

EPHESIANS

Chapters One to Six

**Notes to use as you study through
the Book of Ephesians, enabling you to receive
wonderful wisdom and revelation.**

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**Note: *these studies in Ephesians were presented at
Shiloh Training School January 2016,
and recorded in the manual entitled:
'Being Diligent to enter the Rest'***

***We present these notes to you, to enable you to study the
book of Ephesians more diligently, receiving "the spirit of
wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."***

[Eph.1:17-19]

EPHESIANS

Chapter One

THE EXCELLENCY OF CHRIST

Who we are in Christ

Ephesians 1:1 “*Paul, an apostle ...*”

- What is an apostle? One sent by a higher authority to represent the higher authority to fulfil the task that the higher authority sent them to do
- Paul knew he was an apostle by “*the will of God*”
- All apostles must know it is the will of God for them, not the will of man. The Holy Spirit specifically called Paul to be an apostle in **Acts 13:2**
- Prophets can confirm the apostolic call, but not initiate it.

Paul writes to the “*saints*” (Gk. Hagios) = holy ones, sacred, pure, blameless, consecrated

- The saints are the church, the called-out ones
- The ones in Ephesus were “*faithful in Christ Jesus*” (**Eph.1:1**). Jesus was called “*faithful and true*” - **Revelation 19:11**,

v.2 – Grace and peace is being ministered

- From God, who is the Father of us and Lord Jesus Christ. The Greek language has no possessive pronoun; therefore, it is not “*our Father*” but “*Father of us*” [see Interlinear Greek – English New Testament 3rd. Ed. Jay P. Green, page 590]

“*Grace*” – it is a greater force in the universe than the “power” of God

- grace comes in you to change the inside of you, change your character; the fruit will come forth (**Gal.5:22-23**); demonstrations of power cannot do what grace can do.
- **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** – because of the grace Paul would rather boast in his infirmities, persecutions, distresses etc because it drew Paul into the grace
- we grow in grace as we grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ

“*Peace*” – Hebrew ‘Shalom’, comes from God. Jesus is the “Prince of Peace” (**Isa.9:6**)

Grace and Peace from God

➤ GOD – who is God?

- 1) The Father – the source of all things
- 2) The Lord (Adonai) – the Supreme Ruler and Owner of everything
- 3) Jesus – Yahweh saving us
- 4) Christ the Messiah, the King of kings (**Micah 5:2** – coming from eternity)

Ephesians 1:3 – *‘Blessed be the God and Father of the Lord of us, Jesus the Messiah’*. [Jesus Christ is better written as Jesus Messiah]

- we have been blessed with *“every spiritual blessing”*
- we are to look back and count the blessings

The Blessings

v.4 - chosen before the foundation of the world to be in Christ, holy and without blame

v.5 - In love He **predestined** us [to limit in advance, to predetermine, to mark out beforehand, to determine before]

to adoption – Gk. *‘huiiothesia’* – adoption, the placement of the son, refers to Christian sonship to God, not illegitimate children put into a family, it is to place us into maturity as a son to receive the inheritance of the Father. This is the plan of God, not going to heaven but to become sons (**Romans 8:19-21** – all creation is waiting for you)

v.6 – this is to *“the praise of the glory of His grace”*

- there is an important link between sonship and grace
- there is an increase of experiencing the grace of God by coming into sonship; knowing God as Father; no longer a servant but a son
- **‘Praise’** – explain and explore and speak out positively the glory of God, the due acknowledgment of the exhibition of His attributes and His ways
- by which He bestowed grace upon us and graced us with every grace

v.7 – *“In Him we have redemption”* – the act of the ransom being paid in full to set a slave free (**1 Cor.6:20**)

- the ransom for our life has been paid in full; Satan cannot keep us in the slave market, we are set free
- the price of the redemption is **the blood**; it results in the forgiveness of sins
- this is all in accordance with *“the riches of His grace”*,

- we have to have the right currency, the currency is 'grace'
- to be wealthy in God's kingdom is based on how much grace you carry, because grace causes growth and change in our character
- grace becomes tangible; enables us to choose to not sin and to do God's will

Ephesians 1:8 – **His grace He made to abound toward us** in all wisdom and prudence [understanding].

- it does not come by learning but by grace and grace is activated by faith
- ask in faith for these things and by grace God gives them to you

v.9 – By this wisdom and understanding He gives us, He ***“makes known to us the mystery of His will”***

- mankind loves the secret things, secret societies, cults etc.
- God makes known to us the hidden secret [the mystery] of His will
- **1 Corinthians 2:6-7** - this wisdom is for the mature, not for babies; generally not found in 'Bible College'
- not the wisdom of this age, but wisdom of God hidden in a mystery
- by coming into the knowledge of this mystery as a son, you begin to really know who God is – ***“He who is from the beginning”*** (**1John 2:13-14**)
- this is all according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself – it pleases God to make known to you the mystery

v.10 – in the “economy/dispensation” of the fullness of the times, **God will gather together in Christ all things;** things in heaven and on earth

- this is a snippet of the mystery; there is much more!

v.11 – **In Christ we have obtained an inheritance** (we are sons)

- being predestined – decided before by God
- He works all things according to the **counsel** [volition, advice and purpose] of His **will** [a determination, choice, purpose, decree, volition]
- God is serious about us obtaining the inheritance
- the work is in the earth, there is no work in heaven
- He wants us to obtain the inheritance in the earth

v.12 – that we who first trusted (previously believed) in Christ should be ***“to the praise of His glory”***

- v.13** – we heard the word of truth, *“the gospel of your salvation”*
- we were **sealed** – marked, branded
 - with the Holy Spirit of **Promise** – all families of the earth would be blessed by Abraham’s Seed, the promise of the Spirit (**Gal.3:14**)
 - this is the promise of something more

- Ephesians 1:14** – this is the **guarantee** – the earnest, down payment
- then we can know we will make it; the Holy Spirit seals us in salvation and makes us know we will fully get there; He will do it
 - we are guaranteed until the redemption of the purchased possession [our bodies - **1 Cor.6:20**]; He bought us for a reason, He owns us
 - **1Peter2:9** – we are **“a special people”** = God’s own possession, we are possessed by Him, you are marked with God’s signet (**Haggai 2:23**)
 - and again, this is *“to the praise of His glory”*

A Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom

v.15 – Paul had heard of *“your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints”*

- **love** – a deliberate choice, benevolence, making a choice to love, to do good, to show mercy
- **faith** is toward God
- love is toward the brethren – we show our faith by our love for one another

- v.16** – do not cease to give thanks for the saints (**Phil.4:6, 1 Timothy 2:1**)
- *“make mention”* – recollection or recital, only used for prayer in the Bible, we bring people to God’s remembrance
 - **‘prayer’** – refers to prayer to God, prayer is a sacred word referring to communicating with God

Who does Paul pray to?

v.17 – The God of our Lord Jesus Christ

- The Father of Glory
- He will give us **the spirit of wisdom and revelation**

v.18 – **“eyes”** [**Matt.13:16, Acts 26:18**]

“enlightened” [**Heb.6:4** – rays of light come on your spirit person]

- that we may **“know”** – Greek *‘eido’* – to know by perception, suggests fullness of knowledge.

- **John 8:55** – “**I know Him**” perfectly, “**You have not known Him**” (Greek. ‘*Ginosko*’ – coming to know)
- **Luke 1:1-4** – Luke said he had perfect understanding of all things; he had full knowledge

Ephesians 1:18 - “*the hope of His calling*” & “*the riches of the glory*”

- **glory** – Greek ‘*Doxa*’ – manifestation of His character. He puts this glory in us, He expects a return. He has invested this glory in us, the return is that you grow to maturity and release this glory to others

v.19 – “*what is the exceeding greatness of His power*”

- **Greek #1411** ‘*Dunamis*’ – force, supernatural power working in this lower world
- it is toward us who believe, tapped into by faith

“*according to working of His mighty power*”

- **Greek #2479** ‘*ischus*’ – **Mark 12:30** = “**strength**”, forcefulness, we are to love God forcefully (**2Thess.1:9, 1 Pet.4:11** ‘**ability**’)

v.20 – God worked (wrought) all these things (hope, riches of glory, power), “*when He raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at the right hand*”.

- [16 references to the right hand, some of them are: **Heb.1:3, 12:2, 1 Peter 3:22, Col.3:1, Rom.8:34, Acts 7:55-56, Lk.22:69, Lk.20:42**]
- “*in the heavenlies*” - above the sky, in heaven, in the celestial region

v.21 – “*far above all principality*” (chief, rule)

- above all power (Greek. ‘*exousia*’, authority, privilege, superhuman, potentate, power)
- might (*dunamis*)
- dominion (Lordship, mastery, government)
- above every name (other gods, “Allah”, “Buddha”, “Krishna”)
- in this age and the one to come (forever, perpetuity)

v.22 – God has “*put all things under Christ’s feet*”

- and has given Him as “*head over all things*” – to the church

v.23 – **the church is His Body**, the fullness of Him who fills all things

- Jesus Christ, expressed in His body, fills all things.

EPHESIANS

Chapter Two

Jesus given as Head over all things

Ephesians 2:1 – starts with “*And*” but is following on from the awesome verses in **Ephesians 1:20-23**

- Jesus is seated far above ‘All names’
- Names such as “**Allah**” (Muslims), “**Buddha**” (Buddhist), “**Krishna**” (Hindu) – the three competing names in the world today
- **Jesus** is the name above all these names, He is “**Yahweh saving us**”
- **Philippians 2:9-11** – God gave Jesus the name above all names
- The names of Allah, Buddha and Krishna are names of demon gods
- God gave Jesus to be head over all things **to the church**
- First of all, God made Jesus to be head over everything – He is the Supreme Lord, and Supreme Authority
- As head over everything, He was given to the church

We were once ‘dead’ in trespasses and sins

Eph.2:1 continues “*And you*” linking the 2 chapters together

- you who were dead in **trespasses** [**Greek #3900** - a sideslip, often unintentional but still brings death, blunder, unintentional error, still needs to be repented of, can mean a wilful transgression]
- you were also dead in **sins**

Walking according to the world

v.2 – you once walked in this way; according to the age (course) of the how the world operates

- the **world** as being in opposition to God, because the rulers of this world fail to submit to God (**Psalm 2:1-3**)
- according to the ‘prince’ (**Gk. archon** – ruler, first in rank or power) of the power of the air
- the spirit of Satan at work in the ones not made alive in Christ, not forgiven or having sins remitted
- this spirit rules their thinking and behaviour

The desires of the flesh and of the mind

v.3 – we all once conducted ourselves in the **lusts of our flesh**

- that is: any desire that is out of control that you want to gratify as part of your human make-up, an imposition on yourself not in faith

- also the **desires of the mind** – we may have been “good people” but what about your mind? **Mind = Greek ‘dianoia’** – the faculty of thought, we struggle in the mind
- by nature, we were **children of wrath**. Wrath is anger seeking vengeance/revenge; only safe place is with God (**Rom.12:19**)
- we were under God’s judgement, no matter how good we may have thought we were

But God who is rich in mercy

Ephesians 2:4 “But God” - no matter what the problem is ‘*But God*’

- even though we were under the control of Satan, in trespasses and sins, even without hope **BUT GOD!!!!!!**
- **who is rich in mercy - 2 Tim.1:16** – Gk. *eleos* – compassion, tender mercy, kindness, beneficence, an outward manifestation of pity
- **because of the love** with which He loved us
- ‘love’ Gk *Agape* – undefeatable benevolence, unconquerable goodwill, always seeks highest good of other person no matter what he does, self-giving love that gives freely without asking anything in return, love by choice
- Love as a verb – *agapao* – unconditional love, love by choice, we need to decide to love

Made us alive

v.5 – “*even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive*”

- He revived us!

“*together with Christ*” – born again and baptised, baptism puts us together with Christ

- not just good enough to be ‘born again’; we must also be ‘baptised’
- baptism puts to death the old man of sin

‘*by grace you have been saved*’ (**Eph.2:8**) – grace is not only a ‘favour’ but it is God working in us benevolently, to change us from the inside out

- ‘**grace**’ – Word wealth at **2 Cor.12:9** - Greek ‘*Charis*’, God’s unmerited favour, a manifestation of God’s power, exceeding what we could achieve or hope for by our own labours. Not only is it mightily in effect for salvation, it is also a God-given resource that makes possible “holy-living” when our life, circumstances, or character is under fire by the adversary.
- ‘**saved**’ – Greek. ‘*Sozo*’, new heart, new life

Where we are positioned

Ephesians 2:6 – *“raised up together and made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”*

- This is our position! Seated together with Him – far above!

v.7 – *“that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus”*

- ‘ages’ can mean “perpetuity”, for endless time God will show His grace in us.
- We can have confidence as we come into the age to come
- God shows His grace in “kindness” toward us
- we can grow in grace; it can be seen on people; let us desire this grace
- even the last 2000 years there has been a number of ‘ages’. God has been displaying His grace in kindness toward us through all ages

v.8 – *“for by grace you have been saved through faith”*

- **Saved** – protected, healed, saved from, rescued – it is past, present and future
- it was the force of God’s nature (grace) that saved you
- as soon as you believed the dam of grace burst forth into your life

“not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any boast”

- cannot be bought by money, by taking vows, by works
- it is a gift!

We are His workmanship

v.10 – *“For we are His workmanship”*

- ‘workmanship’ – Greek *‘poeima’* – you are God’s poem, written by God in Messiah Jesus [see Word Wealth at **Eph.2:10**]
- *“created”*- only used of God creating
- we are a **new creation, God created me in Christ Jesus**
- so that we can do good works that reveal His character and nature

Therefore, remember ...

v.11 – *“Therefore”* – the reason why we are saved

“remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh – who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands”

- the only difference between Jews and Gentiles is a little bit of flesh

v.12 – five aspects of the “uncircumcision”

1. without Christ
2. aliens from the commonwealth of Israel
 - *“commonwealth”* – wealth of the nation is to benefit all of the nation, is to be held in common
3. strangers from the covenants of promise
4. we had no hope
5. we were without God in the world

Brought near by the blood

Ephesians 2:13 *“BUT NOW”!!! “in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ”*

- particularly talking to Gentiles
- **John 6:53** – unless you eat the flesh of Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you, His blood refers to propitiation [mercy seat, atoning work of blood on the mercy seat] sacrifice

v.14 – *“He Himself is our Peace”* – Christ is our peace

- **He has made us both One** (both Jews and Gentiles are now One)
- They are both now **“in Christ”**, Christ covers them

“has broken down the middle wall of separation”

- many Jewish brethren and Gentile Christians to this day make Gentile believers feel inferior and not quite right with God because of what they eat, keeping the Sabbath on a particular day etc...
- this is the wall of separation that Jesus broke down!

One New Man

v.15 *“having abolished in His flesh the enmity, the law of commandments in ordinances”*

- if you do not do this or that ‘you are not part of the Bride’

“so as to create in Himself One New Man”

- This is a new creation in Christ

“One New Man from the two, thus making peace”

- by the blood, the enmity [ill will, hostility], the wall, is taken away

v.16 – result = *“reconciling us both to God in One Body through the Cross, putting to death the enmity”*

- the blood of the Cross destroys the enmity

v.17 – *“And He came and preached peace”*

- the preaching of the Word is to come so we can receive the peace of the gospel

Ephesians 2:17 - “preached to those afar off and to those who are near”

- Gentiles and Jews
- We need to preach Jesus
- God Himself, Jesus, preached peace to us

v.18 “Through Him (Christ) we both have access by One Spirit to the Father”

- We need the Blood; it brings us near
- The Spirit then brings us **access**
- If you do not receive the Spirit you will find it hard to communicate with God
- the access, the way to connect with God, is by the Spirit

Where we are placed in the house of God!

v.19 - because of coming near by the blood and having access by the Spirit... *“you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens of the saints and members of the household of God”*

- Everything in chapter two is leading us to this place of seeing ourselves set and placed in the house of God

v.20 – the household of God is *“built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself the chief Cornerstone”*

- **1 Cor.10:4, 1 Cor.3:11** – through ministry of apostles and prophets [of the New Testament] Christ the Rock and Foundation is laid, He is also the Cornerstone and the Head
- New Testament revelation is that the house of God is a Body of people – **1 Peter 2:4-5**, living stones [people] being built up a spiritual house
- evangelists, pastors and teachers are building us up to be disciples

v.21 – *“the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord”*

- this is the Church, the called-out ones, not denominations, manifesting in every part of the world

v.22 – *“in Christ we also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit”*

- also representing the local fellowship where you are fellowshiping with God in the Spirit
- the worldwide temple will emerge as the local fellowships are growing in the Spirit.

EPHESIANS

Chapter Three

The context is the building of the house of God

The context coming into **Ephesians chapter three** is the revelation of the building of the house of God from **Ephesians 2:19-22**; apostles and prophets laying the foundation of Christ, growing into a holy temple [notice that the temple is growing; it is not a building being built.]

- **Ephesians 3:1** - Paul begins by saying *“For this reason”* – for the reason of the building of the house of God

Paul, a prisoner for the Gentiles

- Paul says he is *“a prisoner of Christ Jesus, for [us] Gentiles”*
- **Galatians 2:2**: Paul went up by revelation to communicate the gospel he preached with the apostles in Jerusalem (Peter, John and James); they gave Paul the right hand of fellowship
- Paul’s apostleship was to the Gentiles (**Gal.2:8-9**)

Paul received a dispensation of grace

Ephesians 3:2 - Paul was given a dispensation, an empowerment, of the grace of God for the Gentiles

- v.3** – this dispensation of grace released Paul to walk in ‘**revelation**’
 - God made known the ‘**mystery**’ by revelation
 - [Paul had written briefly of the knowledge of this mystery in chapters one and two of Ephesians].
- v.4** – by reading we can *“understand [his] knowledge in the mystery”*
 - we can draw on this dispensation of the grace of God to know the revelation of the mystery; it is the **“mystery of Christ”**
 - Paul freely gave it to us
- v.5** – this mystery in *“other ages was not made know to the sons of men”*
 - in history there are 2 major ages: former and latter days, before and after Jesus rose from the dead
 - there have been many ages within these 2 major ages (e.g. Patriarchs, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Prophets...)
 - even in history since Jesus rose from the dead there have been ages [when the printing press started printing Bibles brought the age of the “Reformation”]

But now the mystery is being revealed

Ephesians 3:5 – now this mystery is being revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets”

- we need apostles and prophets to unveil the mystery
- we need the knowledge of the mystery, the Word of God unveiled
- this knowledge is given to apostles and prophets – *“holy apostles and prophets”*, they need to be set apart, holy
- there are many so called apostles and prophets, but they do not speak the mystery – they are not **‘holy’**, they are not listening to God

→ true apostles bring the *“knowledge of the mystery”*

→ true prophets are to bring the *“knowledge of the mystery”*

What is the mystery? Ephesians 3:6

- *“that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel”*
- This is what Paul has written of before in **Eph.2:11-18**.
- We are *“fellow heirs”* with anybody else who is truly **in Christ**
- The first block in the building is that there is only **One Body**, no longer Jew nor Gentile, but **in Christ, no middle wall of separation**.

v.7 – Paul was a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective (energetic) working of His power

Preaching to the Gentiles

v.8 – Paul had a good estimation of himself *“less than the least of all the saints”*

- the grace was given that Paul **should preach the unsearchable riches of Christ**
- one never finishes preaching Christ, the riches are unfathomable, unsearchable, inexhaustible!
- *“preach among the Gentiles”* - why Gentiles? That was who Paul’s apostleship was to; also the Jews knew about ‘Christ’, growing up with the knowledge of the Messiah
- The Gentile Christians have been only preaching a Saviour to take us to heaven, rather than the Messiah whose kingdom is taking over the earth!

The 'fellowship' of the mystery

Ephesians 3:9 – we preach Christ to *“make all to see the fellowship of the mystery”*

- **1 Corinthians 2:7** speaks of this mystery, which is the *“hidden wisdom”* that *“God ordained before the ages for our glory”*
- there is a **“fellowship”** – this is walking together in the mystery

The mystery was hidden

- the mystery was *“from the beginning of the ages hidden in God, who created all things through Jesus Christ” (v.9)*
- the mystery was hidden at creation, it was in the garden; it was in the tree of life
- if Adam and Eve had lingered at the ‘Tree of Life’ they would have come to understand the mystery
- the mystery is still hidden in the tree of life; most Christians do not know the mystery because they do not eat at the ‘Tree of Life’.
- we have different denominations – if we knew the mystery, we would understand we are one in Christ
- The Tree of Life is Christ Jesus. Adam and Eve did not see Him; they went looking for the mystery in the wrong place [people look for it in secret societies, drugs, sorcery, witchcraft, psychics, fortune tellers, counterfeits] – all of which bring bad fruit
- the fruit of the Spirit (**Gal.5:22-23**) produces good fruit
- the fruit of this mystery is fruit that lasts

The manifold wisdom of God is to be made known

v.10 – this is how we change the world

- by coming into the fellowship of the mystery,
- it is for this purpose
- It is for the *“intent that now the manifold wisdom of God will be made known by the church to the principalities and powers”*
- Through the anointed, revelatory, Spirit filled preaching, teaching, worship and prayer God is releasing His manifold wisdom; His authority
- it is **being made known to the spiritual hosts of wickedness** in heavenly places
- these are the spirits that work in the world to make people disobedient, rebellious etc. (**Eph.2:2-3**)
- by preaching the mystery, we push back these evil forces

This is God's eternal purpose

Ephesians 3:11 – God has already accomplished this victory through Christ Jesus

- Jesus and His church are *“far above all principalities and power”* (**Eph.1:21**); we need to enter into this by growing in the knowledge of the mystery

v.12 – how do we get into this mystery, this fellowship, this overcoming company?

- through boldness we have access with confidence through the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, and through faith in Him

v.13 – this glory is released through suffering, so do not lose heart because of the suffering

Paul's prayer for us

Eph.3:14 *“For this reason”* – because of God's eternal purpose and what He has accomplished

- we bow the knee to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

v.15 – *“from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named”* - we are named after the **Lord Jesus Christ**

v.16 – Paul is in such a high place with God that he feels able to pray that God would grant us *“according to the riches of His glory”* (**Phil.4:19**)

a) Paul prays for them that from the glory they would be *“strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man”*

- God strengthens us by His Spirit
- He strengthens our inner man!

b) **v.17** - for Christ to dwell in our hearts through **faith** (**Col.1:27**)

c) **v.17** - that we be *“rooted and grounded in love”*

- then to be able to ‘**comprehend**’ (to seize, to lay hold of, to not give up **Phil.3:12** ‘**to lay hold of**’) with all the saints

d) **v.18** – to be given strength to grasp *“with all the saints”* the enormity of God's love

e) **Ephesians 3:19** – *“to be filled with all the fullness of God”*

- to receive an overflow of grace, **of His fullness** [SC Gk. # 4138 *pleroma* means: completeness; copiousness; and strongly emphasises fullness and completion]

Pray to the one who is able to do exceedingly abundantly

Ephesians 3:20 – *“Now to Him”* (Jude24-25) who is **able** to do exceedingly abundantly

- Jesus gives life and life in abundance (**John 10:10**)
- the devil steals and robs us, Jesus gives life
- God is able to do abundantly more than we can think, ask, or pray
- this is according to the **power** – ‘*dunamis*’ = power that comes from the supernatural realm, manifest on the earth
- this power is at **work in us**; do not look at yourself but look at Jesus

v.21 – *“To Him (God) be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen”*.

- it is all about bringing glory to God by Jesus Christ in the church in our generation
- we need to be revivalists in our situation and our generation

The end of chapter 3 is Paul’s second great prayer in the book of Ephesians; we have this privilege as a generation to give God all the glory!

EPHESIANS

Chapter Four

Ephesians 4:1 begins with *“I, therefore”* – as a result of this prayer in **Chapter 3** of what God wants to do and be in us, Paul continues ...

Paul proclaims that he is *“the prisoner of the Lord”* – probably he was literally a prisoner (**Eph.3:1, 6:20**), but he is still functioning as an apostle while in prison, in chains.

- Paul was a ‘bondservant’ whether literally in prison or not; to be a ‘bondservant’ is to be a voluntary slave

“I ... beseech you” – ‘beseech’ is a strong word; passionately appeal to someone on righteous grounds

***“walk worthy of the calling”* – Eph4:1**

- Paul prayed in **Eph.1:18** that we would come to know the *“hope of His calling”*; now he tells us to *“walk worthy of the calling”*
- **Romans 8:29-30**: the calling is to be conformed to the image of His Son; God predetermined those called ones, then He called them
- After calling them He **justified** them, by making it known to them that if we repent and believe we will be forgiven
- Those He **justified** He also **glorified**, becoming a mature son in the earth carrying God’s glory

How are we to walk in the calling?

v.2 – walk in the calling with:

- *“all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love”*

All these words are very rich:

- **‘lowliness’** – humility, modesty; absence of arrogance, conceit and haughtiness
- **‘gentleness’** – even-tempered disposition, tranquil (in an active peaceful sense)
- **‘longsuffering’** – having a long temper, takes a while to get angry, God is longsuffering, but it does eventually run out if we remain obstinate and unrepentant
- **‘bearing with one another’** – to hold up, hold each other up

Ephesians 4:3 - “endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit”

- ‘endeavour’ – make every effort, strain every nerve
- ‘keep the unity of the Spirit’ – we are to be in the Spirit together, built together as a dwelling place for God in the Spirit (**Eph.2:22**)
- we learn to live and walk in the Spirit with our brothers and sisters in Christ, no longer seeing each other after the flesh but after the spirit
- we are perfect in the spirit, but it is our souls that need the help
- this is not ‘agreeing to disagree’, it is bearing with one another until people get the revelation and change
- only if you are a repentant, baptised, Spirit-filled believer can you walk in the Spirit together with others
- unity of the Spirit is walking in perfection in Christ

The outworking of the unity of the Spirit

v.4-6 “One body, One Spirit, One hope, One Lord, One faith, One baptism, One God and Father”

- when we walk in unity of the Spirit, we come to know by revelation that there is One....
- ‘One body’ – the church is the body (**Col.1:18**); the whole body is to be “*joined and knit together*” (**Eph.4:16**)
- ‘One Spirit’ – we have received “*not the spirit of this world, but the Spirit who is from God*” (**1 Cor.2:12**); the Spirit has many different appellations [names] in the Scriptures, but He is always the one Holy Spirit
- ‘One hope’ – it is the “*hope of our calling*” (**Eph.1:18**); it is “*Christ in you the hope of glory*” (**Col.1:27**). It is “*the blessed hope*” that brings us to **Titus 2:13**. It is the hope that anchors our soul within the veil (**Heb.6:19**)
- ‘One Lord’ – **Acts 2:36** “*God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ*”. This is the Greek word *kurios*. This word is used to refer to the name of God in the Old Testament, but in this context, it means the one who is the owner, master, controller, the one in authority. Translates the Hebrew word *adon*, which has the same meaning as *kurios*. In the Old Testament YAHWEH was the Lord, but in the New Testament, Jesus is the Lord.

- **‘One faith’** – do you believe the Word of God? The Scriptures we have received – ‘the Textus Receptus’, the ‘Received Texts’ [referring to the manuscripts kept through the ages]
- Even in **2 Peter 3:16**, Peter said the writings of Paul were considered to be ‘Scripture’.
- We receive the Bible as the Word of God, not all these new translations that leave some Scriptures out
- **‘One baptism’** – means immersion, not sprinkling, not pouring; it is baptism into the Name *“of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* (**Matt.28:19**), the apostles knew this name to be JESUS (**Acts 2:38, 19:5**)
- **‘One God and Father of all’** – His name is not “allah”, He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ – He is **YAHWEH** the Eternal One. He is *“above all, and through all, and in you all”* (**Eph.4:6**).

We need grace

Ephesians 4:7 *“But to each one of us grace was given”*

- because of the great need to walk in the One Spirit together and the seven ones, **we need grace**
- We have received grace
- The grace is given *“according to the measure of Christ’s gift”*

v.8 *“Therefore when Jesus ascended on high, He took captivity captive [He took all that the devil had held in darkness and He took that captive] and gave gifts to men”*; the ‘gift’ has become ‘gifts’

The One who descended, also ascended

Ephesians 4:9-10 - How did Jesus, by descending and then ascending, plan to fill all things with His Presence?

- By releasing the five ministry gifts!

v.11 – *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers”*

- to bring us to the revelation of the One body, One Spirit (**Eph.4:4-6**)

The gifts were given for a purpose – Ephesians 4:12

1) *“for the equipping [perfecting] of the saints”*

“perfect” – to set the church in order to function, like healing a broken bone that was out of place

2) *“for the work of ministry”* – the five ministry gifts are given to do the work of the ministry; all ministries are to be functioning to bring us to maturity

3) *“to build up the body of Christ”* – to grow the body through the grace of the ministries given

Until we all come ...

Ephesians 4:13 *“till we all come to the unity of the faith”*

- till we all come to believe the Word as it is written
- there is nothing wrong with the Bible, there is only something wrong with us. God through the Bible, the Word of God, will enable us to grow
- **Jude 3** – we are to contend earnestly for the **faith**

“till we all come to the knowledge of the Son of God”

- the church is to be brought to the deep revelational knowledge of the Son of God
- the key is **1 Timothy 3:16** – God manifested in the flesh
- **John 1:1,14** – The Word, who is God, became flesh and dwelt among us
- the One God manifested in the flesh, and we call Him the **Son of God**
- **Luke 1:35** – the one to be born will be called the **Son of God**
- **Heb.1:8** *“But to the Son [He says]: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.’”*

“to a perfect man”

- the corporate church coming to maturity and full functionality, knowing what we are meant to be doing
- the many membered body walking in a functional maturity, walking as sons together; this is to happen on the earth, to get us ready for Jesus to come, to be married to Him as the Bride

“to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” Eph.4:13

- we are being measured!

Signs of coming to maturity

Ephesians 4:14 – “*no longer be children tossed to and fro ...*”

- we are to grow up and discern the ‘tricksters’ & ‘deceivers’

v.15-16 - again a picture of a functional body

- “*speaking the truth in love*”
- “*growing up in all things*”
- “*joined and knit together*” - joints supplying, teams going to bless other parts of the body
- every part is to do its share

Walk in the new man

v.17 “*Therefore*” – as a result of what was just shared...

- “*you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles* [the church today] *walk in the futility of their mind*”
- ‘**futility**’ = vanity, depravity
- many get confused in these days; we need to be discerning

v.18 – “*having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God*” – because of ignorance and blindness of heart

The truth is in Jesus

v.19-21 - we are to be taught by Him, learn from Him, hear from Him

- many try to come into a ‘Christ’ consciousness but do not know ‘Jesus’
- many talk about ‘God’ but do not mention ‘Jesus’
- We need to know Jesus; His name is ‘Jesus’

Put off the Old; put on the New

v.22 – put off the old man which is corrupt; put off your former conduct

v.23 “*be renewed in the spirit of your mind*” – renovated, reformed, direct its energy toward God; stop and direct your mind God-ward

v.24 – “*put on* [be clothed with] *the new man*”

- the new man has been “*created according to God in true righteousness and holiness*”

v.25 – “*putting away lying*”

- speak truth with your neighbour; tell our neighbours about Jesus
- be bold to speak about Jesus
- stop lying and talking about idle things

Ephesians 4:26 – “Be angry and do not sin”

- ‘*wrath*’ = irritation, exasperation and embitterment that attaches itself to something that has even caused righteous anger
- be angry and do not sin; being angry is not a sin, but getting irritated and exasperated is!
- do not go to sleep with ‘*wrath*’ in your heart

v.27 – giving place to anger opens a door for the devil

v.28 – “... working with his hands what is good”

- it is good to work and be able to have enough to help others

v.29 – speak “*what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers*”

- edification is necessary; we need brothers and sisters to edify us
- speak Godly words that release grace to the hearers
- guard what you say; what comes out of your mouth

v.30 – “do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God”

- we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, so behave properly, behave yourself in line with the Holy Spirit; do not disobey Him

v.31 – Put away all “*bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour and evil speaking*”

- ‘*evil speaking*’ – blasphemy; vilification, railing
- ‘*clamour*’ – SC Gr.#3709: desire, reaching forth, desire of the mind,
- ‘*anger*’ - is strongest of all emotions, violent passion
- Put away all such emotions

v.32 – “And be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you”.

We are to live and walk in the new nature!

EPHESIANS

Chapter Five

In the book of Ephesians, Paul links each chapter into the previous chapter. Each chapter flows out of that which Paul has shared in the previous chapters.

Ephesians 5:1 begins with *“Therefore”* – that is, in light of all the teaching in **chapter 4**; *“be imitators of God as dear children”*.

Three ways in which we are to walk:

1. Walk in love

Ephesians 5:2 *“And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us ...”*

- Jesus Christ gave Himself for us; He has made the sweet-smelling aroma; a sacrifice and an offering of Himself
- Because He loved us, we can now walk in love
- ‘Love’ = agapao: that determined choice to love

v.3 - we are then warned against fornication (not making love cheap, easy, no commitment, done for selfish reasons), sexual intercourse outside of marriage; such things are not to be named among you

v.4 - Turn all negative talking around by ‘giving thanks’

v.5 – no fornicator ... *“no covetous man, who is an idolater”* (being covetous is equal to idolatry)

- the modern world has turned ‘consumerism’ into idolatry - having to have some particular items, jeans, make-up etc.
- such people have no *“inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God”*.
- **(1Cor.6:9-10** – the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. “Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners will not inherit the kingdom of God)
- **1 Cor.6:11** – such were some of you **BUT** you were washed, sanctified and justified by the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God
- There is a warning; but grace and forgiveness are available

Ephesians 5:6-7 “let no one deceive you with empty words”

- do not participate with sons of disobedience who will only experience the **“wrath of God”**; SC#3709 – anger is the strongest of all emotions, violent passion, abhorrence, punishment

2. Walk in Light

Eph.5:8 – “For you were darkness BUT now ... light in the Lord”

- **“walk as children of light”**

What does it mean to walk in the light? v.9

- a) be walking in the Spirit (**Gal.5:25**)
- b) produce fruit of the Spirit (**Gal.5:22-23**) – manifest in all **‘goodness, righteousness and truth’**
 - ✓ **goodness** = godliness manifest
 - ✓ **righteousness** = faith in obedience, obeying God
 - ✓ **truth** = the Word of God
- seek to do good
- seek to live by faith
- seek to walk in the truth of the Word

v.10 – “finding out what is acceptable to the Lord”

- **1 Tim.2:1-3** – prayer for all men and those in authority to be saved: this is **good and acceptable to God our Saviour who wants all men to be saved (1 Tim.2:4-7)**

v.11 – “have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness”

- expose the works of darkness
- God has unveiled the darkness of ‘Freemasonry’; it is a work of darkness
- witches’ covens are involved in unfruitful works of darkness
- all such things need to be exposed; do not have fellowship with them

v.12-13 - expose them by walking in the light

- darkness is made manifest by light
- walk in the Spirit and you will expose these things; darkness will be exposed as we walk in the light

v.14 – “Christ will give you light”

- the Anointed King will give you light
- He is alive and He will give you life

3. Walk in wisdom

Ephesians 5:15 – “walk circumspectly ... as wise”

- ‘circum’ = around; ‘spectly’ = looking
- we are to have a good look around; do not rush in; have wisdom

v.16 – “redeeming the time” - do not waste time, take every opportunity

v.17 – “understand what the will of the Lord is”

- disciples know the will of the Lord because they grow in the Word, which reveals the will of God
- you can be walking in the will of God

What is the will of God?

v.18 – a) it is not the will of God to be drunk with wine

b) it is God’s will to be filled with the Holy Spirit

v.19 – c) the will of God is to speak the Word of God to each other

- reading and singing the Word to one another
- make melody in your heart

v.20 – d) the will of God is to give thanks in all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus

v.21 – e) the will of God is to submit to one another in the fear of God

- part of the ministry of Holy Spirit is to teach us the fear of God (Isaiah 11:2)

Marriage – Christ and the Church

➔ This is the context in which Paul addresses marriage – all members of the body submitting to one another in the fear of God

Submission

Eph.5:22 – Paul’s instructions to wives to “*submit to your own husbands*” is in the context of **verses 18-21**, where the instruction is to “*submit to one another*”

- If the husband is submitted in the body of Christ, then the wife will have no trouble submitting to him
- the wife is to submit to her husband “*as to the Lord*” – therefore do not submit to him if he is acting like the devil!
- husbands are to be acting like the Lord.

Christ is the Head

Ephesians 5:23 – *“the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of church”*

- What sort of a head is Jesus? He laid down His life for us
- The husband as head of the wife, is meant to be like Jesus
- husbands are not to be controlling, but to lay down our lives for their wives.

1 Corinthians 11:3 – *“the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God”*

- a ‘head’ like Christ is willing to lay down His life
- God created an order – the man was responsible for the wife; he was instructed by God as to what to do; it seems that Adam was responsible to instruct Eve
- that order fully is restored in Christ; this is not domination or hierarchy but God’s order of responsibility

What about a widow, or a divorcee?

- **Galatians 3:28** – *“There is neither ... male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus”* - male & female
- but there is still an issue of ‘headship’; women still need to be ‘covered’
- **1Cor.11:10** - why do women need to be covered? *“Because of the angels”*, to stop demonic attack
- How do women stay covered? By being in apostolic order, be related to an apostle who ‘covers’ you to walk under an open heaven!

The Church is to be subject to Christ

Eph.5:24 – *“Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything”*

- The church is subject to Christ; we all as the church need to be subject to Christ in everything!
- Then the Scripture says wives be subject to husbands in everything

“subject” – SC# Greek 5293, means: *to subordinate, to obey*

Vines: *means arranging troop divisions in an orderly fashion, military order = getting the house organised, knowing everyone’s roles and responsibilities, to win the war.*

*also means a **voluntary** attitude of giving in, of cooperating, of assuming a responsibility or carrying a burden.*

- this word “*subject*” is very different in meaning to what we have assumed!

Love as Christ loved

Ephesians 5:25 – “*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her*”

- husbands are to love their wife as Christ loved the church
- the command to wives was to ‘*subject*’ themselves: that is to cooperate and assume responsibility and carry the burden
- the command to husbands is to ‘*love their wives*’
- this ‘*love*’ is the word ‘*agapao*’ – which means to love in a self-sacrificial way, laying down his life for her

What about single women?

- They will be properly ‘covered’ if they are under the ‘headship’ of the local fellowship, the elders (**Hebrews 13:17**)
- if they are in proper apostolic order, they will be under the covering
- women should not be head of a ministry without accountability to a man; this brings security and success in ministry and the fellowship will be in order
- when a woman steps out of that covering, strange fire can happen

Washed by the water of the word

Eph.5:26 – “*that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word*”

- what comes out of His sacrificial death?
- that He might sanctify and cleanse her by the washing of water by the word
- **washing** – sacrifices had to be washed, priests had to be washed
- the washing is to prepare us as sacrifices acceptable to God, seasoned with salt
- we are washed by the **Word** – ‘*rhema*’ – the word that proceeds in a direct instant from the mouth of God (**Matthew 4:4**)
- **Hebrews 10:22** – having our bodies **washed** with pure water, talking of our ‘soul body’; our mind, will and emotions need to be prepared for sacrifice
- **Titus 3:5** – “*the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit*” – this is the regeneration to be born again, it washes us, the burden of sin was washed away
- this happens in an instant of time; we become ‘born again’

Presenting to Himself a glorious church

Ephesians 5:27 – *“that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish”*.

- the church is to become a glorious church.
'glorious' = *splendid; noble, honourable*
- not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; 'wrinkle' – a fold.
Therefore the mature bride church is openly exhibited and recommended.
- being holy; without blemish – *without blame; without fault; without rebuke*

Husbands and wives

In the context of Paul's intimate teaching concerning the functioning, glorious church, he then instructs husbands and wives.

v.28 – husbands should love wives as their own bodies

- husbands are to nourish and cherish their wives as their own bodies (**v.29**). So many husbands are not taught this, and fail to 'nourish and cherish' their wives

v.30 – we are members of His body, *“of His flesh and of His bones”*

- this sounds like what Adam said in **Genesis 2:23**
- the church is to Christ what Eve was to Adam when he first saw her
- she was part of him; we are part of Christ!
- we are members of His body

v.31 - Paul quotes what God said about marriage in **Genesis 2** – *“and the two shall become one flesh”*

v.32 - all this passage is to teach us about our relationship with Christ as the church

- it is revealing a mystery

v.33 - two vital components to a successful marriage

1. Husbands love your wife.
 2. Wives respect your husband.
- Both the husband and the wife are to make sure they give due attention to Paul's strong recommendation.

EPHESIANS

Chapter Six

Chapter six of Ephesians follows on from chapter five; Paul has just dealt with husbands and wives, now he deals with children.

Children, obey your parents - Ephesians 6:1

- children are to be taught from their earliest days to be **obedient**
- ***“Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right”***
- ‘obey’ means to ‘hear under’; when a child, the Scripture says they are to learn to obey
- Children at a young age do not need negotiation but simply need to be taught obedience
- In training children to obey, you need to give clear instructions, and to make sure the child has heard the instruction, so they know what to obey.
- ‘right’ is the same word translated as ‘just’ in **Matthew 1:19**. It means: *‘upright, blameless, righteous, conforming to God’s laws and man’s laws’*.
- Children can learn righteousness by obeying mum and dad and enjoy the peace this brings.

Honour your father and mother

Ephesians 6:2 - quotes from **Exodus 20** ***“Honour your father and mother”***

- this is the first commandment with promise

v.3 - what is the promise? – ***“that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth”***

- no matter what age we are, we are to honour our parents
- it is an awesome privilege to honour our parents
- may we be delivered from being rebellious children

v.4 - Paul addresses fathers: ***“do not provoke your children to wrath”***.

- ‘provoke’ = enrage
- fathers can often have too high an expectation of their children
- ‘wrath’ = strong anger

Bondservants and Masters

Ephesians 6:5 - Paul addresses bondservants

- *'bondservant'* – Greek *'doulos'* meaning 'slaves'
- in modern times we can relate this to employees, workers, exhorting them to make a commitment to serve in your job with fear and trembling, in sincerity because of Christ
- *'fear'* – Greek *'phobos'* meaning *'alarm, fright'*
- *'trembling'* meaning *'quaking with fear'*
- we should have a healthy fear of God and of our boss to be good workers; show respect to the boss/employer
- a good day's work for a good day's pay

How should we serve?

Eph.6:6 – *"not with eye service"* - not being men-pleasers

- we should do all things for Christ;
- we are **firstly bondservants of Christ** - this affects our behaviour towards whoever is over us
- it is good to work; we need to work for a living but knowing that you work for Jesus
- if you are unhappy in your work, complain to Jesus, not to anyone else, He is the One who gave you your job
- commit yourself and submit to God to serve Him in your job without complaining

Eph.6:7 – *"with goodwill"*

- with goodwill doing service; serve as unto the Lord!
- go to work serving the Lord in your heart

Eph.6:8 - whatever good you do; the Lord will do the same to you

The master is also a servant of God

Eph.6:9 - Paul addresses masters/bosses

- masters are to do the same, be obedient to God
- as servants of God; there is no partiality with God
- the master/boss also has a Master in heaven, *"and there is no partiality with Him"*.
- God uses the same standard with the employees and the bosses

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Finally! - Ephesians 6:10

- *“Finally ... be strong in the Lord and the power of His might”*
- after five chapters and 9 verses of chapter six, we are **finally ready to enter into spiritual warfare!**
- Spiritual Warfare is not for babies; babies need protection.
- ‘be strong’ SC# Gk.1743 ‘endunamoo’ - empowered, made strong
- ‘power’ SC# Gk.2904 ‘kratos’ - vigor, dominion, manifested power
- ‘might’ SC# Gk.2479 ‘ischus’ – forcefulness. This word is used in **Mark 12:30&33** and shows us that we are to love God with all our ‘strength’. This is how we are to love God.

Eph.6:11 – now we are told to *“put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”*.

- We are going to learn what the armour of God is, and how we can *“stand against the wiles of the devil”*.

We do not wrestle with flesh and blood

Eph.6:12 - our wrestle is not against humans, flesh and blood

- the wrestle is in the ‘2nd heavens’ against cosmic powers, fallen angels, spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places (**Eph.1:21**)
- these ones fell with Satan, seeking to govern all peoples, the world
- they are totally deceived, and they try to cause trouble for the church that is obeying the Great Commission
- this is in the context of the whole Church;
- **The Church needs to stand against these powers;** it is not individuals standing against these powers, but the corporate body.

Withstand in the evil day

Eph.6:13 – *“take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day”*

- ‘withstand’ – Greek ‘anthistemi’ meaning - vigorously opposing, bravely resisting, standing face to face with the adversary.
- it does not say to attack but to **withstand!**
- When we are moving in the gospel these powers come against us to try to stop what we are doing – **we are to withstand, push back against the evil powers, oppose the enemy.**
- do not go looking for a fight, you may get badly hurt
- we are not told to go out and fight the powers, but to withstand *“and having done all, to stand”*.

1. Having girded your waist with truth

Ephesians 6:14 - gird our loins with truth

- The truth is the Word (**Jn.17:17**)
- how do you put the truth in your loins, the lower inner parts of your body? The mind of the spirit, the inner person is in your belly
- Greeks think with their heads, Hebrews think in their belly, in their deep inward parts
- Greeks are all about educating your head, Hebrews are about teaching you how to live
- **1 Peter 1:13** – “*gird up loins of your mind*” – the spiritual mind is in the deep-down centre of the human being where you just ‘**know**’ things
- depression comes in your head, not in your inner person, it comes from the devil, we need to learn to drop down into our spirit man, into truth.

2. Put on breastplate of righteousness

Eph.6:14 - we believe in our heart, and we are righteous (**Rom.10:9**)

- we must believe in our heart, not just give mental assent to facts
- the breastplate covers your heart; it is believing in your heart

3. Feet being shod with gospel of peace

Eph.6:15 - walk in the Word; it is a path of peace [Heb. *shalom*]

- **Isaiah 26:3** – He will keep your mind in perfect peace when your mind is fixed [stayed] on Him.

4. Take up the shield of faith

Eph.6:16 - faith comes by hearing the Word – (**Romans 10:17**)

- We need to believe the Word of God
- The word speaks with authority
- receive the Word when the enemy penetrates you – **the shield of faith quenches the fiery darts**
- we can overcome what the devil shoots at us by receiving the quickened word in the battle

5. Helmet of salvation

Eph.6:17 – the helmet goes on the head

- what does the head represent? The head is the place of authority

- we can make godly decisions, make plans in God, out of the truth within us in the righteousness received, and the peace we walk in, with faith being our shield
- take stock of the situation, and make your decisions in Christ
- think *'because I am saved'* I will do this or that because it is pleasing to God

6. Take up the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God

Ephesians 6:17 – the ‘sword of the Spirit’ is ‘the Word of God’

- ‘word’ - Greek ‘*Rhema*’ – the quickened word
- this is the only weapon of attack!
- Jesus overcame the devil with the ‘*rhema*’ word in **Matthew 4:4**
- the devil has to get out of our way!
- it is the quickened word of God; we need to know what the word of God says
- read the Bible every day and when God speaks to you out of the reading of the Word, that is your Word for today; follow that word for the day

7. Praying always with all prayers and supplications in the Spirit

Eph.6:18 – there is a seventh piece of armour – prayer!

- **supplicate for all the saints**
- persevere in this; we are to pray for each other all the time, when you are alone, when you are at home, wherever you are
- **supplication** is serious prayer; praying in tongues is essential and certainly included in praying *“in the Spirit”*
- **Jude 20-21** – build yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit

Pray for the apostle

v.19 – begins with the word *“and for me”*

- this is still an important part of the spiritual armour.
- There is a need to pray for the apostle; for the men and women entrusted to be preaching the gospel
- pray for boldness to make known the mystery of the gospel

Ephesians 6:20

- Paul was an ambassador for the gospel even while he was in chains
- It seems like he was in prison; but he is still speaking the Word, writing letters; praying for the brethren

Final words and greeting

Paul has beloved and faithful ministers

Eph.6:21-22

- Tychicus was like another ‘Timothy’ - a beloved brother & a faithful minister in the Lord
- Paul entrusted this man with his own affairs
- Paul speaks of Onesimus in the book of **Philemon (v.10-13)**, in a similar way; anyone of us can step into this sort of relationship; it is a heart relationship
- Paul wanted his spiritual children in Ephesus **“to know our affairs”**, he knew the importance of sharing his heart with the brethren
- He also knew they would be praying for him.

The benediction

Eph.6:23

- ***“Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”***
- Peace – Love – Faith
- from God – Father of us, and Lord Jesus Christ
- literally in the Greek it says that God is Father and God is Lord Jesus Christ

v.24 – “Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen”

- let us be among those who love the Lord of us, Jesus the Messiah
- in **sincerity** = incorruptibility, immortality, unending existence

THANKS BE TO GOD!