

TO THE SAINTS WHICH ARE AT EPHESUS

2018 FALL STUDY



GENTILES

JEWS

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

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INVER GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

PERSONAL NOTES:

INTRODUCTION

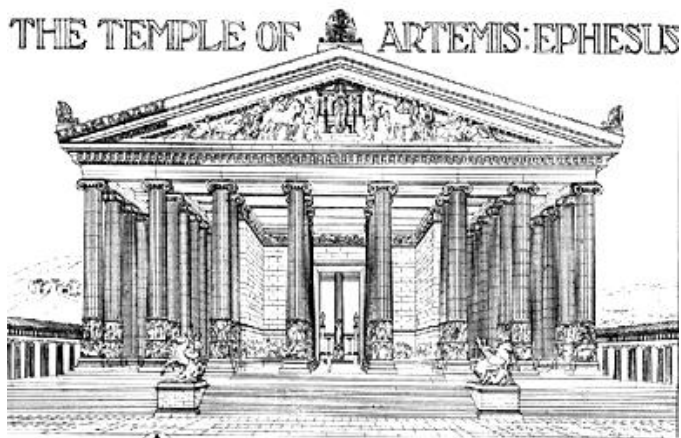
LESSON ONE:

I want to start the lesson out introducing to you the people of the city of Ephesus, they like other cities that were converted over to Christianity had many things to battle with, like their pagan worship idols and their practicing of black magic

Paul spent his life teaching the Gentiles that they could be Christians without becoming Jewish Proselytes. This was very displeasing to the Jews generally, for they thought of the Mosaic Law as binding upon All. And were bitterly prejudiced against the Uncircumcised Gentiles who presumed to call themselves disciples of the Jewish Messiah.

WELCOME to the city of Ephesus a city with about 300,000 people living there. Ephesus was a strategic center for the planting of the gospel in the Gentile world will see this in **Acts 19**.

The pride of the city was a large ornate temple devoted to worship of Diana or Artemis a pagan fertility goddess. The building was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Bigger than a football field it was flanked by several ornate columns more than 50 feet tall.



ALSO KNOWN AS THE TEMPLE OF DIANA

People from all over the province of Macedonia came to worship the goddess at the sacred site.

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Demetrius and other craftsmen of the city made their living by making and selling miniature replicas of Diana. These were probably worn as charms or necklaces or bracelets by the worshipers. When the citizens of Ephesus began turning to the Lord and quit buying the charms, Demetrius started a riot against Paul in **Acts 19:24-29**. Religious tolerance was out of the question when paid in profits were at stake.

The riot inspired by Demetrius spilled over into the entire city. The people gathered at the amphitheater to join in the demonstration. The Roman theatre at Ephesus has been unearthed by archaeologists. Built similar to a modern stadium, it had a row upon row of tiered seats built of stone it could seat about 25,000 people.

Paul spent at least two years in Ephesus **Acts 19:10** longer than he did in any other city where he established the church. These verses showed the impact that the gospel had on the city's practitioners of black magic. Many of them who became Christians gathered up all their books on witchcraft and burnt them in the public square for their contempt for their old way of life. Luke, the author of the book wrote in Acts, adds this note on what was happening in this pagan city. **Acts 19:18-20** And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. (19) Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. (20) So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

We too came into the church with things that we need to put away but how do we deal with it? Do we do as Demetrius did and fought? Or do we do as these ones were convicted and repented and burnt all their black magic books.

While Paul talked to Gentile Christians to stand like a rock for their liberty in Christ, he did not want them to be prejudiced against their Jewish fellow -Christians but to regard them as brothers in Christ. Paul did not want to see two churches a Jewish Church and the Gentile Church, but **ONE CHURCH**.

LESSON ONE:

SMALL GROUPS

As a group read Acts chapter 19.

Have a discussion and talk about the other issues that were going on in the church at Ephesus at the time that Paul was writing to them.



Talk about Acts 18 and how Apollos had taught them wrong and in chapter 19 how that was fixed.

Consider the 12 that Paul had talked to, and how all they obeyed his words to be re-baptized. Talk about this for the while, when we are talking to other people isn't this a good example to show when baptism as taught wrong that it can be corrected.

Consider the seven sons of *one* Sceva, what just happened?

But the rest of the chapter talks about Diana whom they worshiped and it also talks about the incident with the black magic.

The city was troubled with a few different things at the very beginning as Paul entered into it, but Paul's desire to help them was great. The letter he wrote was one of the four epistles Paul wrote from Roman imprisonment. These are all written between A.D. 61-63.

To Paul, Christ was a Great Big Something, in whom there was room, not only for people of different races, viewpoints and prejudices but He is one who has power to solve all the problems of mankind, and bringing to unity and harmony with God all things Social and Family life (5:22 and 6:9) and even the Myriads of Beings and the Infinite Unseen Universe (3:10)

Before we even get into the book that Paul wrote to those at Ephesus and take in consideration of things we've already talked about today what kind of problems do you believe existed in the church in Ephesus at this time?

(lots of space because there are many)

Do you think these kind of problems could exist in the church today?

If they did what things can you do to help prevent them?

I wanted you know that I'm very excited about going into this book about the Ephesians, and I would really appreciate feedback during these next three months.

Next weekChapter one

CHAPTER ONE

LESSON TWO:

TO THE SAINTS
WHICH ARE AT

EPHESUS

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PAULS LETTER TO EPHESUS (1-15)

Eph 1:1-3 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: (2) Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul starts out with a salutation, reminding them of who he is and by the will of God, who they are.



MAP TO SHOW EPHESUS LOCATION

Paul continues his letter with praises to God, reminding them that they are his covenant people, and how all of them have been adopted thru Christ, Paul uses a few words I think would be good to look at more closely and find the meaning in context.

So get out your dictionaries, or go to dictionary.com and look up these words and definitions.

Predestinated

Adoption

Mystery

Dispensation

Inheritance

Sealed

Now the more important thing we need to do is see the context as to how Paul is using these terms.

God's eternal purpose

3-14 A magnificent epitome of God's plans: the redemption, adoption, forgiveness, and sealing of a people for God's own possession, determined from eternity, now being brought to pass through the effective exercise of God's will.

What are some of the phrases that pop out at you with Paul's reminder of who God is?

What pops out at who he says we are and what he has given us?

Heavenly places

Verse 3 is a key phrase in this book (10, 20, 2:6; 3:10; 6:12) it means the unseen sphere above this world of sense, which is the Christians ultimate home, and with which we now, in a measure, have communication

Sealed by the spirit

Paul referred in this verse to the distinct mark of identification that was placed on a letter, contract, or other legal document and bible times. This seal proved the documents authenticity. Eph 1:13 ..ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

LESSON TWO:

SMALL GROUPS

As a group read Ephesians 1:1-14.

Some writers refer these first 14 verses as a salutation and a poem, Paul's writings show they are a covenant people, and have many spiritual blessings, and that they would do well to remember them.

Here are other passages that show more about the church in Ephesus.

ACTS 20

Read the account in Acts 20:16-38

What kind of things did he tell the elders at Ephesus?

What warnings did he give them?

How was he a blessing to them?

Why were they saddened?



1Cor 15:32a *If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus,*

The "beasts" here may not be wild animals but figurative for antagonistic human opponents acting like wild beasts. As a Roman citizen, Paul would not have fought with wild animals. Possible candidates for these human wild beasts were Demetrius and Alexander (Ac 19:24-41; 2 Ti 4:14). "Wild beasts" may also be the wild crowds at Ephesus incited against him by Demetrius (Ac 19:23-34).

We see that the church in Ephesus was also written to in the book of Revelation.

Rev 2:1-6 *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; (2) I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: (3) And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. (4) Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. (5) Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. (6) But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

List the good things John had wrote about this church.

List the bad things John mentioned.

Verse 5 mentions the solution for not having their candlestick removed. _____

Does this apply to me/us today?

CHAPTER ONE

LESSON THREE:

TO THE SAINTS
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PAULS PRAYER FOR THEM, (16-23)

This is generally how Paul starts a letter to the brethren through his epistles, these prayers are beautifully written. This prayer and those in (3:14-19; Phil 1:9-11; and Col 1:9-12) Notice his salutations, are first then he tells them he's praying for them, and then he tells them what he actually is praying for, them for.

Eph 1:16-23 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; (17) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: (18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, (19) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, (20) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, (21) Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: (22) And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, (23) Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Phil 1:9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; (10) That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; (11) Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Col 1:9-12 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; (10) That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

(11) Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; (12) Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Do we remember what James said?

Jas 5:16b The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

With many national tragedies we hear celebrities, news anchors, and politicians have responded to this unthinkable situation with a familiar refrain:

"We're sending **thoughts and prayers** to the victims and their families."

Most of us appreciate their sentiments. But a few critics have taken it upon themselves to label these words "meaningless" and "hollow."

"What can thoughts and prayers do," they ask, "against bullets and bump stocks?" It's a question that deserves an answer. And the answer begins with what I regard as an indispensable distinction.

There is, in fact, a huge difference between thoughts and prayers. Thoughts exist exclusively in the mind. That's where they stay unless they stir me to take some kind of action. I can't really "send" my thoughts to another person. But I can allow my thoughts to compel me to do something – something to bridge the gap between my good intentions and that person's pain and need.

This is where prayer comes in. Prayer is more – much more – than my own internal rumblings and musings. Prayer is a lightning rod, a live wire. Its communication and connection with the one Person in the universe who has the power to soothe every sorrow, heal every wound, dry every tear, and restore every loss. Prayer is the action behind all meaningful action.

What are our thoughts on this type of praying?

CHAPTER ONE

SMALL GROUPS:

I've been thinking about the people who go through these tragedies. But I've also been allowing my thoughts to find upward expression in prayer.

Thoughts provoke prayers...

This is the solution to the crisis we're facing in America. I'm asking the Living God to take those hurting moms, dads, and kids by the hand, wrap them in His mercy, and comfort them with the unshakeable assurance that they will see their loved ones again. At the same time, I'm praying that the hearts of those who even now feel tempted to use weapons to take out their frustrations on others will be captured and changed by the powerful love of Jesus. (These are not my words, but I want to share them with you to show today, men should do more than say "you're in my thoughts and prayers")

What are four things Paul Mentioned in his prayer for the Ephesians?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Can Prayers teach others?

Name the things that Christ was exalted for when he was at God's own right hand in heavenly places.

Men's prayer meetings happen every month (3rd week) there we get to talk about scripture and then each one of us offers prayers, as we discuss the needs of others and offer prayer requests, we hear names, situations, and reasons to lift up prayers for these ones names. Then each man generally mentions names and situations as they offer up their prayer to God.

If we don't mention the names that does not make the prayer meaningless and hollow, but when we do, it reminds us who and why we're praying for them.

When brethren mention your name in a public prayer what does that do for you?

Have we been guilty of telling others "my thoughts and prayers are with you?" do we just say that to comfort them? Do we believe that prayer would comfort them too? Or just lip service? I have caught myself saying this and then realizing I have not prayed for them.

It's good to tell others you're going to pray for them, but it is better to actually pray for them too.

Below is a good reminder format for Prayer can you remember the words for this acronym? A.C.T.S.

- A.
- C.
- T.
- S.

We should not limit our prayers for certain people, or for certain things, John 14:13-14 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

From Fiddler on the roof....

Rabbi, May I ask you a question?" "Certainly!"

"Is there a proper blessing... for the czar?"

"A blessing for the czar? Hmmm Of course! May God bless and keep the czar... far away from us!"

Remember the encouragement you received while you were told "we prayed for you"

CHAPTER TWO

LESSON FOUR:

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GOD'S GRACE (v1-10)

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

The body of Christ is being built up out of unworthy sinful men, to be an everlasting demonstration to the Kindness of God. When God's work in us is completed we will be creatures of on unutterable bliss in the state of heavenly Glory beyond anything we now imagine. It will be God's work, not ours; and through the ages heaven will never cease to resound with the glad hallelujahs from the grateful hearts of the redeemed.

Sometimes I wonder if I know and reflect on the all the grace God gives to us all.

Eph 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

What an exciting way to be reminded who we were and who we are now.

What is a different word we can use instead of quickened?



What are the past ways those at Ephesus lived in the past (v2,3)

**BY GRACE
YOU HAVE BEEN
SAVED THROUGH
FAITH AND
THAT NOT OF
YOURSELVES; IT
IS THE
GIFT OF GOD
EPHESIANS 2:8**

Without sharing the details....can you remember your walk in the past, did you ever feel unworthy?

What do you see as clues Paul is talking to both Jews and Gentiles?

What did God do, even though we were dead in trespasses? How? (v5)

CHAPTER TWO

SMALL GROUPS:

SIN, INIQUITY, TRESPASSES?

Read this article I found and discuss the differences.

In Psalm 32:5, the psalmist says, “I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.’” In this one verse, “sin,” “iniquity,” and “transgression” are all mentioned. Basically, the three words communicate the same idea: evil and lawlessness, as defined by God (see 1 John 3:4). However, upon closer examination, each word also carries a slightly different meaning.

The word sin and its cognates are used 786 times in the New International Version of the Bible. Sin means “to miss the mark.” It can refer to doing something against God or against a person (Exodus 10:16), doing the opposite of what is right (Galatians 5:17), doing something that will have negative results (Proverbs 24:33–34), and failing to do something you know is right (James 4:17). In the Old Testament, God even instituted sacrifices for unintentional sins (Numbers 15:27). Sin is the general term for anything that “falls short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Sin leads to a downward progression that, without the restoring power of the Holy Spirit, we all tend toward. The sin nature is present in every human being born since the Fall of Adam (Genesis 3:6–7; Romans 5:12). If left unchecked, continual sin leads to a “reprobate mind,” spoken of in Romans 1:24. Our sin nature causes us to gravitate naturally toward selfishness, envy, and pride, even when we are trying to do good. The apostle Paul alluded to his propensity to sin when he wrote, “For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out” (Romans 7:18).

The sin nature leads to trespassing. A trespasser is someone who crosses a line or climbs a fence that he should not cross or climb. A trespass may be intentional or unintentional. Trespass can also mean “to fall away after being close beside.” Peter trespassed when he denied Jesus (Luke 22:34, 56–62).

We all “cross the line” in thought, word, or attitude

many times a day and should be quick to forgive others who do the same (Matthew 6:15).

Transgression refers to presumptuous sin. To transgress is to choose to intentionally disobey; transgression is willful trespassing. Samson intentionally broke his Nazirite vow by touching a dead lion (Numbers 6:1–5; Judges 14:8–9) and allowing his hair to be cut (Judges 16:17); in doing so he was committing a transgression. David was referring to this kind of sin when he wrote, “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered” (Psalm 32:1). When we knowingly run a stop sign, tell a lie, or blatantly disregard an authority, we are transgressing.

Iniquity is more deeply rooted. Iniquity refers to a premeditated choice; to commit iniquity is to continue without repentance. David’s sin with Bathsheba that led to the killing of her husband, Uriah, was iniquity (2 Samuel 11:3–4; 2 Samuel 12:9). Micah 2:1 says, “Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning’s light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it.” In David’s psalm of repentance, he cries out to God, saying, “Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin” (Psalm 51:2).

God forgives iniquity, as He does any type of sin when we repent (Jeremiah 33:8; Hebrews 8:12). However, iniquity left unchecked leads to a state of willful sin with no fear of God. The build-up of unrepentant sin is sometimes pictured as a “cup of iniquity” being filled to the brim (Revelation 17:4; Genesis 15:16). This often applies to nations who have forsaken God completely. Continued iniquity leads to unnatural affections, which leads to a reprobate mind. Romans 1:28–32 outlines this digression in vivid detail. The sons of Eli are biblical examples of reprobates whom God judged for their iniquities (1 Samuel 3:13–14). Rather than repent, Eli’s sons continued in their abominations until repentance was no longer possible.

The biblical writers used different words to refer to sin in its many forms. However, regardless of how depraved a human heart may become, Jesus’ death on the cross was sufficient to cover all sin (John 1:29; Romans 5:18). Psalm 32:5, quoted at the beginning of this article, ends with these words: “And you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

CHAPTER TWO

LESSON FIVE:

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A NEW MULTI-ETHNIC COMMUNITY (11-22)

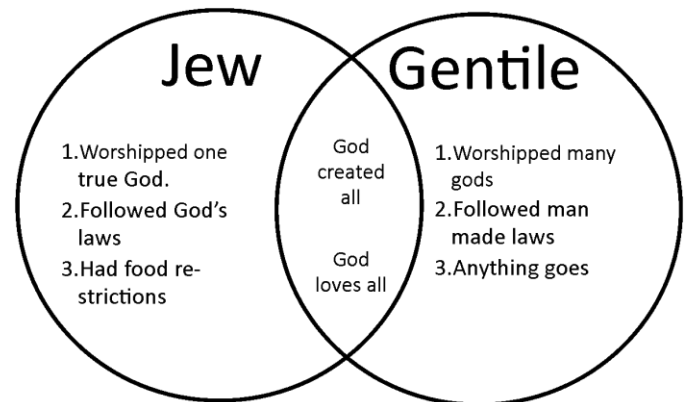
*Eph 2:11-14 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past **Gentiles in the flesh**, who are called **Uncircumcision** by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; (12) That at that time ye were **without Christ, being aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel, **and strangers** from the **covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God** in the world: (13) But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (14) For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;*

A NEW FAMILY

*Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but **fellowcitizens with the saints**, and of the **household of God**;*

Once one nation, now all nations "circumcision" as a term came to be used as a name of the Jews, as distinct from other nations were spoken of as the "Uncircumcision" (verse 11). For while the Jews constituted the body of God's people, of which circumcision was the fleshly sign, from which other nations were excluded. But now the call from God rings out clear and strong to ALL, from every nation and tribe, to come and join His household.

Together
we make a
Family



In the chart below, list everything in this chapter which applies to the Ephesians before their conversion, and on the other side of the line, list all things pertaining to them after their conversion. If you get them all, you should have quite a lengthy list.

BEFORE

AFTER

This chapter gives a vivid picture of the condition of the unsaved, besides showing some of the things necessary for his salvation. Discuss the importance of the following in our salvation; MERCY LOVE GRACE KINDNESS BLOOD

CHAPTER TWO

SMALL GROUPS:

*Eph 2:17-22 And came and **preached peace** to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. (18) For through him we both have access **by one Spirit** unto the Father. (19) Now therefore ye are no more **strangers and foreigners**, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; (20) And are **built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; (21) In whom all the **building fitly framed together** groweth unto an **holy temple in the Lord**: (22) In whom ye also **are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.***



Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

Let's make another list, this time on what you think the Jews had against the Gentiles and visa-versa.

Jews against the Gentiles

Gentiles against the Jews

Who was right?

We can always use this reminder, this Holy Temple was built by God, fitly framed together, and the foundations are of the apostles and the prophets. We are blessed to be a part of this.

And by no means should we want anyone to not be a part of this, we were adopted, foreigners taken in, no more strangers...

We need to double check our attitudes about the body of Christ, we are ALL a part of it and every part is needed.

1Co 12:12-read to 31 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

Are we all the same?

Are there those less honorable?

Should any lack?

Do we all need each other?

Should we all suffer/rejoice?

We have read these scriptures and consider Paul's visual teaching style here but so we understand the Jews and the Gentiles had problems getting along, and it is easy to cluck our tongues at them but how are we doing with our brethren, are there areas we struggle with, do we differ in ways that are not acceptable to God?

One more list, list some things that can be in the church today that separates brethren.

No matter how many we find, they are all wrong! But these lists help us look for weaknesses in ourselves.

CHAPTER THREE

LESSON SIX:

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"THE MYSTERY" (3-9)

What comes to your mind when you hear the word MYSTERY?

Col 1:11-12 show how the mystery was revealed, what happened?

*Eph 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of **the mystery**, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

The mystery of Christ (v9), in this passage plainly means that the nations are heirs to the promises which God gave to the Jews, but which the Jews hitherto had thought to belong to them exclusively. That phase of God's plan had been hid, though he had purposed it from the beginning (1:5) till the coming of Christ, but now is fully revealed: namely: that Gods future world of glory will be builded, not of the Jewish nation, but from All Mankind.



What would make the Jews feel so mad about others being saved?

The unveiling of this mystery produced two types of people, can you think of the two?

What feelings do we have as brethren towards God when things are changed, perhaps not as I planned?

Remember our friend in the book of Esther?

Est 6:6-10 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself? (7) And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, (8) Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: (9) And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour. (10) Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

Oh, by the way this is another example of the Gentiles and Jews not getting along together.

This mystery was never a mystery to _____. When _____ heard it he eventually became a preacher primarily to the _____.

May the whole world one day realize this mystery that God is a God of all nations and that Jesus love is for all mankind.

CHAPTER THREE

SMALL GROUPS:

GRANDURE OF THE CHURCH (8-11)

Through the Church God unites the hostile elements of the human race into One Body, and demonstrates His wisdom to the superhuman orders of heavenly beings, actually summing up all things in Christ.

Eph 3:8-11 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; (9) And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: (10) To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, (11) According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Here we see Paul marveling at the fact that he was able to preach this gospel to the Gentiles and to reveal the mystery of all nations being one, while in prison

And he starts to thank God for the chance to be able to watch this church grow

And you see how he ends this chapter with a prayer
Eph 3:16-17 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; (17) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Paul sees the struggles both with the Jews and the Gentiles, but he consistently is reminding them how God has transformed those two nations into one Glorious nation.

These past three chapters not only show the merging of two nations but the love that God has for his people.

To whom does (v15) refer? Eph 3:15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Did you catch the verse that spoke on Paul's bodily position when he prayed?

From our study so far, when you read of "the mystery" in Ephesians how would you describe it to others?

Chapter 1 uses the word predestined, how would you explain the context of this word in this epistle?

From chapter 3 who would you say this letter is aimed at primarily? Why?

BONUS QUESTION

In verse 7 Paul mentions he "was made a minister"

Talk about other names that are scriptural names Paul could have used for the work he was doing.

Now consider names Paul and other preachers wear that are unscriptural.

Questions like these should not be "a Mystery" to us, qualifications of deacons and elders and their responsibilities should not be a mystery to the members of the church either.

When you became a bible student, what other Mysteries were unveiled to you?

CHAPTER FOUR

LESSON SEVEN:

TO THE SAINTS
WHICH ARE AT

EPHESUS

INVER GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

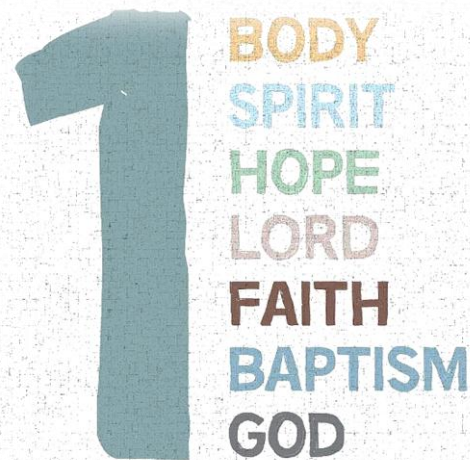
FALL 2018

ONE BODY (1-16)

The one body. A complex organism, with many functions, each in its own place, working in harmony, its basic principle love (16), Christ himself its head and directive of force.

Being composed of many members of diverse talents and tempers, the fundamental requisite to its proper functioning is a spirit of humility and mutual forbearance on the part of the member's one toward another (2)

Its object is to nurture each of its members into the perfect image of Christ (12-15). The idea of growth, as expressed in these verses, seems to apply both to individuals and the church as a whole. The childhood of the church will pass. Its maturity will come. (Compare the companion passage, 1 Corinthians 12:13)



EPHESIANS 4:4-6
MANHATTAN PRES

Let's go back to 1 Cor 12 and discuss the functions of the body, and how it works together.

He continues the breakdown of body parts in (11-13)
What are these body parts/functions?

I am sure you have heard the term "ALL Thumbs", how can that apply here in the body of Christ?

What are the reasons we are told to perform these functions? (11-15)

As we work as one body what does Paul state will help us build each other up with (16) ?

1Co 12:13-15 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (14) For the body is not one member, but many. (15) If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?



*You are the body of Christ!
Each one of you is a part of it.*

Let's address the "I Therefore" what is he concluding in the previous chapter(s) ?

What are some of the basic things were to to keep in check to be able to function as a body? (1-4)

CHAPTER FOUR

SMALL GROUPS:

ONENESS

We have heard these scriptures over and over again, do we still listen to them?

Eph 4:4-6 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; (5) One Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

We see the oneness in Christ thru them today, could Paul have been teaching them something a little different? Oh! it still applies today with us.

What if the Jews and the Gentiles would not get along, there would be how many Lords, Faiths, and Baptisms?



The church is nearly 2000 years old, and, in this respect, is still in its childhood state. It has not yet, in its visible manifestation as a whole, known Unity. Paul's unceasing fight was against factional elements in local churches and the Jew-Gentile dissension. Then came the bitter controversies of the second thru fourth centuries. Then the imperial church, with its outward semblance of unity under state authority, but it's poisonous blight of its spiritual life. Then the Papal Hierarchy with which its Unity of Authority that robbed man of Their rights of conscience and drove the bible of circulation.

One thing we need to get out of this lesson is the fact that we ARE different from one another, and that's OK

UNITY, NOT UNIFORMITY

One spirit, Many gifts.

*1Co 12:13-15 For **by one Spirit** are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles...*

What were the two things that Jesus did when he ascended up on high?

Can we define these names and roles? Consider the qualifications needed to fill these roles.

Apostles

Prophets

Evangelists

Pastors

Teachers

Talk about the reasons we need to be taught by God's leaders.

Eph 4:12-15 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

CHAPTER FOUR

LESSON EIGHT:

TO THE SAINTS
WHICH ARE AT

EPHESUS

INVER GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

FALL 2018

NEW OBLIGATIONS (17-32)

Seeing the church is a brotherhood, it is necessary that all its members are very considerate of one another.

Anger (26): perhaps Paul thought was a little too much to tell them not to get angry at all: so he cautions them to be careful not to hold it. Stole (28): some of them evidently had been tough characters, but now they must respect the things of others.

So throughout this summer we heard many of the men speak on the differences of the first three chapters and the last three chapters, chapter four were going to start seeing some changes that are expected of these new brethren.

He starts in 17 saying they were not to walk as other Gentiles walk, they walk in vanity, he says there are understanding is darkened their ignorant because of the blindness of their heart.

Define the word alienated.

What are some of the antonyms in chapter one that we talked about already for this word, alienated?

What sins were they committing that make them feel alienated? (19)

They were reminded of the new obligations they now need to live, and as you see these are not options, because now there been taught as a truth is in Jesus.

The cell phone has become the adult's transitional object, replacing the toddler's teddy bear for comfort and a sense of belonging. ~ Margaret Heffernan

When a smoker stops smoking what do they do?

God expects us to put away the sinful things in life, as he has told them in Ephesus, but he also gave them something to replace those habits. Let's read.

Let's read 25-32 again....



Eph 4:22-25 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

It is very easy to get into these scriptures and consider how caught up these brethren were in Ephesus, and remember the study on Colossi? Wow, didn't they have issues.

CHAPTER FOUR

SMALL GROUPS:

NEW OBLIGATIONS CONTINUED.....

1Cor 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.

We cannot be satisfied reading over these scriptures and not thinking about ourselves, and where we stand, daily, before God.

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Gal 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, (21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ouch! Yep I had to remind us of God's love and Jesus' sacrifice for us, let's not let it be in vain, for us.

All these changes and new obligations, can we do this?



Philip 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.



Here are the scriptures that tell us to put off things in our lives, take some time in your groups and discuss the challenges, and the joy in putting these things off, remember...many of these examples give us answers what we can do instead.

Eph 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

Eph 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

CHAPTER FIVE

LESSON NINE:

NEW WALK, WITH WARNINGS...(1-14)

This chapter Paul continues to instruct what he starts in (4:17) "walk not as other Gentiles" this too is part of their obligation to Live differently.

These verses are very clear on God's view on fornication that is, immorality, and promiscuous sexual indulgence. It was a very common sin in Paul's day, and in many places a part of heathen worship. Paul warns them against this sin, again and again, can we say this is NOT a problem today?

Looking at words with meanings, what do they mean?

Fornication:

Greed:

Impurity:

Filthiness:

Silly Talk:

Course Jestng:

1 Cor 6:9-20 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, read to verse 20

1Thes 4:4-5 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; (5) Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

Eph 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

Should this be in the church? Is it?

1Co 5:9-13 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: (10) Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. (11) But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a

brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. (12) For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? (13) But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

I love how Paul goes back to the first chapter and beings out inheritance again, what is the context here? (v5)

What is the Devil the father of?

What else is on his calling card, his rap sheet? What are his biggest violations of God's laws?

What does v6 warn us about? V7?

Verses 8-12 reminds them that they were sometimes in darkness, (where is darkness?) these things apply to both the Jew and the Gentile, the Jews backslid and the Gentiles came from these things as part of their lives.

Can you see how Paul is treating them both as the same? So does God.

Consider what is said in verses 11 and 12 and let's get a better understanding, apply this to every sort of sin which is commonplace on many television show available for our viewing.

A huge reminder in v14 to AWAKE and RISE from the DEAD, and CHRIST will give you light.



CHAPTER FIVE

SMALL GROUPS:

Put some thought in this question and do your best around the children in your groups, what are some side effects of fornication?

How was the word fornication used mostly in the Old Testament and in the Revelation letter?

Is Paul consistent with his warnings of fornication?

Gal 5:16-21 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (18) But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. (19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, (21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

If you knew of a brother or sister who either had these tendencies or is leaning toward them how would you help them?

We did not talk about Vain Words (or empty words) this morning, how many times have we fallen for a whole lot of nothing?

light
up the
darkness

Read Romans 12:1-2 and share your thoughts on these verses.

We've all been in the darkness and what a blessing it is to be in the light, no matter what the sin the soul your dealing with needs to be saved, we are warned to instruct them, but beware they will be using empty words, foolish talk to try to convince you of what they are doing is OK.

1Co 6:12-13 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. (13) Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

Can you believe that some tried to twist the scripture in v12 to justify their Promiscuous Sexual Indulgences?

CHAPTER FIVE

LESSON TEN:

WALKING AS WISE (15-18)

If were not walking as wise, what are we walking as?

What does circumspectly mean in the Bible?

Cautious, circumspect, wary, chary mean prudently watchful and discreet in the face of danger or risk. Cautious implies the exercise of forethought usually prompted by fear of danger.

Eph 5:16-17 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (17) Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

What's your thoughts on v6&7?

Mat 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.



V18 also reminds us how not to spend our time,
5:18a And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess;

We can find ourselves wandering just what we can do, no fornication, no covetousness, no foolish talking, use no more vain words, no drinking, no more walking in darkness, what are we going to do?

Christians are taught to redeem (make the most of) the time because the days are evil. Let's discuss the brevity of life and the wise use of a Christian's time.

A good way not to avoid filled with wine is to be filled with the Spirit.

5:18b but be filled with the Spirit;

Eph 5:19-20 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (20) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Can you imagine a life filled with light? We can, we have, we do! Tell me you don't sing when your happy, feeling blessed.

The joyful praise of Christian meetings is here put in contrast with the riotous indulgence of noisy drunken revels, (18-19) him singing is by far the most natural, simplest, best loved, and by all odds, most spiritually stimulating of all the exercises of religious meetings.

Make a
joyful noise
to the LORD
Psalm 100:1

In our singing, the melody is made in the _____

According to Col 3:16, what do we do for another as we sing?

What is a psalm? Is the word capitalized in v19?

Did you know that our songbook we use in our worship either are quoted from or made up entirely of the Psalms David and other wrote, Imaging this your favorite song, can actually be a Psalm.

CHAPTER FIVE

SMALL GROUPS:

HUSBANDS AND WIVES (22-33)

If we're Christians, we must show it in all the relations of life: business, social and domestic. The relation between a husband and wife is here represented as being counterpart of the relation between Christ and the church (25, 32)

The exhortation is to mutual love and devotion, and in no way suggests that the man has a right to make a slave of his wife. Each is dependent on the other, because of the different functions that each has in human society. Each, in serving another, best serves self (28) "he that loves his wife loves himself" ; husbands, take note.

This segment about Husbands and wife's is the beginning of a series of our new obligations towards another as children of God.

Chapter six talks about children and parents then Servants and Masters, then how to protect ourselves with God's armor.

Compare these verses with Col 3:17-22 ~read as a group

Imagine getting these all right! We know practice makes perfect, but who are we practicing on?

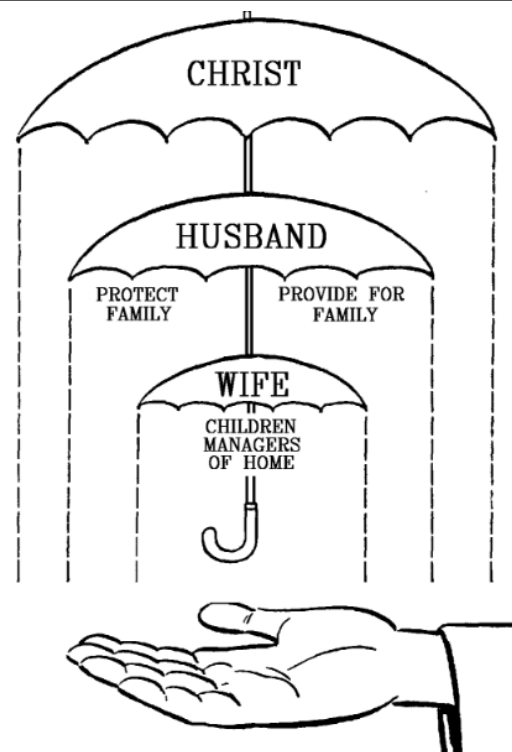
Wives are commanded to _____ themselves to their own husbands as under the _____.

Thought Question: Who has the greater task, the wife submitting, or the husband in being able to be a fit leader for the wife to follow?

Share your thoughts as to what problems can occur if either one does not do their part.

Husband's

Wife's



The powerful lessons in these verses remind husbands and wife's that it is important to follow God's plan in marriage, the analogy Paul uses here is to show the love we need to have for our spouses, and then Paul compares it to how Christ loves the church. Are we even closes to what Paul used as a comparison?

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

V32 shows us another Mystery (hidden truth) concerning Christ and the church. If we read these verses over again and were thinking about how much Christ loves the church and cares for it and nourishes it.

32) This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

These verses are not just directed at a man and his wife and how his love for her should be, but there is a bigger theme going on in these verses, Christ and the church, remember the definition of GLORY a high honor to the church.

Oh by the way it is not just for the church, you husband and wives need to listen to these wonderful words, so in our marriages we can be the GLORY of the body of Christ.

33) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

CHAPTER SIX

LESSON ELEVEN:

PARENTS AND CHILDREN (1-4)

It was one of the Ten Commandments that we honor those who gave us life. Doing so would prolong that life. This was the promise of God, and is a fact of nature.

Fathers are cautioned against being too severe with their children both here and in Col 3:21. Parental authority was generally too strict then, and now it is generally too lax. Fathers are mentioned because mothers are naturally more lenient. We suspect that it was easier for parents to raise their children after their old mold than it is now, for they were not exposed to so many influences outside the home so early and so continuously as today. (Halley's Bible Handbook 1927)

CHILDREN
OBEY
YOUR PARENTS
IN THE LORD
FOR THIS IS RIGHT
EPHESIANS 6:1

Fathers are also told to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord v4

Let's make another list...what can a father do here?

Nurture of the Lord

Admonition of the Lord

Where do parents fail today?

Read Proverb 23:22

Read Col 3:20

Do our children respect and obey us today?

When we are raising children we are not so much their BFF (Best Friend Forever) we are their authority, they will not like many of our decisions, especially around food and bedtime. The Admonition is all about correction and discipline, if we get them to respect us as children they will respect us for life.

Some may not bring their children places because they are ashamed of their behaviors, even to our assemblies

Psalm 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Prov 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

Prov 20:7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

When we look at our children as a burden, we need to look at our own selves, our selfish, lazy tendencies.

And everyone sees how we love our children, and our children feel the closeness and the separation from us.

The foretelling of suffering and captivity for Judah.....

Isa 3:4-5 And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. (5) And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.

Isa 3:12 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

Some of these things are scary, because parents are being oppressed by children, children are calling the shots, for some, changes need to be made, it will prolong your life and it will be much more enjoyable.

CHAPTER SIX

SMALL GROUPS:

SERVANTS AND MASTERS (5-9)

Half the population of Rome, and a large proportion of the population of the Empire, were slaves. Many Christian's were slaves, they are told that faithful service to their master is a PRIME requisite of their Christian faith. It is a remarkable teaching; that, in the performance of our earthly tasks, however menial, we are always under the watchful eye of Christ, for His approval or disapproval, as we may deserve. So are masters in the treatment of their slaves.

What is Paul's exhortation to them about work?

Describe Eye-Service

Describe Men-Pleasers

Soooo if I was part of a company named ABC Corp.

And I was a good worker, what would folks say about me? What would they say about ABC Corp?

And I was a bad worker, what would folks say about me? What would they say about ABC Corp?

Soooo if I was part of the church of Christ.

And I was a good worker, what would folks say about me? What would they say about the church?

And I was a bad worker, what would folks say about me? What would they say about the church?

Sometimes I wonder if we consider our actions away from the brethren and think they don't reflect on the church, they do!

Our obedience to our masters (employers) is seen. If not by men, be sure it is seen by God.

DON'T
COMPLAIN
JUST
WORK
HARDER

- RANDY PAUSCH -

V5 tells us to have fear, and tremble, discuss why we should.

Who are we really servants to?

Did you ever have a "not so good" boss? What did you do about it? Should we do anything?

V9 states forbearing (avoiding) threatening, what reasoning did Paul give them as to why?

Do you think Christians had slaves?

Philemon was a great example of how a master should treat a slave when both are Christians many lessons learned in this book if you have time it would be good to read the whole letter.

CHAPTER SIX

LESSON TWELVE:

A CONTINUAL CONFLICT (10-24)

This passage certainly means that the Christians warfare is more than the natural temptations of his flesh. There are powers in the unseen world against which we are powerless except through the aid of Christ. Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Faith, Salvation, the Word, Prayer, are our weapons that ward off the darts of the unseen enemy.

Finally, my brethren be strong in the Lord...all of the exhortation we have read the past 3 months, he comes to a close, BE STRONG, we have been talking about getting along throughout the letter, both Jews and Gentiles, v9 God is not a respecter of persons, we have been talking about the NEW OBLIGATIONS we are now expected to perform, walking in a new way, a worthy walk, putting off the old man, a spirit filled walk, walking as husbands and wives, as parents and children, masters and servants new walk.

We talked about our divine election, our foreordination, our free will, how we were redeemed, sealed and added to Christs One body.

FINALLY, we need to do all this but not without Christ, v10 "in the power of His might"

*Eph 6:11-18 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the **breastplate of righteousness**; (15) And your **feet shod** with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) Above all, taking the **shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God: (18) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*



Let's talk about the different attributes of the Armor of God.

Why do we need it?

Where are these darts coming from?

Why can't we fend for ourselves?

What would you call a KEY WORD in verse 11? Why?

V15 tells us to take the shield, how well can it protect us?

V18 speaks of a prayer what is Paul's desire our prayers would be for?

CHAPTER SIX

SMALL GROUPS:

PRAYER IS ALSO PART OF OUR WARFARE (19-24)

Eph 6:18-19 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (19) And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Paul ends his definition of a believers resources, in the figure of a Roman soldier's equipment in full battle dress with yet another resource we have in this battle "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" it is called PRAYER

How many of you caught the beginning of v19? What is he asking of the brethren?

Did Paul have his own battles?

Explain what it means to be an Ambassador in Bonds (or chains)

Are we ambassadors today?

See what he asked for prayers for: *that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,*



Hopefully you won't see this as a tangent, but we all need prayers, from babes in Christ to elders in the church, we all need prayers, those who don't come often and those who are around saints daily need prayers.

Look around the room now, are there shy brethren? Outgoing brethren, who would you more likely pray for? They both need prayer.

We all need to speak boldly, we all are fighting these battles of the unseen enemy, the deceiver, father of all lies.

Paul closes this letter to the Brethren at Ephesus with some personal notes, about a brother he is sending their way to let them know of Paul's affairs, and to comfort their hearts, granting them peace, and love with faith, from God the father and the Lord Jesus Christ

Eph 6:24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

To the Ephesians written from Rome, by Tychicus.

I would like to close with some personal notes too, first of all thank you for your participation in these classes, they are exciting for me as I am able to prepare them and learn so much from that aspect, and with help from God and you all we can come to a better, clearer understanding of His word.

My understanding of this book is there are bigger fish to fry in life, the beginning of this letter seems as though brethren are not getting along, two races of people, Jews and Gentiles, and Paul easily convinced them they are to be as ONE CHURCH. Then as we just finished the later part of the book there are many New Obligation we all need to take on, leaving the Old Man behind, and start focusing on the real battle "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"

May God bless us all in this battle, and with his help and one another's help, we can do all things through Christ.