

Psalm 119:140 Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.  
Job 23:12 . . . I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

### **I. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS**

- A. Do you read your Bible every day?
- B. Do you have a daily time of fellowship with God, in His word, each day of the week?
- C. Have you decided that it is unacceptable to go even one day without spending time in God's word?
- D. If the answer to any or all of the above three questions is, "No" then would you seriously consider making a commitment to be in God's word every day, from this day forward?
  1. Saying that you are not able to do so is not a valid excuse.
  2. Like anything else in life (but far more important than anything else), you can do this if you will put forth the effort.
  3. If you will not put forth the effort, it reflects very poorly on your walk with God.

"The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible." Dwight L. Moody

### **II. WHY DON'T PEOPLE HAVE A DAILY TIME IN GOD'S WORD?**

- A. The devil is actively seeking to keep YOU out of God's word each day.
  1. He fights his battles one day at a time.
  2. You are losing the battle unless you fight back daily (with spiritual weaponry - Eph 6).
- B. There are many reasons that explain (but do not excuse) not being in God's word daily.
  1. Simply stated, many just don't think it is all that important. But, it is!
  2. Some may have tried to be faithful in God's word in the past, but did not get what they expected – did not have the experience they hoped for - and they quit.
    - a. He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Heb 11:6)
    - b. It is a fact that our flesh (seeking an experience) will not keep us in God's word.
  3. Some don't understand what time in the word of God is really all about, or don't understand how to have quality time in the word of God.
    - a. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, (Prov 8:34)
  4. Many don't have self-discipline to continue doing those things that are important.
  5. Many are spiritually unhealthy, and have lost their appetite for God's word.
  6. Undoubtedly, those who are not in God's word daily have lost sight of the blessings and benefits that His word will bring to them.
  7. And sadly, those who are not in God's word daily are allowing their flesh to control their lives.
- C. Also, sadly, one or more of these facts is probably true of us when we don't have devotions.
  1. We do not love the Lord.
  2. We do not love the Lord's word.
  3. We have sin in our life which keeps us from God and God's word.

### **III. IS A DAILY TIME REALLY IMPORTANT?**

- A. The enemy fights against us daily – Ps 56:2 Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High.
- B. We should listen to God as often (or more often) as we talk to Him, and we know we need to talk to Him daily. – Ps 86:3 Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily.
- C. God (wisdom) promises to bless the man who hears daily. – Pr 8:34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.
- D. Eating is a daily event (physically and spiritually) – Mt 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.
- E. Our walk with the Lord is a daily decision. – Lu 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me.
- F. We have Bible examples of people who were in God's word daily. – Acts 17:11 These were

more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

#### **IV. WHAT ARE YOU MISSING IF YOU DO NOT HAVE DAILY DEVOTIONS?**

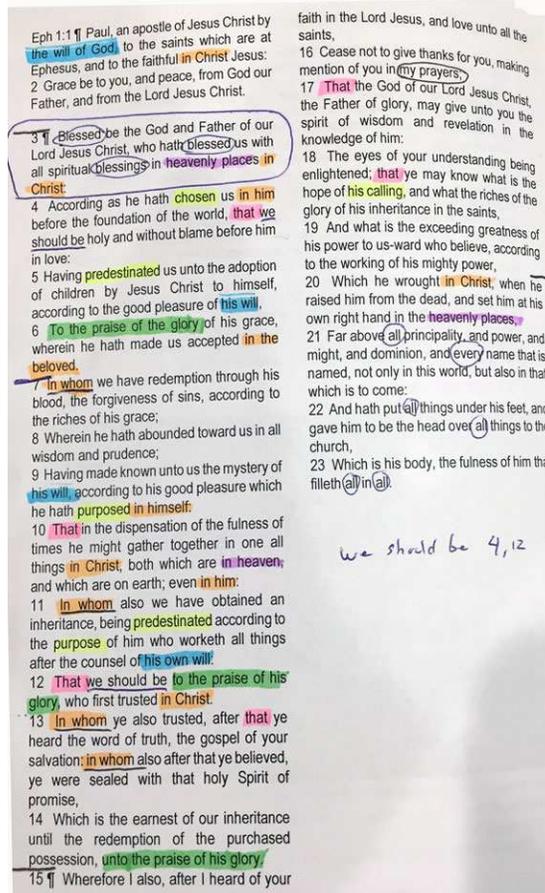
- A. God's word is essential to our very life. (Matt 4:4, Luke 4:4)
- B. God promises to bless those who delight in His word (law) day and night. – Psalm 1:1-2
- C. Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, tells us what God's word can do in our lives.
  - 1. Those who walk in it are blessed – Ps 119:1
  - 2. It will cleanse our way – Ps 119:9
  - 3. It will comfort and encourage us in times of opposition – Ps 119:23 (also 50, 52)
  - 4. It will give us delight – Ps 119:24
  - 5. It will give us strength – Ps 119:28
  - 6. It will enlarge our heart – Ps 119:32
  - 7. It will keep us from sin – Ps 119:37
  - 8. It will change the way we think – Ps 119:48
  - 9. It will give us right desires – Ps 119:59
- D. God's word is compared to:
  - 1. A fire and a hammer: it softens hearts – Jer 23:29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?
  - 2. A mirror, showing our faults – James 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
  - 3. A lamp to guide our feet – Ps 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
  - 4. A sword with which we fight for God – (Eph 6:17)
- E. God's word will sanctify us. – Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

#### **V. CONCLUSION**

- A. What do we need?
  - 1. God to open our eyes and teach us – Ps 119:18 (also verse 26-27, 33-36, 64, 68)
  - 2. To realize that walking with God is a choice that we must make (Ps 119:30).
    - a. You and I have decided whether or not we will walk with God daily. It is a fact.
    - b. We can change and do what is right if we will. It is a choice we can make.
- B. What must we do?
  - 1. Decide!!! (Ps 119:30, 57)
    - a. Don't spend time in the Bible just because of what you get.
    - b. Do it because God said to. – Psalm 119:4 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.
    - c. Realize that your ways are wrong and correct them. – Ps 119:59 I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.
  - 2. Seek to long (hunger) for God's word (Ps 119:40)
- C. Almost every one of us do certain beneficial things daily, even if they don't bring us great pleasure or excitement, because we know they are good for us and have lasting benefits.
  - 1. We take vitamins
  - 2. We exercise
  - 3. Why would we not do that which God promises will provide spiritual benefit?
- D. We develop habits and patterns in our life, over time, which makes them easier to continue.
  - 1. Once we start doing something daily, it is easier to continue.
  - 2. But, even then, we must find some way to be faithful.
- E. It is time to decide, without excuses, to do all that is in your power, and all that God will empower, to spend quality time daily in God's word.

## I. LET'S GET STARTED

- A. Having prayed, and being in a place free of distractions, we read through Ephesians chapter one for the first time. There is much to be seen! Don't get discouraged. God will show you.
- B. There are two things that I look for as I read – how the chapter is divided into sections, and what words and phrases appear many times in the chapter.
- C. We can see how the chapter is divided into groups of verses, after reading it a few times.
- There is an obvious salutation (greeting) in verses 1 and 2. Paul often does this in his letters. This is the first group of verses, and there are one or two more groups.
  - There is a very obvious “division” in the chapter at the end of verse 14. We can see this in several ways.
    - There is a paragraph mark located here (don't always trust these, but they can help sometimes).
    - It is the end of a sentence.
      - There are actually only five sentences in this chapter. Verses 1 & 2, verses 3 thru 6, verses 7 thru 12, verses 13 & 14, and verses 15 thru 23.
      - In the New Testament, there is *almost* never a place where a sentence ends in the middle of a verse. So, you can look at the end of each verse for a period (.). This will allow you to easily find the end of each sentence in the chapter.
      - When all else fails, simply divide the chapter into sentences, and try to understand each one separately.
      - Paul often writes very long sentences, and this is helpful to us because we know that each sentence contains one primary thought.
    - The word “Wherefore” starts verse 15, and it is clearly starting a new idea or thought in the chapter.
    - The repeated phrases “praise of His/the glory” and “his will” cease to appear in this chapter after verse 14.
    - So, verses 3 thru 14 are group two.
  - There are other less obvious divisions (which you may or may not notice).
    - One at the end of verse 6.
    - Another at the end of verse 19.
    - If you did not see these at first, don't worry. The important division to notice is at the end of verse 14.
    - If you can't see any divisions, simply divide the chapter up into sentences and study them one at a time. This method works in Paul's epistles, and in most other places, but not in all (i.e. Proverbs).
  - So, you could divide the chapter into three, four, or five groups of verses. I have included the descriptions here, but you might not see them until later.
    - Salutation and greeting - Verses 1 & 2.
    - God chose to bless us – Verses 3 to 6.
    - The blessings described – Verses 7 to 14.
    - Paul's prayer for them (and us?) – Verses 15 to 19
    - The superiority of Christ – Verses 20 to 23.
- D. Now we are looking for repeated words and thoughts. We can see that there are a number of words and phrases that are repeated again and again in this chapter. It is best if we highlight each of them with a specific color.



1. The one that is most prominent is, **“in Christ”** which is the same as, “in him” and “in whom.”
  2. Another very interesting phrase which appears three times is, **“To the praise of the/his glory.”** (See verse 6, 12, 14)
  3. Appearing four times is, “the will of God” (1), or “his will” (5, 9 and 11).
  4. **“Heavenly places”** or **“heaven”** appear a total of three times.
  5. **“Chosen,” “Predestinated,” and “purpose(d)”** appear 5 times, and “his calling” once (for a total of six times).
  6. In verses 4, 6, 8, and 9 we see four things that **“he hath”** done. Lists like this are valuable, but don’t be too rigid about insisting that the two words “he hath” always be there. Sometimes a list won’t rigidly use the same two or three words to introduce it.
    - a. He hath chosen us (4).
    - b. He hath made us accepted (6).
    - c. He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence (8).
    - d. He hath purposed in himself (9).
- E. As you go, make sure you know what all the words mean. There are some words in this chapter that we need to make sure we clearly understand. Some may surprise us. Use a dictionary and be thorough.
1. “Hath” appears in verse 3. Do you know what it means?
    - a. Hath is the third person singular present of “have.”
    - b. It is important to know that this is “present tense” and not past or future.
  2. “Predestinated” appears twice. It means that something (don’t assume what) was “determined in advance.”
  3. “Prudence” appears in verse 8. It means to cautiously apply wisdom in a way that avoids evil. Simply stated, it is the proper application of wisdom. It is the performance of wisdom (doing something wise).
  4. The phrase, “Principality and Power” appears three times in Ephesians and eight times in the Bible. It refers to those in office or who hold authority.
    - a. Principality comes from the same Greek word as Archaeology (beginning). The person who comes first is the connotation.
    - b. Power, when connected to Principality refers to authority.
  5. The phrase, “should be” can be tricky in English. Sometimes it means, “would be.”
    - a. For example, I John 3:1 says, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God”
    - b. We are now called the sons of God because of the love of the Father.
    - c. This is not an instruction to us to be something, but what has already happened.
    - d. In Ephesians 1:4 and 1:12, we are “holy” and we are “to the praise of His glory.”
  6. “Fullness” is a word which means, “that which fills something, or makes it whole.”
- F. As we consider the words and phrases that appear often, we can see more of what the chapter is all about.
1. It tells us the blessings that we **ALREADY HAVE** by being **IN CHRIST**.
  2. We can see that it was **HIS WILL**, not ours, that gave us these blessings.
  3. He gave us these blessings for **HIS GLORY**, not ours.
  4. God had planned all of this before the world began (verse 4).
- G. Be careful not to add meaning that is not there. Some might try to use the word “Predestinated” to suggest that God also chose that some people could not be saved. This does not agree with other parts of the Bible, and how we were saved is clearly documented in verse 13 – we trusted after we heard; we believed and then we were sealed.

## II. SO FAR WE HAVE . . .

- A. Read the chapter several times and tried to divide in into smaller groups of verses.
- B. Found four or five words or phrases that appear at least three or four times, and marked them with a colored highlighter.
- C. Looked up a few words to be sure we understand their definition.

## III. NEXT, STUDY THE SECTIONS (GROUPS OF VERSES) IN THE CHAPTER.

- A. The first two verses are a salutation and greeting. That description is sufficient.
  1. But, it is interesting that “the will of God” is mentioned and the phrase “in Christ” appears.
  2. An interesting study would be to compare this salutation to other letters (like Romans 1:1-7 where he mentions the “gospel of God” in the introduction (unlike Ephesians), and the fact that Romans is about the gospel.
  3. You can see that sometimes Paul (God) uses the salutation to introduce the theme.

- B. Now, what about verses three thru six?
1. What does each verse say?
    - a. Verse 3 - God hath blessed us
    - b. Verse 4 - He chose us before creation, with a purpose
    - c. Verse 5 - He decided before creation to adopt us
    - d. Verse 6 - His glory and grace are praised by this.
  2. How would you summarize those four verses into one simple statement?
    - a. God chose to adopt us, in Christ, to prove His glory and grace.
    - b. Or simply, The purpose for our spiritual blessings
    - c. Or, Why God blessed us in Christ
    - d. Or, Chosen and Adopted for His Glory
  3. The goal is to understand, to generalize, the thought behind these verses. Then, later, we can dig for details in them.
- C. Next, how can we describe verses seven thru fourteen?
1. There is a structure here, built around the phrase, "in whom."
    - a. In whom we have redemption (7)
    - b. In whom we have obtain an inheritance (11)
    - c. In whom ye believed and were sealed (13)
  2. Look at the way these verses work together:
    - a. Verse 7 tells of the first blessing we have in Christ - redemption
      - (1) Verse 8 explains that redemption is a wise and prudent act of God
      - (2) Verse 9 further explains how we came to be redeemed - revelation
      - (3) Verse 10 tells why God did this.
    - b. Verse 11 tells us the second blessing in Christ - inheritance
      - (1) Verse 12 tells why God did this
      - (2) Verse 13, part 1, proves that our trust is what did this.
    - c. Verse 13 continues by telling us that we have security in Christ
      - (1) The holy Spirit is the proof of God's promise
      - (2) He is the proof of God's "pledge" to fully purchase us
  3. It is now rather easy to describe verses 7 thru 14.
    - a. In Christ we are redeemed, co-inheritors, and secure.
    - b. Or, Our threefold blessing in Christ
- D. Finally, verses 15 thru 23.
1. Be careful. As you get near the end of a chapter you can get lazy and not work as hard at finding the details in these verses. They are just as important, if not more important, than the verses at the beginning of the chapter.
  2. It is possible to divide these verses into two further sections.
    - a. Verse 15 thru 19 describe Paul's prayer
    - b. Verses 20 thru 23 describe the manner of work God did in Christ
  3. Paul's prayer - verses 15 thru 19.
    - a. Verse 15 - Paul heard of their faith, and love
    - b. Verse 16 - Paul faithfully prays for them, thanking God.
    - c. Paul prays . . .
      - (1) Verse 17 - for them to have the spirit of wisdom and revelation
      - (2) Verse 18 - for their understanding of His hope
      - (3) Verse 19 - that they would know God's power towards us
  4. God's power – verses 20 thru 23.
    - a. Verse 20 - He raised Christ from the dead
    - b. Verse 21 - He gave him ALL authority and power
    - c. Verse 22 - He put ALL things beneath Him
    - d. Verse 22-23 - He made Him head of the church, which is His body.
    - e. Verse 23 - The CHURCH is that which fills up Christ (this is very important)

#### IV. WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED THUS FAR?

- A. We could easily dig much deeper, but we have a fair understanding of the chapter already.
- B. We know that this chapter teaches us what God has done for us and why He did it.
- C. We know that none of this would be possible unless God had placed us "in Christ."
- D. We have seen why God did this (for His glory) and when He chose to do it (before creation).
- E. The last nine verses tell us what we should seek to have as a spirit, and to understand.

**V. WHAT ABOUT A THEME – MOST IMPORTANT – VERSE?**

- A. Verse three seems to sum up the chapter very well:
  - 1. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”
  - 2. Everything else seems to fit underneath this verse
- B. If you can’t find the theme verse, try to pick one, remembering that you are looking for a verse which seems to summarize or introduce the rest of the chapter.
- C. Look for a verse that the chapter would “lean upon” so that if that verse were missing the chapter would not make sense. Or, a verse that seems to “say it all.”

**VI. LETS MAKE SOME LISTS**

- A. Lists help us to better understand exactly what the Bible teaches about a subject. Many chapters are filled with lists. Here are two examples. There are several others.
- B. A list of the benefits of being “in Christ.”
  - 1. We are blessed – have *all spiritual blessings* in Christ (3)
  - 2. We are chosen in Christ (before creation) (4)
  - 3. We are adopted by God in Christ (5)
  - 4. We are accepted by God in Christ (6)
  - 5. We are redeemed in Christ (7)
    - a. This is the forgiveness of sins
    - b. It is only possible through His blood
  - 6. We have an inheritance in Christ (11)
  - 7. We are sealed in Christ (13)
- C. What can God make us to know?
  - 1. The hope of His calling (18)
  - 2. The riches of His inheritance (18)
  - 3. The greatness of His power to us (19)

**VII. A SIMPLE OUTLINE OF THE CHAPTER?**

- A. Salutation/greeting: 1-2
- B. Why God blessed us in Christ: 3-6 (Purpose)
- C. How God blessed us in Christ: 7-14 (Plan)
- D. The effect of God’s blessings in Christ: 15-23 (Product)

**VIII. NOW TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS**

- A. What is this chapter mostly about? What is its theme? – Our spiritual blessings in Christ
- B. List a promise (to us) from the chapter? – We have redemption, inheritance, and security in Him.
- C. What command(s) can we see? – None that stand out clearly. This is a chapter of benefits.
- D. What obvious doctrines (teaching) are seen? – Only because of God, and His purpose, do we have “all spiritual blessings,” and then only “in Christ.” Outside of Christ there is nothing!
- E. Name something this chapter teaches about Christ? – We can only be accepted of God if we are “in Him.” (6) And, He is “all in all” (everything).
- F. What principle in this chapter can we use in our life today? – Look at all the things that we have been given, which cannot be lost, which depend not on us but solely on Christ. This is encouraging!
- G. How can I apply this chapter to my life today? – It is clear that God did all these things for His glory. We should live our life for His glory.

**IX. TAKING THINGS FURTHER**

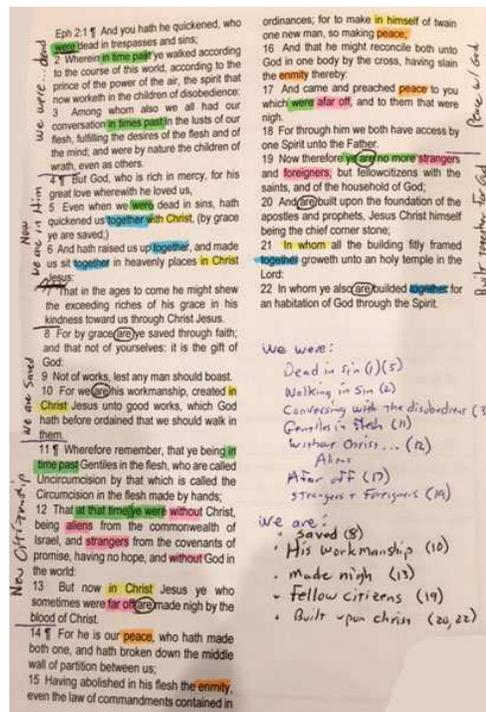
- A. You can keep digging into the chapter verse by verse until you feel that God would like for you to move on. Remember, there are 260 chapters in the New Testament alone: almost 1,200 in the entire Bible.
- B. Look at some of the nuggets of truth that we see in Ephesians One.
  - 1. God has blessed us with “all spiritual blessings” in Christ (3). Outside of Christ there are no spiritual blessings at all!
  - 2. In God’s eyes, because we are in Christ, we are seen as, “holy and without blame.” (4)
  - 3. We do not make ourselves “accepted;” God did this. (6)
  - 4. Without the blood of Christ there is no redemption and no forgiveness (7)
  - 5. One day we will be gathered together in Christ (10). That hasn’t happened yet.
  - 6. We are sealed in Christ and cannot be taken out (13-14).
  - 7. God desires for us to increase in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (17).

**X. THE ASTOUNDING END OF THE CHAPTER (ABOUT THE CHURCH)**

- A. Look what the church is! It is the “fullness” of Christ: that which fills or makes Him full. IT IS IN HIM. The theme of Ephesians is “in Christ” and the church is “in Him.” Why would anyone not want to belong to something that is in Him?
- B. Look how important the church is! It is “his body.” There is no other. And, He is its “head.” Clearly, God finds the church very important.

### I. LOOKING BACK AT CHAPTER ONE

- A. In Ephesians One, our “blessings in Christ” is the theme in that chapter. We would expect this to impact chapter two, and it does.
- B. Chapter one can be outlined as follows:
  - 1. God’s purpose in blessing us in Christ (3-6)
  - 2. The particulars of that blessing (7-14)
    - a. Redemption
    - b. Inheritance
    - c. Security
  - 3. The prayer for those in Christ (15-19)
    - a. A spirit of wisdom and revelation (17)
    - b. Understanding the hope of His calling and rich inheritance (18)
    - c. To know His power towards believers (19)
  - 4. The power that works in Christ (20-23)
    - a. Absolute authority
    - b. Over the church
- C. Our spiritual blessings in Christ are immeasurable.



### II. NOW, CHAPTER TWO

- A. It may be that you will have to read this chapter a number of times before you begin to see its main focus and theme. It is not an easy chapter to outline or summarize.
- B. The second chapter of Ephesians continues the teaching in chapter one. The first word, “and,” is a hint that there is a continuation of thought from chapter one.

### III. WORDS AND PHRASES THAT APPEAR OFTEN

- A. There is a repetition of the phrase, “time past” and the word “were” (see v2, 3, 11, and 12).
  - 1. This is an important thought in this chapter. Chapter two deals with past and present.
  - 2. The differences in our past and our present situation are described in this chapter.
- B. As in chapter one, “in Christ” and “in whom” occur often (see v5, 6, 9, 13, 15, and 21).
- C. The present time is often mentioned using words like, “hath” (a present tense verb), “are” (8, 10, 13, 19, 20, 22), and “now” (13, and 19).
- D. Other words and thoughts that are repeated are:
  - 1. “Together” (v5, 6, 21, 22) - this is “church,” and is further described in chapter 3.
  - 2. “Without”, “aliens”, “strangers”, “foreigners”, and “afar off” in v12, 13, 17, and 19.
    - a. These are all things that we were in time past.
    - b. Now, we are no longer any of these, and never can be again.
  - 3. “Peace” and “enmity” (being an enemy) are seen in verse 14, 15, 16, and 17.
    - a. Verses 14 to 18 are a group of verses with a single thought.
    - b. The words, “peace,” and “enmity,” occur only in these verses.
    - c. HE IS OUR PEACE (verse 14). We were God’s enemy, but NEVER AGAIN.

### IV. GROUPS OF VERSES

- A. Again, we can simply consider the sentences in this chapter and easily find the groups of verses, if we choose to use this method. There are seven sentences in chapter two, including a sentence which is only one verse - verse 18. The sentences are, Verses 1 to 3, Verses 4 to 7, Verses 8 to 10, Verses 11 to 13, Verses 14 to 17 (and I include the single verse sentence in verse 18), and Verses 19 to 22.
- B. We will find it easier to understand the chapter after we have understood each of these groups of verses (sentences). Let’s try to summarize each sentence in a few words.
  - 1. Verses 1 to 3: Our prior condition (what we were) is the subject of these verses.

- a. We were dead in sin (v1).
  - b. We walked in harmony (according to) with the devil (2).
  - c. We had our conversation (walk) in lust and desire (3).
  2. Verses 4 to 7: Our purposeful change (transformation) - God made us alive, and placed us in Christ.
  3. Verses 8 to 10: Our present condition - we are saved, and that by grace and not works.
  4. Verses 11 to 13: Our perfect citizenship - no longer aliens; now near to God by the blood of Christ.
  5. Verses 14 to 18: Our peaceful conciliation - WE ARE AT PEACE WITH GOD NOW!
  6. Verses 19 to 23: Our pious (godly) construction - we are built together (this is church) for inhabitation by God.
- C. Alliteration is the use of the same sound or letter in a list. It helps us to remember things. It is not necessary, but can be a fun way to do an outline which gives it more meaning. If you choose to do this, don't let it change the meaning of the passage.

#### V. AN OUTLINE OF THE CHAPTER

- A. Our prior condition (1-3)      We were dead, devilish, desirous sinners
- B. Our purposeful change (4-7)      God CHANGED all that for HIS glory
- C. Our precious creation (8-10)      Now we are saved through faith by Him
- D. Our perfect citizenship (11-13)      And, we are now near to God in Christ
- E. Our peaceful conciliation (14-18)      And, we are no longer God's enemy - now at peace.
  1. Notice that the law is what made us enemies (15).
- F. Our pious construction (19-23)      We are built together to be inhabited by God

#### VI. ANSWER SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- A. What the chapter is about: What we were and what we are now in Christ
- B. Promises in the chapter: We ARE saved, and we ARE AT PEACE WITH GOD! Amen!
- C. Obvious teaching: Gentiles are now fellow citizens with the Old Testament saints.
- D. Command: Again, none are obvious. (There will be plenty of these in chapters 4 to 6.)
- E. Teaching about Christ: He is God's expression of kindness towards us (7), and He is our peace with God (14).

#### VII. WORDS WE MUST UNDERSTAND

- A. The word "quicken" means, "to cause to be alive" or "to give life."
- B. In verse 3, the word "conversation" means, "our manner of living" and is related to the word "walked" in verse 2.
- C. In verse 11, the words "un-circumcision" and "circumcision" refer to being Gentile or Jew.
- D. The word, "enmity" means to be an enemy of something or someone.

#### VIII. PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

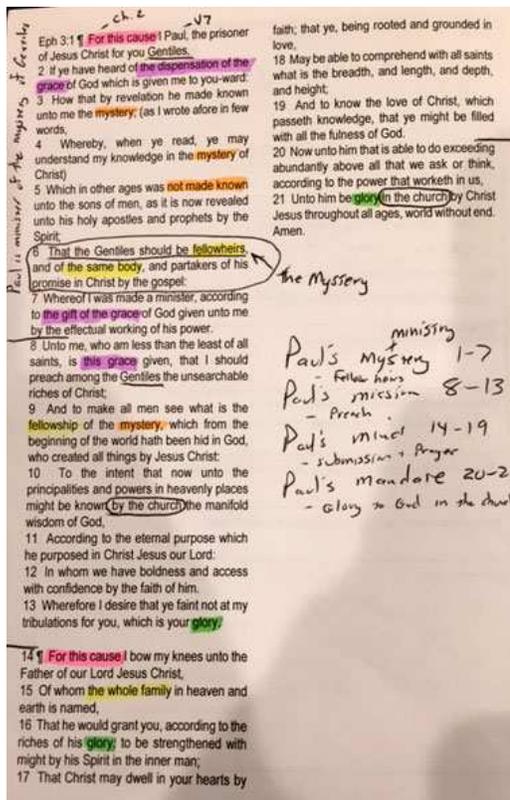
- A. The entire chapter describes the results of our salvation - what we were and what we are now that we are saved. This is the theme of the chapter.
- B. The word, "church" does not appear in the chapter, but the building described at the end of the chapter is the assembly of the saved Gentiles who are "together." This is a description of church. The church is the habitation of God (verse 22).
- C. This chapter leads up to chapter 3, where Paul describes the mystery, that Jew and Gentile are now ONE in Christ. Chapters 1 and 2 are the foundation for chapter 3.

## I. REVIEWING CHAPTER ONE AND TWO

- A. In chapter one, we learn the blessing and effect of being “in Christ.”
1. There are tremendous benefits including redemption, inheritance, and security.
  2. We now need understanding - to know the hope of His calling (calling refers to salvation) and His power towards us.
  3. The superiority of Christ is unsurpassed.
  4. We are introduced to His superiority in and over the church - His fulness (that which fills Him). The church is “in Him.”
- B. In chapter two, we see a before and after picture of our life in relation to salvation.
1. We were dead in sin, disobedient, aliens, and afar off from God.
  2. Now we are saved, made nigh to God, fellow citizens, and built together upon Christ.
  3. We were enemies; now we have peace with God: we are built together for His habitation.
- C. Chapter three reveals a wonderful mystery - that Gentiles are fellow heirs with Israel (6). This is a product of the marvelous grace of God.

## II. CHAPTER THREE OUTLINE

- A. The sentences (groups of verses):
1. Verses 1 to 7 are one sentence.
  2. Verses 8 to 12 are one sentence, and verse 13 is a sentence all by itself.
  3. Verses 14 to 19 are one sentence.
  4. Verses 20 and 21 are a sentence.
- B. Understanding verses 1 to 7: *Paul's mysterious ministry*
1. In the first verse, the phrase, “I Paul” starts a thought that is concluded in verse 7. Paul was “made a minister.” You must read and understand the entire sentence to see this.
  2. Verses 2 through 6 explain the reason for Paul’s ministry – he received revelation of a mystery.
  3. The mystery is that “the Gentiles should be fellow heirs.” (6) That is, that they could receive Christ and His promise as found in the gospel.
- C. Verses 8 to 13: *Paul's marvelous mission*
1. Paul’s responsibility was to “preach among the Gentiles” and “to make all men see” (8-9).
  2. The deeper purpose was to demonstrate God’s wisdom. (10)
  3. Verses 10 to 13 express that it was God’s eternal purpose, that we access this by faith, and that Paul’s tribulations (i.e. persecution by the Jews) is for their glory.
- D. Verses 14 to 19: *Paul's magnanimous (generous) mind*
1. Paul’s request before God is detailed.
    - a. That they would have inner strength from God (16)
    - b. That Christ would dwell in their hearts (17)
    - c. That they would be able to comprehend the love of Christ (18-19)
    - d. That they would be filled with the fulness (that which fills) of God.
  2. Notice the Godhead in these verses:
    - a. The Spirit strengthens the inner man. (16)
    - b. The Saviour dwells in their hearts (17)
    - c. The Father (God) fills them (19).
- E. Verses 20 and 21: *Paul's magnificent mandate (declaration)*
1. Again, the end of the chapter enlarges the importance of the church.
  2. God’s ability to perform exceeds our ability to pray. (20)
  3. It is IN THE CHURCH that God will get glory BY CHRIST forever.
  4. Why would anyone not want to be part of that which glorifies God?
- F. Summary
1. Verses 1 to 7: Paul’s ministry - to reveal the mystery.
  2. Verses 8 to 13: Paul’s mission - to preach to the Gentiles.



3. Verses 14 to 19: Paul's mind - humble prayer for their strength, knowledge, and filling.
4. Verses 20 and 21: Paul's mandate - In the church, God will be glorified forever.

### III. RECURRING WORDS AND PHRASES

- A. In this chapter, the recurrence of words and phrases is less significant, and not as helpful as in other chapters. The outline is so very clear that the words and phrases only help a little.
- B. Paul refers to himself often – in verses 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 13, and 14. This chapter, is in fact, a description of Paul's ministry - that is to reveal the mystery of Gentiles and Jews together in the church.
- C. Often mentioned is the word, "Grace" (2, 7, 8)
  1. Paul considered his ministry a privilege: that God had dispensed grace to him.
  2. V7 – Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.
- D. Glory (13, 16, 21) - all of this is intended to glorify God (not to glorify man)
- E. For this cause (1, 14) - Paul had a ministry and a prayer that resulted from the "cause."
- F. By/In the church (10, 21) - Ephesians reveals the glory of the church.
- G. Mystery (3, 4, 9) - this is something that was previously hidden, but is now revealed miraculously.

### IV. QUESTIONS

- A. What this chapter is about: Paul's place in God's plan to reach the Gentiles
- B. God's promises:
  1. God is able to do above what we ask or think (20)
  2. Gentiles are fellow heirs in Christ (6)
- C. Obvious teaching:
  1. God desires for all men to see the mystery (9)
  2. It is God who makes us a minister (7)
- D. A command: While not clearly a command, verse 21 explains that we should be in the church.
- E. A teaching about Christ:
  1. Some are found worthy to be a prisoner because of Him (1)
  2. The "mystery of Christ" is that Gentiles should be fellow heirs with Israel. (6)
- F. Some unclear words:
  1. Manifold (10) – many in number or kind
  2. Dispensation (2) – the act of dealing out or dispensing, particularly time.
  3. Mystery - that which is beyond human comprehension until it is revealed or explained
  4. Unsearchable - connected with mysterious; that which cannot be searched out. If God had not revealed it, man would never had been able to know it.

### V. CONCLUSION

- A. The first three chapters of Ephesians are the Gentiles' heavenly benefits manual. Chapter one - our blessings in Christ. Chapter two - our changed life in Christ. Chapter three - our minister and his message (revealing the mystery).
- B. Paul has justified God's plan to save the Gentiles, placing them in Christ, and making the church that which fills Christ.
  1. The church is His body (1:23)
  2. The church is that which fills Him (1:23)
  3. The church is His habitation (2:22)
  4. The church proves the wisdom of God (3:10)
  5. The church is an eternal source of glory to God (3:21)
- C. Chapters one, two, and three are God's part (no plain commands). The last three chapters of Ephesians describe our responsibility - our part (numerous plain commands).

## I. REVIEW OF CHAPTERS ONE, TWO, AND THREE

- A. The first three chapters of Ephesians are filled with benefits, blessings, and a description of Paul's ministry of the mystery, with almost no commands or instructions.
- B. Chapter one described our spiritual blessings in Christ, and Paul's prayer for them.
  - 1. Our redemption, inheritance and eternal security
  - 2. That we would be given the spirit of wisdom and revelation
- C. Chapter two tells the before and after story of a believer.
  - 1. We were dead in trespasses and sins
  - 2. Now we are alive, and at peace with God
- D. Chapter three reveals the mystery that Jew and Gentile could be united, and both partake of the promises in Christ. In chapter three, Paul is very personal and open.

## II. INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER FOUR

- A. There is a clear division between chapter three and chapter four. After being taught what Christ has done for us, chapter four begins to teach what we should do in response.
- B. The theme of the chapter is introduced in the first three verses – that we should “**walk worthy** of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”
  - 1. The word “vocation” comes from the Latin *voco* which means, “to call.” From the same root as the word, “voice.”
    - a. It is a designation of purpose or profession.
    - b. It is an occupation - that with which we busy ourselves.
    - c. We are called to a vocation: it is not a vacation.
  - 2. We “should” walk worthy, but have a choice about how we walk. We are responsible.
  - 3. In particular, we should walk:
    - a. With lowliness (free of pride) and meekness (of a soft temper; gentle). (2)
    - b. Forbearing (exercising patience) one another in love. (I Cor 13:2)
    - c. Endeavoring (exerting effort) to keep unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- C. These first three verses are an overview – a list of priorities.

## III. WORDS AND PHRASES IN CHAPTER FOUR

- A. The word, “walk” appears in verse 1, and twice in verse 17. It refers to the way we conduct ourselves in our daily life.
- B. The word, “body” also appears several times (4, 12, 16). It refers to the church (see Eph 1:23). The emphasis is on unity. There is a need to understand the many times in the Bible that Church is mentioned, in order to fully understand this doctrine. Suffice it to say that the church is always a visible assembly. You can substitute the word “assembly” to understand.
- C. “Gifts” are mentioned in verse 7, 8, and 11.
- D. “Put off,” and “put on” are found in verse 22, 24, and 25.
- E. Other words like “one” (4, 5, 6) and the negative “no” and “not” (26-30) appear often.
- F. The phrase “in love” appears in the Bible 14 times, 6 of which are in Ephesians, and 3 of which are in Chapter 4 (forbearing in love - 2, speaking truth in love - 15, walk in love - 17).

## IV. SEVEN PART OUTLINE OF CHAPTER FOUR

- A. You cannot simply divide this chapter into sentences. There are too many.
- B. Seven groups of verses:
  - 1. Verses 1 to 3 – We are to walk worthy or “Walk worthy”
  - 2. Verses 4 to 6 – God's emphasis on unity or “We are united”
  - 3. Verses 7 to 10 – Christ has given us grace” or “We have received grace”
  - 4. Verses 11 to 16 – The gifts, and their purpose or “Gifts which assist our walk”
  - 5. Verses 17 to 19 – How other Gentiles walk or “How not to walk”
  - 6. Verses 20 to 24 – Put off the old man; put on the new one or “Walk as the new man”
  - 7. Verses 25 to 32 – Description of the transformation or “How our walk must change”

## V. LISTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN CHAPTER FOUR

- A. Lists are very important, and quite frequent, in chapter four. They help us see the complete

- picture. When the Bible includes a list, it is precise. We often see lists of 3, 4, 5, or 7 items.
- B. In verses 4 to 6, there is a list of seven “ones.”
    - 1. Body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, God
    - 2. Note: there is one faith, but many have faith. There is one baptism, but many are baptized. There is one body, but many are part of various local churches.
    - 3. Who are we to refused to be united, or at peace with one another, after what God has done.
  - C. Verse 11 is a list of the five gifts given to edify (build up) the church.
    - 1. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.
    - 2. Do not assume that all five of these will always be present in every age.
  - D. Verses 12-16 portray the purpose of these gifts.
    - 1. Perfecting (completion) of the saints (12)
    - 2. Work of the ministry (12)
    - 3. Edifying of the church (12)
    - 4. Protection from false doctrine (14)
    - 5. That we would be able to speak the truth and grow up in Christ (15)
  - E. Verses 17 to 19 demonstrate the old man - how the unsaved Gentiles walk and how we walked. It is a very ugly picture.
    - 1. In the vanity of their mind (17) – thinking (and then doing) things that have no value.
    - 2. With darkened understanding (18) – not knowing truth.
    - 3. Alienated from the life of God – completely foreign to Him and His ways.
    - 4. Ignorant – not knowing God.
    - 5. Blindness of heart - not seeing with our heart.
    - 6. Immune (numb) to or beyond feeling (19) – unable to care or feel guilt.
    - 7. Given over to lasciviousness (unbridled indulgence in desires) - greedy and unclean and possessed by lusts.
  - F. Verses 25 to 32 show what to “put away”
    - 1. Lying (dishonesty) (25) – be honest
    - 2. Excessive anger (26) – be void of wrath or malice
    - 3. Giving the devil opportunities in our life (27) - be constantly on guard
    - 4. Theft (28) - it is replaced with work: take nothing that does not belong to you
    - 5. Corrupt (that which does not build up the hearer) communication (29) - when we talk, it should not tear others down or attack them.
    - 6. Grieving the Holy Spirit (30) – do not say or do that which injures feelings or causes regret in God’s mind
    - 7. Also “put off” Bitterness; wrath; anger; clamor (loud complaint or demand); evil speaking; malice; unkindness/unforgiveness. (This is a list within a list)

## VI. QUESTIONS:

- A. Summarize chapter four: How to walk worthy of God’s calling
- B. Key verse: Verse 1
- C. One or two promises: Every one of us was given grace (7)
- D. Obvious teaching: The gifts God gave us are practical (see 12-16)
- E. Command(s): Walk not as other Gentiles (17)
- F. Teaching about Christ: It is He that gave the gifts (8,11); He is the head over all (15)
- G. Unclear words: Vocation - our Godly calling and occupation; Lascivious - uncontrolled indulgence in desires.

## VII. CONCLUSION

- A. Beware of people who have an agenda for Christians that differs from God’s agenda. This chapter is God’s agenda for you and I as born again believers. Note the emphasis on unity, edifying (building others up), speaking with love, ministering grace, etc.
- B. The notion that we have no responsibility to seek godliness after we are saved is clearly not true. Chapter four is a chapter of responsibility that falls upon us.

### **I. REVIEW OF CHAPTER FOUR**

- A. Chapter five is a continuation of chapter four: they are closely related so that you need to consider and understand chapter four before moving on to the next chapter.
- B. Simple outline of chapter four
  - 1. Walk worthy: walk in unity (1-6)
  - 2. Gifts for our walk: Gifts given to us in the church, and their purpose (7-16)
  - 3. Walk cautiously – the walk to avoid: exchange the old man for the new (17-24)
  - 4. Walk differently: A sevenfold change to seek by excluding these things from our walk (25-32)
    - a. Lying
    - b. Excess anger
    - c. Giving Satan opportunities
    - d. Theft
    - e. Destructive talk
    - f. Grieving the Holy Spirit
    - g. Bitterness, wrath, anger, malice
    - ...

### **II. OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER FIVE**

- A. Chapter five has a very distinct division between verses 21 and 22: there are two sections.
  - 1. Verses 1 to 21 – More about how to walk: details.
  - 2. Verses 22 to 33 – A scriptural marriage and what it portrays (walking with Christ in the church)
- B. Here is a list of the many commands seen in the first 21 verses of chapter five:
  - 1. Follow God as a dear child (1).
  - 2. Walk in love as Christ . . . (2).
  - 3. Do not be identified with fornication, (moral) uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking, or jesting (subtle evil speaking) (3-4).
  - 4. Be known as those who frequently give thanks (4).
  - 5. Don't let any man deceive (trick) you by telling you that verse 5 is not true.
  - 6. Do not be a partaker with those who do these things (the ones in verses 3 to 6) (7).
  - 7. Walk as children of light, proving (showing) what God accepts (8-10).
  - 8. Have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness (11).
  - 9. Reprove (openly find fault with) those works (11).
  - 10. Walk circumspectly (cautiously) (15).
  - 11. Redeem (make good use of) the time (16).
  - 12. Be not unwise: know God's will (it was given to you in the prior verses) (17).
  - 13. Be not drunk with wine (18).
  - 14. Be filled with the Spirit (18).
  - 15. Speak to yourselves in psalms, hymns, etc. (19).
  - 16. Give thanks always for all things (20).
  - 17. Submit yourselves to one another (21).
- C. You could categorize these commands for easier understanding
  - 1. Things to do:
    - a. Follow God (1)
    - b. Walk in love as Christ loved us (2)
    - c. Walk as God's children (of light) (8-10)
    - d. Walk cautiously (15)
    - e. Make good use of the time (16)
    - f. Be filled with the Spirit (18)
    - g. Speak to yourself in psalms, hymns, etc. (19)
    - h. Submit to one another (21)
  - 2. Things to avoid and prohibit:
    - a. Sins of immorality and/or covetousness (3-4)
    - b. Being deceived by those who teach that these sins are without consequence. (5)
    - c. Those who are known to commit these sins. (7)
    - d. Fellowship with these sins – dark works (11)
    - e. Drunkenness (18)
  - 3. Things to emphasize:
    - a. Gratitude to God (4, 20)
- D. When combined with chapter four's commands, and those in chapter 6, this becomes our life's work.
- E. Note the emphasis on what to do, not on how to do it. The assumption is that you know how.

### **III. SLOW DOWN A BIT AND ASK QUESTIONS**

- A. As we dive into the outline and finding words and phrases that reoccur, let's make a list of questions we would like to answer - or try to answer.

- B. For example:
1. How can we be followers of God (1)? Ans: The chapter seems to be all about how to do that.
  2. What does it mean, “walk in love, as Christ ...?” (2) Ans: This is sacrificial love; suffering for the benefit of others.
  3. How should the example of Christ’s love change how we treat others (2)? Ans: We should sacrifice and suffer for others rather than to always protect our interests at their expense.
  4. What does it mean in verse 3 when God says, “not be once named among you?” Ans: Not to be associated with you – not known to have happened in your company.
  5. What does it mean in verse 4 when God says, “which are not convenient?” Ans: The word “convenient” means, “fit, suitable, appropriate, or proper.” It is not appropriate for us to do this.
  6. What is it to be covetous (verse 3)? Ans: *COVET*, To desire inordinately; to desire that which it is unlawful to obtain or possess; in a bad sense. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors house, wife or servant. Exodus 20:17. Covetousness is on equal ground with immorality.
  7. After reading verse 4, how can we explain that a saved man who becomes covetous, he does not lose his salvation?
    - a. Interpret scripture with scripture. See I Cor 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor **covetous**, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
    - b. If the list in I Cor 6:9-10 is a list of what can cause us to lose our salvation, then anyone who has committed any one of these sins after salvation is lost. But, verse 11 says we are “justified.” (Declared not guilty).

#### IV. NOW, ON TO WORDS, GENERAL QUESTIONS, AND AN OUTLINE OF THE CHAPTER

- A. Common words that often occur and clarify chapter 5.
1. “Be ye” (1), “Be not” (7, 17, 18) – what to be and what not to be
  2. “Darkness” (8, 11), “Light” (8, 13, 14) – contrast between two kinds of person
  3. “Giving of thanks” (4, 20) – an overriding sentiment that we must emphasize in our walk
  4. “Wives” and “Husbands” (22, 23, 24, 25, . . .) – a picture of the church
  5. “Walk” (8, 15) – this is the continuation of chapter 4, “walk worthy . . .”
- B. A Simple Outline:
1. Follow God as His child by loving sacrificially and fleeing from association with sin. (1-7)
  2. How to walk as children of light (proving-10, reproofing-11, redeeming the time-16) (8-16)
  3. Five further paramount commands - be not unwise-17; be not drunk-18; be filled-18; give thanks for all things-20; submit to one another-21 (17-21)
  4. The scriptural model of marriage, and its portrayal of the local church (21-33)
    - a. These are more commands which pertain to husbands and wives
    - b. They are very important as they portray the local church
- C. Questions:
1. Summary of chapter: It tells what it means to follow God
  2. Promises: 1.) Christ shall give thee light (14), 2.) Christ gave Himself for us (2)
  3. Obvious teaching: “the wrath of God cometh upon the children of disobedience” (6)
  4. Command: (there are over 20: see the list above and those in the last dozen verses)
  5. Lesson for life: God expects us to follow Him in holiness: we have a standard to live up to.

#### V. CONCLUSION

- A. This chapter, along with the one before and after it, summarizes our responsibility as God’s children.
- B. It is obvious that God has high expectations for His children. You won’t hear that in most churches.
- C. A profitable exercise would be to use Ephesians 4, 5, and 6 to make a concise list of things we could use to evaluate our life in Christ and whether or not our “walk is worthy.”

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Ephesians 5:22-33 is a very special passage which deserves additional study.
- B. These verses compare the relationship between a husband and wife with the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and the church.
  - 1. Note the word, “as” in verse 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, and 29.
  - 2. Then notice the plain explanation in verse 32, “I speak concerning Christ and the church.”
- C. Is this church universal, local, or both?
  - 1. Some people imagine that the church is simply the collection of everyone who is saved. This is known as the “universal” or “catholic” church.
  - 2. A quick study of the word “church” in the Bible will show that it is often used to describe what can only be a local assembly of people (in one place).
    - a. For example, in Matt 18:17, you can tell it things
    - b. In Acts 11:26 & Acts 14:27, you can assemble with it.
    - c. There are more than one of them – Acts 16:5
  - 3. Most of the times the Bible uses the word “church” (about 75%) could only be talking about a local assembly (i.e. Acts 11:22, “the church which was in Jerusalem.”)
    - a. For example 20 out of 20 times the church is mentioned in The Revelation, it could only be a local visible assembly located in one place.
    - b. 36 of the 114 times the word “church” is used in the AV, it is in the plural form “churches.” This obviously cannot mean there is one single universal church.
  - 4. There is great danger is assuming that the church is, first and foremost, a single universal entity, when the Bible almost always refers to it as a local visible assembly.
    - a. It clearly goes against scripture, as most references to the church are obviously referring to a local assembly.
    - b. It deceives people into believing that they don’t need to belong to a local church since it assumes that they already belong to the so-called universal one.
    - c. It confuses or diminishes the instructions the Bible gives regarding the church.
  - 5. There are times when the Bible uses the word “church” in a sense which refers to more than one church, just as we would use the phrase “the bank” or “the store” to describe a “type” of establishment that exists in many places.
    - a. For example, when the Lord says, “tell it to the church” (Matt 18:17).
    - b. This is the case in Ephesians chapter 5. No particular church is named, but the local assembly is what is being discussed.

## II. OUTLINE OF THE PASSAGE

- A. Ephesians 5:22-33 can be divided into four sections.
  - 1. Verses 22-24 deal with **authority** – Notice the words, “submit,” “head,” and “subject”
  - 2. Verses 25-29 deal with **affection** – Note the words love, loved, and loveth
  - 3. Verses 30-31 deal with **association** (or affinity)
    - a. The phrase, “members of his body” - v. 30
    - b. The phrase, “shall be joined” - v. 31
  - 4. Verses 32-33 describe the **allegory** - Husband and wife portray Christ and His church.
- B. The mystery is that both Jews and Gentiles would be joined to Christ in the church.

Marriage	Church
• Husband is head of wife	• Christ is head of church
• Husband to love wife	• Christ loved church
• Husbands nourish and cherish the wife	• Christ nourishes and cherishes the church
• Believers join to a church	• Man and wife are one

## III. AUTHORITY (22-24)

- A. The picture of authority in marriage and church are one and the same.
- B. Wives are to submit to the husband as the church is to submit to Christ (22-23)

1. Notice that the relationship is one to one – one wife to one husband.
2. Just as many wives do not gather together to decide when and how to obey the husband, it is forbidden for many churches to gather together and vote about how to obey the Lord.
- C. There is no hierarchy (structure of authority): it is a one to one relationship.
- D. There are not conditions or options to violate this rule.
- E. The husband is a picture of Christ, the Saviour of the body (23).
- F. The responsibility seen in these verses falls upon the wife, and the church.

#### **IV. AFFECTION (25-29)**

- A. Now, the responsibility falls upon the husband, using the Lord as an example.
- B. Husbands are to love their wives “AS” Christ loved the church. (25)
  1. This is a sacrificial love - Christ “gave himself for” the church. (25)
  2. It is a cleansing love - Christ cleanses the church with His word (26)
  3. It is an effective love - He will present the church without any blemish (27)
- C. The husband is not to find fault with the wife, but rather to forgive.
- D. The husbands love for the wife should be understood to be as if he loved himself (28)
- E. There is a cost, sometimes high, for this kind of love.

#### **V. ASSOCIATION (30-31)**

- A. The mutual benefit of the association between husband and wife is a picture of the mutual association between a church member and the Lord.
  1. Husband and wife are addressed as being one, just as a group of church members are addressed as one body.
  2. The wife identifies with the husband by taking his name, just as a church identifies with Christ by taking His name.
- B. The marriage of husband and wife is not intended to be dissolved.

#### **VI. ALLEGORY (THE PICTURE – 32-33)**

- A. That which “concerns” marriage is a picture of Christ and His church (32)
- B. Notice that a wife who is truly subjected to her husband’s authority (24) is easy for him to love. Are we, as a church, submitted to the Lord?
- C. Notice also that a husband who loves the wife sacrificially is easy to submit to. If a wife trusts that her husband loves her sacrificially, why would she not be willing to submit?
- D. Neither the command to love or the command to submit are conditional. One does not preclude or allow the other. Both are mandated, even if the other is not present.

#### **VII. CONCLUSION**

- A. Verses 33 sums it all up concerning marriage. “Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”
- B. In Gen 2:18, God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone.” In verse 24, after creating woman, God said, “A man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” This was always God’s plan.
- C. The mutually beneficial relationship between a husband and wife is a portrayal (picture) of the relationship between Christ and His church.
- D. Again we see the importance of church, and must ask why anyone would not want to be part of something that is so special to the Son of God.

## I. OUTLINE OF CHAPTER SIX

- A. The last chapter of Ephesians is divided into three sections.
1. Verses 1 to 9: Special instructions and commands for certain groups of individuals
    - a. Children - obey and honor parents
    - b. Fathers - provoke not, bring them up . . .
    - c. Servants - obey, be sincere, serve as if you were serving God
    - d. Masters - do not threaten
  2. Verses 10 to 18: Be strong (how to) by putting on the WHOLE armor of God
    - a. The nature of the battle: 10-13
    - b. The armor: 14-17 – truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, salvation, and Bible
    - c. Prayer emphasized: 18
  3. Verses 19 to 24: Paul's needs, plans, and blessing
- B. There is a seamless continuation from chapter 5, and chapter 4. This chapter continues to give instructions for walking worthy of our vocation.
- C. There are not as many words or thoughts that are repeated many times in this chapter.
1. "The whole armor" is mentioned twice
  2. "Standing" is emphasized in verses 11 to 14.
- D. This is a very important chapter in the Bible which we often hear taught and preached. It is the one place where the "whole armor of God" is described in detail.

### Remember Our Simple Method:

1. Pray for God to speak to you
2. Read the chapter
3. Read again, dividing the chapter into logical sections of verses
4. Look for and mark words and thoughts that occur repeatedly
5. Take note of words that you don't understand and look them up in a dictionary
6. Summarize the groups of verses - this is an outline
7. Answer questions about the chapter (see Lesson 2)

## II. IMPORTANT LESSONS IN CHAPTER SIX

- A. ("That ye may be able to stand" - 11) What does a fallen Christian look like? He is . . .
1. Either not in church or not faithful to attend church regularly.
  2. Not praying daily; not reading his Bible daily; not exhibiting a burden for souls.
  3. Not in the battle, not fighting, and not gaining any ground for God.
  4. Not supporting the army (church) and not encouraging other members of God's army.
  5. Wounded, fallen down, in need of attention, weak, ineffective, maybe helpless. Not one who is serving, but one who continually needs to be served.
  6. Of more use to the enemy than to God's cause - more often a recipient than a contributor.
- B. Whether you like it or not, there is a battle all around you, and you are to be a participant in the contest where you will either stand or fall. Realize this! (See verses 10-13)
1. Strength is available, but it is a result of putting on ALL of the armor.
    - a. If you are partially protected, you are partially exposed. You will be wounded!
    - b. The enemy will take advantage of your exposure and cause you to fall.
  2. The armor is provided by God. Do you think He gave us inferior or insufficient armor?
  3. Look at some of the devil's tactics and weaponry:
    - a. "Wiles" (11) - trickery or deception (many have been deceived)
      - (1) There are many things that can deceive the believer and cause him to fall.
      - (2) You are only going to avoid them by knowing and living God's word.
      - (3) For example, it may look as if accumulating wealth is a good goal, but the Bible calls this, "the deceitfulness of riches." (Matt 13:22)
    - b. Spiritual wickedness in high places (12) (many have fallen spiritually)
      - (1) It is not your physical strength that is needed, but spiritual strength.
      - (2) Note that Eph 1:3 says we have all "spiritual blessings" and Eph 5:19 mentions "spiritual songs." The battle we fight is a "spiritual battle" and it is fought in a spiritual realm.
      - (3) Spiritual wickedness is that which is opposed to or in violation of God's divine law: evil practices, crime, sin, corruption, and disobedience.
    - c. The evil day (13) (many have been wounded)
      - (1) The word "wickedness" in verse 12, and the word "evil" in verse 13 come from the same Greek word. They mean just what they say.
      - (2) Matt 6:34 tells us that each day contains "sufficient" evil, and Eph 5:16 reminded us that, "the days are evil."

- (3) We live in days filled with evil. It is all around us. It reaches out to us and tempts us to follow. We will either stand or fall as a result.
- d. Fiery darts (16)
- (1) The devil is shooting at you. If he hits you (even in your armor) the wound can be grievous and painful. You want to stop these missiles with your shield of faith. Faith is the victory (1 John 5:4).
- (2) Faith will allow us to be, "Giving thanks always for all things . . ." (Eph 5:20).
- (3) Wounded believers (those who have been hurt by something or someone, and taken down by that hurt) are too plentiful.
- (4) A fiery dart could be a betrayal by a fellow believer, being forsaken by someone, being attacked or slandered, giving in to temptation, allowing trials to stop you, etc. etc.
- C. Various items of armor have special meaning and use. For example:
1. "Shod feet" (15) – How far could you get in battle if you had no shoes. The rocks would cut your feet and you would go nowhere. Many Christians go nowhere because they do not have the gospel "bound on." They are incapable of going anywhere for God because of this missing item of armor.
  2. The full list of armor is, "truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the sword (Bible)." Prayer is a seventh essential item of equipment.
  3. Note: if you have a corrupt Bible, your armor is compromised and you will not stand.
- D. The importance of prayer:
1. It allows God's men to speak boldly (19)
  2. It is essential for "all saints" (18)

"Fiery darts" were made from a hollow reed. One end was sealed, and the tube was filled with flammable liquid. A loose stopper holding a wick was slipped into the other end and lit. It was then shot like an arrow. Since it had its own fuel source it kept burning until it hit something. Then the wick came out, and the liquid spilled over the soldier's armor and ignited.

### III. QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS CHAPTER

- A. Summary of Chapter: Obedience, and the Whole Armor of God
- B. Promises: Those who honor parents enable that it may be well with them and see long life (3), and Those who do good to other men receive the same of the Lord (8).
- C. Obvious teaching: We are in a battle, and if not properly protected, we will not stand. (11)
- D. Command: "Put on the whole armor of God"
- E. Lessons about Christ: When we serve men, we are serving Christ (6). He gives us peace (23)
- F. Words to look up:
1. "Honor" (2) - prize, revere, value, esteem, treat with respect
  2. "Wiles" (11) – tricks, deception, subtlety, dishonesty
  3. "Nurture and admonition" – "nurture" involves chastening and correction where "admonition" involves counseling and encouragement.

### IV. CONCLUSION

- A. It is clear that an entire, God provided armor is available to each believer, and that we cannot stand unless it is in place. Are you standing, or have you fallen. If so, get up and get armed.
- B. The possession, study, and understanding of a preserved copy of the word of God is essential to having the whole armor. "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Bad Bibles result in bad armor.
- C. It is clear that God's will is for believers to stand, and that God has enabled them to stand by providing armor which is superior to the devil's weaponry.
- D. Better to wear the armor than to suffer the trials of recovering from a grievous wound.

## **I. QUESTIONS FOR THE CLASS**

- A. What verse did you find most valuable and encouraging to you as you studied this book? Why?
- B. What theme would you think is appropriate to describe Ephesians?
- C. What thing(s) did you see in Ephesians that you have not seen in any other New Test. Book?
- D. How does Ephesians change or strengthen our view of the value of the church?

## **II. OUTLINE OF EPHESIANS**

- A. Our Blessings and Change in Christ
  1. Chapter 1 – Our spiritual blessings in Christ
    - a. His Purpose – Why God blessed in Christ (3-6)
    - b. His Plan – How God blessed us in Christ (7-14)
    - c. The Product – Effect of God’s blessings in Christ (15-23)
  2. Chapter 2 – How we changed by being in Christ
    - a. Prior condition (1-3)                      Dead, devilish, desirous sinners
    - b. Purpose for the change (4-7)              For HIS glory
    - c. Precious new creation (8-10)              Saved through faith by Him
    - d. Perfect citizenship (11-13)                Near to God in Christ
    - e. Peaceful reconciliation (14-18)            No longer God’s enemy
    - f. Pious construction (19-23)                Built together to be inhabited by God
- B. Paul’s Mission and the Mysterious Reconciliation
  1. Chapter 3 – Paul’s mission in God’s plan, and the mystery of the Gentile church
    - a. Paul’s ministry - to reveal the mystery (1-7)
    - b. Paul’s mission - to preach to the Gentiles (8-13)
    - c. Paul’s mind - humble prayer for their strength, knowledge, and filling (14-19)
    - d. Paul’s mandate - In the church, God will be glorified forever (20-21)
- C. Our New Walk and Worth as Believers
  1. Chapter 4 – How to walk worthy of our calling in Christ
    - a. Walk worthy: walk in unity (1-6)
    - b. Gifts for our walk: Gifts given to us in the church, and their purpose (7-16)
    - c. Walk cautiously – the walk to avoid: exchange the old man for the new (17-24)
    - d. Walk differently: Change to seek by excluding things from our walk (25-32)
  2. Chapter 5 – How to walk - detailed; Marriage, the picture of Christ and His church
    - a. Specific details of a worthy walk (1-20)
    - b. Marriage as a picture of Christ and His church (21-33)
  3. Chapter 6 – Instructions, strength in God’s armor, and conclusion
    - a. Instructions for children, fathers, servants, masters (1-9)
    - b. How to be strong with the whole armor of God (10-18)
    - c. Paul’s needs, plans, and blessing upon them (19-24)

## **III. OVERVIEW OF EPHESIANS IN THE LIGHT OF ITS OUTLINE**

- A. If you look up any number of outlines of Ephesians, there is a strong agreement that the book can be divided into two sections:
  1. Chapters one to three are doctrinal, presenting our position in Christ and giving few responsibilities or instructions.
  2. Chapters four to six are practical, explaining how we should walk, and how to be strong.
- B. Ephesians is a balance of blessings and responsibilities, coupled with the power to stand.
- C. It does not leave it up to the individual to decide how they should walk. This is clearly described.
- D. To sum it up:
  1. God’s purpose, plan, and product of our blessings is found in Christ – ch. 1
  2. In Christ we have been built together to have peace and fellowship with God – ch. 2
  3. We are benefactors of a great mysterious plan of God – ch. 3
  4. This deserves a new walk, and requires the power to stand – ch. 4-6

## **IV. THE CHURCH IN EPHESIANS**

- A. Christ is the head over all things to the church – Eph 1:22
- B. The church is that which fills Christ – Eph 1:23

- C. The church demonstrates the manifold wisdom of God (in His saving of the Gentiles, and their unity in the church) – Eph 3:10
- D. The church is an eternal source of glory to God by Christ – Eph 3:21
- E. Christ is to the church as a husband to a wife
  - 1. In authority and sacrifice – Eph 5:23
  - 2. The church submits to Christ in everything as a wife to a husband – Eph 5:24
  - 3. In love; Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it – Eph 5:25
  - 4. In presentation: without blemish – Eph 5:27
  - 5. In care and provision – Eph 5:29
  - 6. Mysteriously – Eph 5:32
- F. You cannot take the church out of Ephesians: it is a central figure and subject
- G. You should not believe that a church is anything of value unless it is assembled: the church is an assembly of believers.
- H. You must not forsake that assembly: consider its importance in the eyes of the Lord as seen in Ephesians.

#### **V. THINGS EMPHASIZED: THINGS MISSING**

- A. Note the absolute absence of anything having to do with keeping the law. Gentiles are not expected to submit to Jewish ordinances.
- B. Baptism is mentioned one time, but not emphasized. Those who emphasize baptism for salvation are ignorant of the true gospel.
- C. The essential responsibilities of a believer are detailed in chapters 4 and 5. They have much to do with how we treat one another, how we deal with sin, and how we view our life.
  - 1. Towards one another
    - a. Humility, longsuffering, love, forbearing and unity – Eph 4:2-3
    - b. Be honest, do not steal, speak without corruption, and forego bitterness, wrath, evil speaking, and malice – Eph 4:25-31
    - c. Be kind and forgive others – Eph 4:32
    - d. Submit to one another – Eph 5:21
  - 2. Towards sin and the old man
    - a. Put off vanity, immorality, greed – Eph 4:17-24
    - b. Stay far from fornication, uncleanness, and covetousness – Eph 5:3-5
    - c. Have no fellowship with works of darkness – Eph 5:11
    - d. Be not drunk – Eph 5:18
  - 3. In general
    - a. Prioritize unity with other believers – Eph 4:3
    - b. Give thanks for all things unto God – Eph 5:20
    - c. Be strong in God's whole armor – Eph 6:11
  - 4. In regard to certain individuals – Eph 6:1-9

#### **VI. CONCLUSION**

- A. If we need encouragement, we find it in God's blessings in Christ in chapters 1 and 2.
- B. If we want to understand our obligations, we find them in chapters 4, 5, and 6.
- C. If we need strength to stand, it is provided in God's whole armor in chapter 6.
- D. If we question the importance of the church in our life, the entire book addresses that subject.
- E. If we need a formula for a successful marriage, it is found in chapter 5.
- F. If there is a question about God's expectation regarding our holiness, chapters 4 to 6 give it.
- G. By digging into each chapter, and then putting this all together, we have a very clear view of Ephesians. As we do this with other books in the Bible, we can see how they fit together and complement one another, dealing with important topics in different ways.