative |
| ___ Nurture | C | To hold parents as valuable; respect |
| ___ Singleness | D | Protection around the chest area |
| ___ Breastplate | E | Spears; arrows |
| ___ Darts | F | To put anger alongside a relationship |
| ___ Ambassador | G | Education, training, instruction |
| ___ Men-Pleasers | H | Focus |

Fill in the blanks

- ② Paul tells the _____ to be _____ for the _____ upbringing of their _____
- ② Children are to _____ their parents in the _____ so that they would _____ long on the _____
- ② _____ are the _____ of their households and that means more than just putting _____ on the table. It means reading the _____ with their children, _____ their children to _____, praying with them and leading a _____ for them to follow
- ② Employees do not _____ only when the boss is _____ and they do not try to _____ their relationship with the boss by _____
- ② A Christian _____ knows that _____ get nowhere, but _____ and _____ play accomplish wonders
- ② “Finally, my _____, be _____ in the _____ and in the _____ of his _____”

Match the Christian’s “armor” to its definition

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| _____ The devil’s wiles | A The righteousness of a Christian |
| _____ Truth | B The Bible |
| _____ Breastplate | C Salvation |
| _____ Footwear | D What protects the Christians innermost parts |
| _____ Shield | E Faith |
| _____ Helmet | F Tricks of Satan |
| _____ Sword of the Spirit | G Preparation of the gospel of peace |

True/False. Put a “T” or “F” in the blank spaces. There are no trick true/false questions, but some thought must be given for the answers

- _____ A “supplication” is an alcoholic drink
- _____ Children can obey their parents if the parents are doing something wrong
- _____ Children obey their parents as their parents follow the Lord
- _____ The salvation of any nation begins in the home
- _____ Fathers can miss church every Sunday during spring to take their sons fishing
- _____ Fathers need to take their children to church
- _____ Employees do what their employers want as if they are serving Christ himself
- _____ Employers must act like Christians with their employees
- _____ The Sword of the Spirit is the Bible
- _____ The Sword of the Spirit is our emotions
- _____ Tychicus was a companion of Paul on his journeys

END