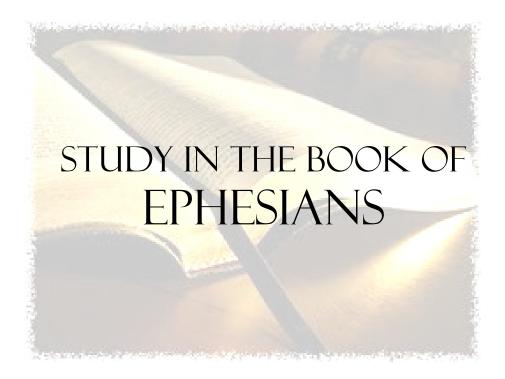


CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

EPHESIANS CELLDY 1

Chapter 1:1-2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ephesians (Tyndale) F.Foulkes Ephesians W. Hendrickson. God's New Society J. Stott.

INTRODUCTION - Ephesians has been called the queen of the Epistles. It was John Calvin's favourite letter. When John Knox was dying he asked for Ephesians to be read.

- 1. THE CITY OF EPHESUS Ephesus was a very great, magnificent and powerful city, under the Romans. It was the capital of Pro-consular Asia. It was situated near the mouth of the Cayster River and had a harbour large enough to accommodate big ships and that made it a great commercial city. It was also famous for the goddess Diana and the temple of Diana was regarded as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. One of the key cities in the world.
- 2. PAUL'S MINISTRY After spending 18 months in Corinth towards the end of his second missionary journey, he arrived in Ephesus where he ministered for about three years. He ministered with two other people Priscilla and Aquila. He immediately entered the Synagogue and reasoned with the Jews (Acts 18:18-26, 19:8-12). W.Criswell "The greatest ministry the world has ever seen was Paul's ministry in the capitals of the Roman Province of Asia." There were many conversions, miracles were performed, books were burnt, churches were established. The letter was written in about 60 AD.

1. THE AUTHOR

- A. Paul Originally known as Saul of Tarsus (Acts 7:58), from the tribe of Benjamin, he was named after the first King of Israel (1 Sam 9). He became a devoted Rabbi and he was so zealous for his religion that he persecuted the church (Acts 9:1-2, Gal.1:13-14), but then by the grace of God he was saved and later he changed his name to Paul.
- **B.** He became an Apostle of Christ Jesus. The word apostle is used in three senses:
 - i) <u>Messengers</u> (**Jn13:16**, **Phl.2:25**, **2** Cor **8:23**)
 - ii) <u>Missionaries</u> sent out by the church (**Acts 13:1-5**) Barnabus (**Rom 16:7**) Andronicus and Junias.
 - Paul and the twelve In the narrow sense Paul and the twelve, Paul is using the phrase here in the narrow sense. To qualify for this office they had to have seen the Lord, received the signs of an apostle and have received a specific commission (Acts 1:22, 2 Cor 9:1, Gal. 1:12-13), and because of that there are no apostles today.
- C. <u>By the will of God</u> (Gal. 1:1) He never became an apostle through aspiring to the position, but it was the Lord himself who charged, called and appointed Paul.

2. THE READERS

- **A.** <u>He calls them saints.</u> Saints refers to those people who have been cleansed by the blood of Christ, and who have been renewed by the Holy Spirit and who have been consecrated to God.
- **B.** <u>Faithful</u> This means they were trustworthy in all their dealings, they were faithful. God calls us not to be successful but faithful.
- C. <u>In Christ Jesus.</u> To be in Christ Jesus is to be personally and vitally united to Christ as the branches are to the vine. In Christ we are united to the body of Christ. The New Testament knows nothing of solitary Christianity.
- **D.** <u>In Ephesus</u> This reminds them of their responsibility and so they are saints because they belong to God, they are believers because they trusted in Christ and they have two homes: In Christ and in Ephesus.

3. THE MESSAGE

- A. Grace The unmerited favour of God which regenerates, restores and equips us.
- **B.** Peace Having been reconciled to God through Christ we have peace. Grace is always there for our responsibilities, peace is always there despite circumstances.
- C. <u>The source</u> i) <u>From God our Father</u> God becomes our Father through regeneration and adoption. ii) <u>From the Lord Jesus Christ</u> To a believer Jesus is our supreme Lord (Kyrios), the absolute sovereign One over our lives. Throughout this beautiful letter our Lord Jesus Christ is going to dominate Paul's mind and fill his vision, almost compelled to bring Christ into every sentence he writes.

STUDY 2

BLESSED AND CALLED

Chapter 1:3-6

INTRODUCTION

In these verses 3 – 6 we come to one of the deepest and awe inspiring messages in the Bible. From v.3–14 in the Greek is one sentence, it is almost as if Paul doesn't pause to stop, his heart gets captivated with his topic. In these verses Paul takes us into the very throne room of the Godhead in order to show the greatness and the vastness of the blessings which belong to those in Christ Jesus. It truly is a doxology, Paul surveys the work of God for our salvation, in v.3-6 what the Father does, in v.7-12 what the Son does, in v.13-14 what the Holy Spirit, what the Trinity does for our salvation.

1. BLESSED

- **A. NIV- Praise be (blessed)** -Paul begins the doxology with thanksgiving and praise.
- B. To the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

 Notice that God has both of these relationships with Christ (Jn. 20:17)
- C. Who has blessed us with all spiritual gifts.

Notice it says he has blessed us - past tense, referring back to your conversion. If we are in Christ every spiritual blessing is ours, no blessing has been withheld, God cannot give us more that he gave us in his Son. <u>J. McArthur.</u> "God cannot give us more than what he has already given us in his son, there is nothing more to receive, the believers need therefore is not to receive something more, but to do something more with what he has."

D. <u>In the heavenly realm</u> - This phrase simply means in the unseen world of spiritual reality.

2. CALLED

- A. God chose you Paul now reaches back in his mind to before the foundation of the world, before time began, when only God existed. He chose you (2 Thes. 2:13, (Jn 6:37, 15:16, Rom. 9:15)
- B. The object of the election US.

We who were blind to God's truth, deaf to his voice, we who were lame so we could not walk in his ways, dumb so we could not sing to him, we who were dead in our trespasses and sins. This expresses Paul's adoring wonder, God could choose us.

- C. The foundation In Him
 - God put us and Christ together in his mind, we are blessed only in Christ.
- When did God do this (time) Before the creation of the world.
 The emphasis again is on God's grace and God's will alone. It was before the foundation of the world.
- E. Purpose
 - i) To be holy That means cleansed for all sin and separated to his service.
 - ii) Blameless in his sight

That means without blemish, it therefore follows that the only evidence of election is holiness, for some one to continue in sin and claim to be elected is a contradiction.

F. The motive - In love

Biblical love isn't an emotion, but a disposition of the heart to seek for the welfare and meet the needs of others. God loves us.

- G. The result
 - i) In love He predestined us.-
 - ii) To be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ
- H. The Goal In accordance with his pleasure and will.

God did all this because of His will and the ultimate goal is to the praise of His grace. When someone is saved and truly born again it is to the praise of His glorious grace which He has freely given us in the Son He loves

CONCLUSION From the above we truly have been taken to the heart of God and to understand the wonder of the salvation He brings to us.

REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD

Chapter 1:7-10)

INTRODUCTION

v.3-14 is one long sentence in the Greek and Paul's purpose is to remind us of God's plan for our salvation and in these verses he shows us what was done in the past (v.3-6) (Father - election), what is being done (v.6-11) (Son - redemption), what will be done (v.12-14) (Spirit - inheritance).

1. THE MEANING OF THE WORD REDEMPTION

The Greek term means release from captivity. It carries the idea of paying a ransom in order to release someone from bondage. In the New Testament times there were about six million slaves and if someone wanted a slave he would buy him, he would be redeemed. Now that is a picture of our salvation, every human being since the fall has come into the world enslaved to sin, under total bondage to our evil nature, no person is spiritually free (Ezk. 18:4, Jn 8:34). In order to be redeemed Christ died for us on the cross (Heb.2:14-15). He paid the price and he set us free (Col 1:13-14).

2. THE ELEMENTS OF REDEMPTION

A. Our Redeemer (v, 6b)

Jesus Christ is our Redeemer from sin and He is also the one loved by the Father and the Father now loves us as he loves Christ and He wants us to have everything that Christ has.

B. The Redeemed

The word us, in whom we have redemption, we have been freed from the curse of sin, placed into the body of Christ and blessed with every spiritual blessing.

C. <u>The price</u> - "Through His blood".

It cost the blood of Jesus to buy us back from the slave market of sin (Lev 17:11, Heb. 9:22, 1 Peter 1: 18-19). He paid the price for those enslaved by sin, brought them out of the slave market where they were in bondage and has set them free as liberated sons of God

D. The results

i) The forgiveness of sins

The primary result of redemption for the believer is forgiveness. Redemption brings forgiveness.

ii) Wisdom and Insight (v.8)

Wisdom is the knowledge which sees into the heart of things and which knows them as they really are. Insight is practical intelligence and leads to the right action.

John McArthur. "God not only forgives us taking away the sin that corrupts and distorts our lives, but also gives us all the necessary equipment to understand him and to walk through the world day by day in a way that reflects his will and is pleasing to him, he generally gives us the wear with all both to understand him and to know how to apply it and all of this is because of the riches of his grace".

STUDY 4

DIVINE INHERITANCE GUARANTEED

(Chapter 1:11-14)

1. THE GROUND OF OUR INHERITANCE (v.11)

A. The divine perspective.

By God's grace we have been predestined. We have been redeemed purely by the initiative of God. Both our election and predestination comes from a God who plans all things to the praise of His glory. When you and I were saved it is to the praise of His glory.

B. Human perspective.

i) <u>We heard</u> (**v.13**)

God opened our ears to hear the truth and our eyes to see the truth so it became the gospel of our salvation.

ii) We believed (v.13)

Having believed by God's grace we were given the ability to trust the finished work of Christ. Faith is merely mans response to God's elective purpose. God's choice of people is election, peoples choice of God is faith.

2. THE GUARANTEE OF OUR INHERITANCE

A. God will seal you

i) <u>It brings you Security</u>

The Holy Spirit secures each believer.

ii) Authenticity

The Holy Spirit transforms us into children of God.

- iii) God's seal of the Holy Spirit indicated Ownership
- iv) God's seal of the Holy Spirit indicates Authority

B. God's pledge (v.14)

The Holy Spirit not only guarantees our inheritance with his seal, but also with His pledge. God's first installment is the Holy Spirit and he is the taste of the glory to come.

C. The goal of our inheritance (v.14)

Until the redemption of those who are God's possession fully releases us from all the effects of sin that is the goal.

SUMMARY

In this passage we have seen how:

- 1. We are blessed by the Father
- 2. We are chosen, predestined, adopted and accepted by the Father.
- 3. We are blessed by the Son. We are redeemed, forgiven and given revelation by the Son
- 4. We are blessed by the Holy Spirit. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit and He is our pledge.

STUDY 5

OUR RESOURCES IN CHRIST

(Chapter 1:15-23)

INTRODUCTION

In v. 3-14 Paul set forth the amazing blessings that a believer has in Christ and now from v. 15-23 Paul prays that the believer will come to fully understand and appreciate these blessings.

1. **PRAISE** (v.15-16)

Paul heard in prison of two aspects of the believer's life which indicated the genuineness of their salvation.

A. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

The emphasis here is on true saving faith with the Lordship of Jesus as the object of that belief. This faith is truly the captain grace, it indicates total confidence in God and Jesus Christ.

B. Their love for all the believers.

Faith is empty if it doesn't result in love and this love is sacrificial giving (Greek Agape) towards all the saints. These two characteristics will always mark a true believer (1 Thes.1:2-3, Col 1:3-5, 1Tim. 1:5)

<u>John McArthur.</u> "Important as it is sound theology is no substitute for love, without love the best doctrine is a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."

2. PRAYER. (v.17-23)

Notice in **v. 17** to whom he prays, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Glorious Father, Paul has three requests:

A. They would understand the greatness of God's plan (v.17)

- i) <u>Know Him better</u>.
 - 'That you may know' this knowledge is impossible without revelation and so Paul asks wisdom to be given and revelation (Holy Spirit giving us understanding) to be given, so that they would know him better. Greek word epignosis means an accurate, certain, experiential knowledge.
- ii) So that we can also experience the **hope** to which he has called us (**v.18**) God has called us to Christ and to holiness, to an altogether new life, where we can love and obey Jesus.
- iii) The riches of his inheritance in the saints (v.18)

<u>Hendriksen</u> "Paul is speaking here of those glorious riches, the marvellous magnitude of all the blessings of salvation."

B. He also wants them to know the greatness of God's power (v.19-20)

Great dynamite, energy and power of God is living and working in your life. This power was demonstrated in raising Jesus Christ for the dead.

C. That you would understand the greatness of God's person (v.20-23)

- i) Christ is in a position of glory over evil.
 - Jesus has all authority, not only in the present age but also in the one to come
- ii) Christ is head over the church (v.22-23)

He rules over the church in such a way that everything is for the good of the church

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Paul's heart is in his writing, in understanding the wonder of our salvation, he ends **Chapter 1** with praise and deep prayer.

COME ALIVE IN CHRIST

(Chapter 2:1-10)

INTRODUCTION

Ephesians 2:1-10, clarifies what it means to receive salvation and to be part of Christ's body, the church. Here Paul describes the act and process of salvation, the miracle that draws people into the eternal plan portrayed in **Chapter 1** and two things emerge in these verses:

1. $\underline{MAN BY NATURE}$ (v.1-3)

A. We were Dead (v.1)

This means that by nature we possess no spiritual life what so ever and we can do nothing by ourselves to please God. We are dead, and this is because of two things:

- i) <u>Transgressions</u>
 - Transgression means that we have crossed over a forbidden boundary.
- ii) We are dead because of our sins.

So before God we are rebels (transgressions) and failures (sin). It is not that we are sick, but we are dead.

B. We were enslaved (v.2-3)

i) We followed the ways of the world

In simple terms this means that we drifted along with the stream of the world's ideas of living, with one word secularism, we followed the whole social values system of the world. In general the ways of the world are:

- a) Secular repudiating God
- b) Amoral repudiating absolutes
- c) Materialistic glorifying our consumer mentality
- ii) The power of the ruler of the kingdom of the air.

The Living Bible translates this as obeying Satan the mighty prince. There is no specific literal of the word air, but it rather indicates the darkness the devil prefers to work in, this reminds us we are under the power of the devil.

iii) We gratify the desires of our sinful nature

Those natural desires, those sinful desires which come from a sinful nature (pleasure, power, passion)

C. Condemned

We were objects of wrath, we were under the wrath of God.

SUMMARY

1. Before Jesus set us free we were subject to evil influences within and without, outside was the world with its secular culture, inside was the flesh and all around was Satan.

<u>John Stott.</u> "God has now entrusted us with the message of the gospel which offers life to the dead, release to the captives and forgiveness to the condemned."

2. Man by grace (v.4-10)

'But'

A. God loved us (Jer. 31:3, 1 Jn 4:8, 16, 19, Rom. 5:5+8)

This refers to God's intense concern for us, his deep personal interest in us because of his love he is rich in mercy.

B. He made us alive with Christ even when we were dead (v.5)

Through the love of God we have been made alive (2 Cor. 2:12-13, Gal. 2:19-20).

The emphasis is on God making the dead come alive, all of this by His grace.

C. He exacted us

<u>John Calvin</u> "Life from the deepest hell into heaven itself". The purpose is in v.7, so that we might demonstrate the riches of God's grace in the ages that are to come and be a reminder that we are saved by grace alone, not by any works and the evidence is that we now do good works which God has prepared us to do.

CONCLUSION By ourselves we can never be saved, God in his mercy must do that work, and so the only thing that I contribute to my salvation is my sin.

STUDY 7

THE GREAT PEACE MISSION (Chapter 2:11-22)

INTRODUCTION.

Paul now begins a broad new paragraph, he is going to remind us of what we once were, in **v.11-12** and then he will describe what we have become in **v.13-22**.

1. <u>SEPARATION</u> (v.11-12)

In v.11 we are exhorted to remember and he tells us five characteristics about our past:

A. You were Christless

You were without Christ, in our former position we were unspeakably wretched.

B. We were stateless.

Excluded from citizenship in Israel, we truly were lost.

C. We were friendless

Foreigners to the covenants of the promise.

D. We were hopeless

Without hope.

E. We were Godless

And we were without hope and God

CONCLUSION

1. These things you must never forget, but remember that this is what you were like before God's love reached down to you and found you. It is only when we remember our former condition that we are able to remember the greatness of God's grace in saving us.

2. Reconciliation (v.13-18)

Take note of those two words, "But now"

i) The enmity between Jew and Gentiles (v.13-15)

In Christ Jesus we who were far away have been brought near, through the blood of Jesus there is reconciliation between God and us. But furthermore Jesus Christ has broken down the barrier between Jew and Gentile and made them into one. <u>John Stott.</u> "God's integrating principle for uniting human beings is neither intellectual (philosophy as in Roman Catholicism) nor political (conquest as in Islam) but spiritual (by Christ)."

ii) The enmity between sinners and God. (v.16-18)

God did three things to reconcile the Jews and Gentiles and sinners to God

- a) He abolished the Law and its Commandments.
 - This of course is referring to the ceremonial law
- b) He created a new single humanity (v.15)
- c) There is now reconciliation.

And all this is through the cross and the result is in **v.18**, how through Jesus we now have access to the Father by the Spirit.

3. UNIFICATION (v.19-22)

In these verses Paul summarizes what he has been teaching, notice the first word "consequently"

A. One nation (v.19a)

"You are no longer a stranger, aliens".

B. One family (v.19b)

"Members of God's household and fellow citizens with God's people"

C. One temple (v.20-22)

You are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ being the corner stone and it is Jesus that holds it all together.

CONCLUSION

It is marvellous to look back and to trace the sequence of Paul's teaching. Christ's death has now brought sinners back to God and he established a brand new society consisting of Jews and Gentiles.

PAUL"S UNIQUE PRIVILEGE

(Chapter 3:1-13)

INTRODUCTION

At this point in the letter Paul finds himself again compelled to sink to his knees in prayer. The wonder of the gospel overwhelms the Apostle, but before he can settle into prayer the thought of his own relationship strikes him so in **Chapter 3** we have parentheses in **v.1-13** and then we listen to his prayer from **v.14-20**

1. THE DIVINE REVELATION TO PAUL (v.1-6) Mystery made known to him.

"For this reason" these words refer to **Chapter 2** where God's grace to the gentiles was described and of how through Christ's death there is a new society of Jews and Gentiles. Who have come to faith in Christ, all the barriers are gone and of this gospel Paul became A prisoner of Christ Jesus. Notice he doesn't say a prisoner of Nero because he knew that his imprisonment was under the sovereignty of Christ, this imprisonment was also for the Gentiles. In **v.2** Paul describes God's grace to him which led to his conversion and also to his appointment as a missionary, both were the result of God's grace. In **v.3-4** Paul clarifies the gospel of God's grace, he calls it a mystery, this mystery which has now been made clear by revelation is the union of the Jew and the Gentile to Christ. It has now been revealed by the Spirit and in **v.6** it includes three things:

- i) Gentiles are fellow-heirs
- ii) Gentiles are fellow-members.
- iii) Gentiles are fellow- partakers

All of this is in Christ by the gospel.

1. THE MINISTRY ENTRUSTED TO HIM (v.7-13)

Paul now describes himself, as a servant of the gospel and this again was by the grace of God alone, it transformed him from a Jew into a Christian, from a blasphemer into a saint, from a Pharisee into an apostle, from a persecutor into a missionary, all of this (v.7) through the working of His power. Instead of making himself proud it humbles him and so in (v.8) he says of himself "I am less than the least of the apostles." Now Paul explains his ministry in three stages:

- A. Making known Christ's riches to the Gentiles (v.8)
 - These riches are both what he has in himself and what he bestows on others.
- B. Making known the mystery to all men (v.9)

And to make known the mystery of his will, this was not clear in the past, it has now been revealed by the Holy Spirit where we are all one in Christ.

C. <u>To make known God's wisdom to the cosmic powers</u> (v.10)

God's plan is that the church redeemed by the blood of Christ and sanctified by the Spirit, to reach people through all ages, but the key is the church, even the angels in heaven see the works and the wisdom of God through the church and they rejoice. And so through God's people the mystery is made clear and the gospel of the unsearchable riches of Christ is our message.

3. <u>LESSONS</u>

A. The church is central to history

It reminds us of the biblical centrality of the church, Christianity isn't an entirely personal thing, we belong to a body and that needs to be stressed more.

- B. The church is central to the Gospel
 - God's purpose is to create a new society, not only to save individual sinners.
- C. The church is central to Christian living (v.12)

STUDY 9

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE EPHESIANS

(Chapter 3:14-21)

INTRODUCTION.

As we read these verses we are permitted to look into the holiest place of the Christian life.

INTRODUCTION (v.14-16)

The fact that we are recipients of such salvation and that we have liberty into the presence of God this causes Paul to kneel before the Father, Paul has in mind the whole company of the redeemed which make up God's family.

1. SUBSTANCE OF HIS PRAYER (v.16-19)

Paul takes us through four steps in prayer, strength, love, knowledge, fullness.

William Henry "The slouching position of the body while one is supposed to be praying is an abomination before the Lord".

A. That we be strengthened with might (v.16)

We learn again that conversion is but the beginning and we need strength, God promises to strengthen the believer out of His riches, so that we can be strengthened with power. Paul asks for his readers that they may be fortified, braced and mightily strengthened, but the question is how?

i) Through His Spirit ii) Through Christ dwelling in our hearts. In our inner being (heart, mind, will, spirit) deep seat of our personalities.

SUMMARY

Paul prays to the Father that Christ by his Spirit will be allowed to settle down in their hearts, so that from his throne he may both control and strengthen the believers.

1. THAT WE MIGHT BE ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE (v.17)

We need the power of the Spirit and Christ's indwelling in order to love one another. It is love that is compared to a well-rooted tree or house. <u>John Stott.</u> "Love is to be the foundation in which their life is built and the soil in which their life is to be rooted."

2. KNOWING CHRIST'S LOVE (v.18-19)

Paul now passes from our love to Christ's love, this love we can only understand together with all the saints. The isolated Christian will know nothing of the love of Jesus, furthermore the love of Jesus surpasses knowledge. The love of Jesus is broad enough to encompass all, long enough to last all eternity, deep enough to reach the most degraded and high enough to exalt us to heaven.

3. FILLED UP TO GOD'S FULLNESS

So that you may be filled to the measure of the fullness of God, this climax is staggering, it suggests the ides of a continuous process, a progressive and enlarging experience. We are to be filled not with wholeness but we are to be filled unto the fullness of God. God's fullness now becomes the standard, we are to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect.

Paul prays for his readers that they may be given the strength of the Spirit and the ruling presence of Christ and the rooting of their lives in love and the knowledge of Christ's love in all dimensions and the fullness of God himself.

CONCLUSION

Paul closes with a magnificent doxology.

- 1. He is able (Heb.2:18, 7:28, Jude v.25, Php 3:21, Eph.3:20, 2 Tim. 1:12)
- 2. He is able to be what we ask of him.
- 3. He is able to do what we even think.
- 4. He is able to do all that we ask or think.
- 5. He is able to do more than we ask or think...
- 6. He is able to do much more than we ask or think.
- 7. He is able to do very much more than we ask or think. There are no limits to what God can do according to his power that is at work within us. Having said that Paul closes by bringing Glory to Jesus. To add anything more to his prayer would be inappropriate.

EPHESIANS STUDY 10 NEW STANDARDS

(Chapter 4:1-6)

INTRODUCTION

In the same way when you join an organization, you obligate yourself to live according to the rules of that group, you accept its aims, objectives and standards. It is the same with the church. In **Chapters 1-3** Paul explained the believer's position in Christ with its blessings, honours and privileges. But now in **Chapters 4 - 6** it is practical and shows us our obligation and requirements. The Lord expects us to live as new people according to new standards.

1. THE CALL TO THE WORTHY WALK (v.1)

Paul reminds us that he is a prisoner of the Lord and as a man who has given his all to Christ (2 **Tim.1:8, Eph. 3:1, Phm v.1+9**) on that basis he calls to these Christians to follow his example.

- **A.** Their responsibility. Live a life worthy
- **B.** The Blessings Worthy of the calling you have received, this calling will include your election, redemption, your sealing (1:4) and been made alive.

<u>John Stott.</u> "The new society which God is calling into being has two major characteristics, unity and purity".

2. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORTHY WALK (v.2-3)

- **A.** <u>Humility</u> To be raised from the depths of sin and misery and then to be made into children of God, must produce humility. This humility will include a low estimate of ourselves which is founded on our consciousness of our guilt and weakness and this is together with a continual desire to go unnoticed and unpraised. Humility is the first evidence of a converted life. Humility will always produce three things:
 - Proper self awareness (Lk. 18:13-14) ii) A Christ awareness iii)

 A God awareness.
- **B.** Gentleness. Gentleness is the absence of the disposition to assert my personal rights either in the presence of God or of people. It is an unresisting and uncomplaining disposition of mind illustrated in the Lamb.
- C. <u>Patience</u> (Gal 3:22, 2. Cor. 6:6) This patience will always show itself in our relationship with God as he works out his will, it will also be seen with our relationship to our brothers and sisters.
- **D.** Forebearance Bearing with one another in love (1 Cor.13)
- **E.** <u>Unity</u> There are the five foundation stones of Christian unity and these are the new standards God expects to see in the life of his people.

3. THE CAUSE OF THE WORTHY WALK (v.4-6)

The emphasis in **v.3** is that we must make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit, the Greek verb is emphatic, it means that we must spare no effort, it is a call to continuous diligent activity, make every effort to keep the unity, notice unity of the Spirit because it is brought about by the Spirit and furthermore through the bond of peace. Hatred, pride, contention and division cause the Spirit to withdraw from the church. Whereas love and peace secure his presence. This unity Paul clarifies its three marks.

- A. <u>Unity of the Spirit</u> (Jn 3:5) Born of the Spirit (Rom. 8:16) Assured by the Spirit (Eph. 1:13) Sealed by the Spirit Within this unity of the Spirit there is one hope that is the hope of sharing the glory of Christ. (1 John 3:2, 1 Peter 1:4)
- B. <u>Unity of the Son</u> i) <u>One Lord</u> This has the idea of possession and authority, Jesus is Lord, we are no longer our own, our minds are subject to his teaching, our conscience to his commands, and our hearts and lives to his control, he owns us, loves and cares for us ii) <u>One faith</u> Objectively this refers to the body of truth, but subjectively it is my trust in Christ. iii) <u>One baptism</u> (Gal 3:27-28, 1 Cor 12:13)
- C. <u>Unity of the Father</u> This verse reminds us that there is one God and Father of all. He recreated what he created. He is not only God but he is also Father and therefore he is over all (sovereign) (**Rom.8:28**), through all and in all. The church now is the dwelling of God through his Spirit and therefore to be filled with God and to enjoy his presence and to be controlled by him is to attain the highest point of excellence, blessedness and glory.

STUDY 11

THE GIFTS OF CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH

(Chapter 4:7-11)

INTRODUCTION

Although there is only one body, one faith and one family this unity is not to be understood as a lifeless or colourless uniformity on the contrary the unity of the church is exciting in its diversity and more than that Christian unity is enriched by the diversity of our gifts.

1. THE GIFTS OF CHRIST TO INDIVIDUAL BELIEVERS (v.7)

It is important to notice the term 'but' Paul moves from the unity of believers to the uniqueness of believers.

- **A.** <u>To each one.</u> In other words every Christian is gifted, no exceptions. So instead of the gifts dividing us they should unite us, we need each other and are dependent on each other, each one is gifted.
- **B.** Grace had been given. This grace is the enabling power that makes the special gifts function to the glory of God. Saving grace is given to all who believe, but serving grace which equips God's people to serve is also given. So not to use your gift is an affront to God's wisdom, rebuff to his grace, and a loss to the church. We all have a gift, if we don't use it his heart is weakened and God is grieved.
- **C.** <u>As Christ apportioned it.</u> This reminds us that our gifts are not determined by our prayers or our preferences or our abilities but only because of God's sovereign will

2. HOW CHRIST WON THE RIGHT TO GIVE GIFTS (v.8-10)

This is a quote from **Psl 68**, This teaches us that the Lord ascended as conqueror to the Father's right hand, his train of captives were the principalities and powers he had defeated and disarmed, also Christ's exaltation resulted from his humiliation (**Php 2:5-11**) in order to fill the whole universe, what Paul is saying is not some mere ascent of descent in special terms, the emphasis is on humiliation and exaltation.

3. THE GIFTS OF CHRIST TO THE WHOLE CHURCH (v.11)

Notice the emphasis on 'He gave' and notice the word 'some'.

- **A. Apostles** The word Apostle has two meaning in the New Testament:
 - i) (**Jn. 13-16**) It is a term to describe someone sent to preach the gospel in that sense we are all to be apostles, go out as missionaries to tell others about Jesus.
 - ii) (2 Cor.8:23), Eph.2:20) refers to that small group of twelve men who had three functions:
 - a) Lay the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:20)
 - b) Receive and declare the revelation of God's Word (Acts 11:28, 21:10)
 - c) They would give confirmation to the Word through signs and wonders **2 Cor. 12:12**)
- **Prophets.** In the primary sense a prophet was a person who stood in the council of God, who heard, even saw God's word and then who spoke from the mouth of the Lord and spoke His Word faithfully (**Jer.23:16-32**). As the foundation on which the church was built prophets like apostles have completed that task and so in the narrow sense again there are no prophets today. God has given us all his revelation in the Word, but in a more general sense the prophets would be preachers and expositors of God's Word.

C. Evangelists.

This word occurs only three times in the New Testament.

(Acts 21:8, 2 Tim.4:5), an evangelist is someone given a gift from God who can make the gospel very plain and relevant to the unbeliever and enables them to make a commitment to Jesus Christ, it can relate to mass evangelism, personal evangelism, literature evangelism, radio and TV evangelism and music evangelism.

D. Pastors and teachers.

Notice it is pastors and teacher not or. The pastor teacher now comes to care and to teach those who have been converted.

4. HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFT

BUI.DING THE BODY OF CHRIST

(Chapter 4:12-16)

INTRODUCTION

In this passage we are going to be shown the progression, the purpose and the power of God's pattern for the building and the function of the church.

1. THE PROGRESSION OF GOD'S PATTERN (v.12)

Here is the pattern for the pastor.

- **A.** Equipping. 'To prepare God's people for works of service,' here is a clear statement that the ministry is not only for the clergy but it is the privileged calling of all God's people. So the pastor teacher does four things to equip Gods' people to do the work. So the evangelist brings people to Christ, but the pastor teacher equips them.
 - i) Bible (2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - ii) Prayer (Acts 6:4)
 - iii) <u>Times of suffering and testing</u> (James 1:2-4) Tools to equip God's people for service. <u>John McArthur</u> "The surest way to a churches' spiritual stagnating, to the pastors burnout is for the pastor to become engulfed in activities and programmes that he has too little time for prayer and the Bible".
- **B.** <u>Service.</u> No matter how applied, talented or dedicated a minister may be the work that is to be done in a local church will be too much for him to do, it will exceed his time and abilities and he therefore trains up others.
- **C. <u>Building up.</u>** So that the body of Christ may be built up. Church attendance therefore is more than just going to church, it should be rather for service and participation.

1. THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S PATTERN (v.13-15)

- A. <u>Unity of faith</u> (v.13) There is no room in any church for lazy people, but only for busy bees. This will encourage unity because all the people will become engaged in the affairs of the church and when every member eagerly renders service there is unity.
- **B.** Knowledge of Christ (v,13) This is a two-fold knowledge:
 - i) <u>Intellectual knowledge</u> All our people will know who Jesus is.
 - ii) Experimental knowledge The members are drawing closer to Christ.
- C. <u>Spiritual maturity</u> (v.13) 'And become mature'. A Christian is mature who has experienced spiritual growth, who has applied the Word of God to moral decisions and who has the ability to teach others what God has taught him. The standard of maturity that we are to attain is to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. This is an extremely high standard and it means without spiritual flaw, no flaw in spiritual witness. <u>J. Stott</u> "The fullness which Christ himself possesses and bestows."
- **D.** Sound Doctrine (v.14) Here Paul gives four characteristics of the immature Christian, who is not sound in doctrine.
 - i) <u>Childish</u> 'no longer infants' An infant is a little baby dominated with a desire for novelties. ii) <u>Inconstant</u> they are tossed to and fro and carried about with every wave of doctrine. iii) <u>Superficial</u> 'by the cunning and craftiness of men'
 - iv) Lack of discernment.
- E. <u>Authentic loving testimony</u> (v.15) Notice they will be able to speak the truth in love. i)

 They know the truth. ii) They speak it in love. Truth without love lacks its proper environment, but love without truth degenerates into sentiment. But not only will we speak the truth in love we will all grow up into him who is the Head, which is Christ

3. THE POWER FOR GOD'S PATTER (v.16)

- A. It is from Christ Christ supplies the grace to do the work that is required.
- B. We grow and build ourselves up in love.
- C. As each part does its work.

OFF WITH THE OLD, ON WITH THE NEW

(Chapter 4: 17-24)

INTRODUCTION

Salvation is not a matter of improvement, rather it is a total transformation. By God's grace we have a new mind, a new will, a new heart, a new inheritance, a new relationship, a new power, a new knowledge, a new wisdom a new perception, a new righteousness, a new love, and a new citizenship. (2 Cor. 5:17. Gal. 2:20)

1. THE MARK OF THE OLD SELF (v.17-19)

A. We were intellectually futile

'The futility of their thinking'. As far as spiritual and moral issues are concerned an unbeliever cannot think straight, he is warped and inadequate.

<u>John McArthur.</u> "The life of an unbeliever is bound up in the thinking and acting in an area of ultimate trivia".

B. An ignorance of God's truth.

'Darkness in their understanding'. This hardening took place in the past, but it has continuing effects, there is no understanding and that results in them being separated from the life of God due to this ignorance.

C. Spiritually and morally calloused (v.18)

'Due to the hardening of their hearts' (Greek Forosis - Porus

D. <u>Deprived of mind</u> (v.19)

- i) They have become calloused.
- ii) They have lost all sensitivity given to sensuality.

<u>Barclay</u> "The heathen way of life can become so mastered and dominated that it loses natural shame, so that a man ceases to be a man and reverts to becoming a beast."

iii) Indulge in impurity with a continual desire for more

SUMMARY

From v17-19 we see the downward path of evil that begins with rejecting God's truth, first their hearts were hardened then their understanding was darkened, then they became calloused.

2. THE WALK OF THE NEW SELF (v.20-24)

A. Christ centred (v.20)

This is more than just an intellectual knowledge it goes further and it leads to a transformation of life, nothing less than putting off the old and putting on the new. We have become Christ centred people.

B. We have come to know God's truth

- i) We heard of Him. 'Surely you heard'. **NB.** When sound Biblical Doctrine is given it may be said that Christ is teaching us about Christ.
- ii) Taught in Him When Christ is the subject and the object and the environment of instruction, that is when it is true biblical instruction because the truth is in Jesus.

C. Become the new self (v.22)

'Put off the old' (Col.3:9-10, Rom 6:6)

- i) The old was corrupted by deceitful desires.
- ii) We must be made new in the attitude of our minds.
- iii) Which is being created to become like God in holiness and righteousness

Where there is a real conversion there will always be holiness and righteousness.

STUDY 14

PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW LIFE

(Chapter 4: 25 - 5:4)

INTRODUCTION.

It is marvelous to see how Paul can descent from lofty theological doctrines to the nitty gritty of Christian behaviour and he gives us six principles of the new life.

1. DON'T TELL LIES, BUT RATHER TELL THE TRUTH (v.25)

Paul never just taught doctrine he applied it and he specifically named sins that were wrong 'put off falsehood and always speak truthfully'. Warren Wiersbe. "Whenever we speak truth the Spirit of God works, but whenever we tell lies Satan goes to work." (1Jn 2:21). Lies are never beneficial they always carry serious consequences, and especially in the body of Christ, it must not be tolerated.

2. <u>DON'T LOSE YOUR TEMPER, BUT RATHER ENSURE THAT YOUR ANGER IS</u> RIGHTEOUS (v.26)

This is an echo of **Ps.4:4.** There are times when a righteous anger is permitted, in fact if we fail to become angry we deny God, and encourage the spread of evil.

A. In your anger to not sin (v.26)

This means we must make sure our anger is free from pride, malice, animosity and revenge.

B. Do not let the sun go down on your wrath.

This means we must not nurse anger, never go to bed angry.

C. Do not give the devil a foothold.

3. DON'T STEAL, BUT RATHER WORK AND GIVE (v.28)

Here we are dealing with the 8th Commandment

A. We must rather work doing something useful with your hands.

B. Have something to share with those in need.

Instead of stealing contribute something to others, in other words practice honesty. Turn the attention away from your needs onto others.

4. DON'T USE YOUR MOUTH FOR EVIL BUT RATHER FOR GOOD (v.29-30)

Paul turns away from our hands to our mouths and he says don't let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths. Whenever you speak, always speak in such a way that others are built up, helped and benefited. Furthermore do not grieve the Holy Spirit when you speak. It was He who sealed you.

5. <u>DON'T BE UNKIND OR BITTER, BUT RATHER KIND AND LOVING (4:31-5:2)</u>

A. Negative

- i) Get rid of bitterness. This is a spirit which refuses to be reconciled.
- ii) Get rid of rage This is an outburst, comes out quickly and dies quickly
- iii) Get rid of anger A settled indignation
- iv) Get rid of brawling
- v) Get rid of slander
- vi) Get rid of malice.

B. Positive

- i) Be kind (**Col.3:12**)
- ii) Be compassionate to one another
- iii) Forgiving each other

WALK IN LOVE

(Chapter 5:1-7)

1. THE PLEA (v.1-2)

'Be imitators of God', this is staggering, Christians are to imitate God's characteristics. The reason is because we are dearly loved children and therefore we seek to live a life that imitates God.

2. $\underline{\text{THE PATTERN}}$ (v.2b)

'Just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us'. In other words giving ones self to others in the climax of love. True Biblical love is not a pleasant emotion or good feeling, it is the giving of ones self and in that way it becomes a sacrifice acceptable to God.

3. THE PERVERSION (v.3-4)

But among you there must not even be a hint of sexual immorality. On sexual matters there is not to be even a hint of improper conduct and therefore there is to be no obscenity, there is to be no foolish jokes on sexual matters 'they are out of place'.

4. THE PUNISHMENT (v.5-7)

Paul reminds them that an immoral, impure, greedy person, those who have given themselves over without shame or penitence, they will never inherit the Kingdom of God and we must not be deceived by empty words. God will punish those who disobey his Word and therefore do not be partakers with them.

CONCLUSION

As we work through this practical section it is that the child of God is different, we are God's new society who have put off the old life and put on the new, we seek to be imitators of God.

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

(Chapter 5: 8-14)

INTRODUCTION

This passage continues with the emphasis of **v.2** be imitators of God, he has emphasized that we imitate God by loving, but now we imitate God in relation to light, **v.1-7 - love**, **v.6-14** light Everyone who belongs to God aught to walk in light both intellectually and morally (1Jn 1:5-7).

1. $\underline{\text{CONTRAST}}$ (v.8)

Here to contrast is made between what we were before our salvation and what we are after our salvation

A. What we were

'We were once darkness', this will include both moral and intellectual darkness, it was not that you lived in darkness, you were darkness.

B. What we are.

'But now you are light', from the past tense we move into the present tense, in their entire conduct we seek to reflect Christ, therefore we live as a child of the light,

2. CHARACTERISTICS (v.9-10)

Paul gives us the three characteristics of living in the light:

A. Goodness

This is a spirit created moral and spiritual excellence.

B. Righteousness

Doing what is right in the eyes of God, never deviating from that.

C. Truth.

This will include integrity, honesty, trustworthiness, always doing what is pleasing to the Lord. John McArthur "Assurance of salvation can only be based with certainty on the evidence of present fruit being produced in our spiritual lives."

3. COMMAND (v.11a)

'Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness and expose them'. You cannot witness to the world if you do not go into the world, but if we comprise God's standards you will weaken your witness.

4. COMMISSION (v.11b-13)

'It is shameful to even mention what the disobedient do in secret'. But positively we remember everything exposed by the light becomes visible. Light actually transforms what it illuminates, this means that the Christian who lives a righteous life, will do more than just restraining the evildoer, they will actually convert them.

5. CALL (v.14)

'Wake up O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

WALKING IN WISDOM

(Chapter 5:15-17)

INTRODUCTION

v. 1-7 - love v.8 – 14 light v.15-17 - wisdom

1. THE BELIEVER'S LIFE PRINCIPLES (v.15)

A. Then

The reminder is of what God has done for us, from love, to light, to wisdom.

B. Be very careful how you live.

The Greek word Akribos which means examining something with great care

C. Not as unwise (v.16)

2. THE BELIEVER'S LIMITED PRIVILEGES

A. Make the most of your time

As a true believer we can achieve our potential in his service only as we maximize the time he has given us.

<u>P. Morley.</u> "How we spend our time will determine who and what we are." Redeem the time, every second counts, make the most out of every opportunity.

B. Because the days are evil

3. THE LORD'S PURPOSES (v.17)

Do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is.

STUDY 18

THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT (Part 1)

(Chapter 5:18)

1 THE MEANING OF THE TERM

When someone is drunk through alcohol it means that they are dominated, controlled and saturated with drink. When it says be filled with the Spirit it means four things:

A. <u>Imperative mood</u> (Be filled)

This means it is a command from God, it is not a suggestion or a recommendation.

B. Plural form

This means that it is not the privilege of a select few, but is a duty upon all believers.

C. Passive voice

This means we must allow the Holy Spirit to fill us, the Holy Spirit's control is not automatic, but voluntarily invited. We don't determine if we are going to be baptized with the Holy Spirit or not, but we do determine if we are filled by the Holy Spirit.

D. Present tense

This means that it is not a dramatic experience once and for all, we are to keep on being filled.

2. THE PURPOSE

A. Everyday life (Acts 11:24, Luke 1:67)

To live the normal Christian life we need this filling. It is the experience of every believer in everyday life.

B. <u>It affects our family relationships.</u>

v.22 - Wife v.25 - Husband 6: v.1 - Children

C. It affects our business relationships.

6:5 - Employer, 6:9 - Employee

- **D.** It affects our ordinary service for Jesus Christ (Acts 6:3)
- E. There are times God uses us for special service (Acts 4:8)

3. THE MANIFESTATIONS

- A. You will become a Christ centred person (Jn 16:14, 15:26)
- B. Christ is formed in that person (Gal 4:19)

When someone is filled with the Spirit they will grow more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

C. Christ imparts His power (Acts 1:8)

Effectiveness in my service.

4. HOW TO BE FILLED

- A. We need aspiration (Matt 5:6)
- **B.** We need acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I am not what I aught to be.

- **C.** There must be an abandonment of all sin that is tolerated.
- **D.** There must be abdication of self

Allow the Spirit to control me.

E. We must come is appropriate simple faith

5. HOW DO I MAINTAIN THE FILLING.

A. I must keep on feeding on the Word of God.

<u>John McArthur</u> "A Spirit filled Christian is one who is letting the Word of God dwell in them".

- **B.** I must keep occupied with Christ
- **C.** Keep obeying the Will of God in your life.
- **D.** <u>Keep abiding in our Lord Jesus Christ.</u>

THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT (Part 2) The consequences

1. THE CONSEQUENCES WITH OURSELVES - SINGING (v.19)

The Spirit filled life produces singing, a spirit filled Christian is a singing Christian.

- A. Among whom?
 'One another', among the fellowship of believers
- **B.** How? 'With Psalms, Hymns and spiritual songs'
- C. From where ? From the heart
- To whom?

2. THE CONSEQUENCES TOWARD GOD - GIVING THANKS (v.20)

- A. When? Always
- B. For what ? All things
- C. <u>How?</u>
 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
- D. To whom?
 God the Father.

3. THE CONSEQUENCES TOWARD FELLOW BELIEVERS - SUBMISSION (v. 21)

The filling and the control of the Holy Spirit will lead us to a spirit of humility in which we desire to seek the welfare of others before our own.

THE ROLE OF THE WIFE (Chapter 5:22-24)

INTRODUCTION

Following on from the filling of the Holy Spirit, Paul now deals with new relationships (5:21-6:24)

1. SUBMISSION

As the husband submits to Christ so the wife submits to her husband.

A. What it is not

- i) It is not merely a concept for woman but for all believers (5:21)
- ii) Submission does not mean that the wife becomes a slave to the man, but rather it brings her freedom.
- iii) Submission does not mean that she never opens her mouth, has an opinion or gives advice.
- iv) Submission does not mean that the wife allows her abilities to lie dormant
- v) Submission does not mean that the wife is inferior to her husband

B. What it does mean

- i) <u>It means that she makes herself submissive</u> (1 Ptr 3:1)
- ii) This submission is not optional.

 It is not based on the way her husband treats her nor is it conditional by the husbands' abilities, talents, wisdom, education or spiritual state.
- iii) It is to be continuous.
- iv) <u>Ultimately it is a spiritual matter as unto the Lord.</u>

 Refusal to submit is therefore rebellion against God, so submission is a test of her love for God and her husband.
- v) <u>It is to be positive not negative.</u> She places her life, talents and her resources at her husband's disposal and under his leadership. She seeks to build a godly home.
- vi) <u>Submission involves attitude plus action</u> Her submission is to be done in a cheerful way.

C. HOW?

- i) She makes the home a safe place (Prov. 31:11+20)
 - A place of encouragement, comfort and love.
- ii) She is to be trustworthy and dependable (Prov.31:12)
- iii) She is always to maintain a good attitude (Prov.31:20)
- iv) She discusses things lovingly, openly and honestly (Eph.4:25)
- v) She is satisfied with her position, possessions, and tasks (Php 4:6-13)
- vi) She is patient, forgiving and forbearing (Col.3:12-14)
- vii) She shows an interest in husband's problems and concerns (**Php. 2:3-4**)
- viii) She is industrious, diligent, ambitious and creative (Prov.31:10-31)
- ix) She offers suggestions, advice and correction in a loving way. (Prov.31:26)
- x) She always keeps herself beautiful (1 Peter 3:3-5)
- xi) SHE MAINTAINS A GOOD SPIRITUAL LIFE *NB*
- xii) She always co-operates in the raising of the children. (Prov.31:26-28)
- xiii) She builds up loyalty to him in the children
- xiv) She is grateful to him.
- xv) She shows confidence in his decisions

THE ROLE OF THE HUSBAND

(Chapter 5:23-33)

1. LEAD

A. Servant

The main part of the husband is to lead his wife, but with a biblical leadership, where the main characteristic is that of a servant (Matt.20:20-28), he is a servant leader so his main concern is not himself, it is his wife. (Jn 13:1-15) from Jesus' leadership we learn four principles:

B. As Christ (v.23)

- i) Jesus lead by continuous association (1 Peter 3:7)
- ii) He carefully instructed his disciples (1 Cor 14:35)
- iii) He led by way of example
- iv) He made decisions and delegated responsibility (Mk. 1:35)

2. LOVER

- A. As he loves himself
- **B.** As Christ loved the church.
 - i) It is unconditional love (**Rom 5:8**)
 - ii) It is volitional love (**Eph.1:6**)
 - iii) It is intense love (Jn.13:1)
 - iv) It is unending love (Jer.31:3)
 - v) It is unselfish love (Php. 2:6-7)
 - vi) It is purposeful love (Eph. 5:26-27)
 - vii) It is sacrificial love (1 Peter 2:24)
 - viii) It is manifested love (Jn. 10:1-14)

3. PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

- **A.** One of the simplest yet most neglected is WORDS
- **B.** He provides for the SATISFACTION OF ALL HER NEEDS.
 - i) Physical needs
 - ii) Emotional needs.
 - iii) Intellectual needs.
 - iv) Social needs.
 - v) Recreational needs.
 - vi) Sexual needs.
 - vii) Spiritual needs.
- **C.** He PROTECTS HER
- **D.** He ASSISTS her in her tasks.
- **E.** He SACRIFICES for her
- **F.** He allows her to SHARE his life (1Peter 3:7)
- **G.** <u>He refuses to COMPARE her to any other woman.</u>
- H. You tell her she has first PLACE in your life outside Christ.
- I. You show her COURTESY and RESPECT.
- J. You EXPRESS APPRECIATION in large doses

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR MARRIAGE

(Chapter 5:31)

INTRODUCTION

This is the only verse in the Bible that is in the Old Testament, gospels, Epistles and it expresses God's blueprints for marriage.

1. <u>LEAVE</u>

A. What it does mean.

- i) You must have an adult relationship to your parents.
- ii) It means that you become more concerned about your partners ideas, opinions and practices than that of your parents.
- iii) It also means that you are no longer dependant on your parents for affection, approval, assistance or counsel.
- iv) It also means that you stop trying to change your partner because your parents do not approve.

In other words you make the husband-wife relationship the priority human relationship.

B. What it does not mean.

- i) It does not mean you forsake or abandon your parents. All our lives we are to love and respect our parents.
- ii) It also does not mean that you must move out of their geographical area.

2. CLEAVE

A good marriage is based more on commitment than on feelings of attraction.

A. Wife.

The wife is to stay with her husband until death.

B. Husband

He will be faithful to his wife until death, there is to be cleaving to each other. The cleaving until death, in sickness or in health, in poverty or in wealth, in pleasure and in pain, in joy or in sorrow.

3. **BECOME ONE - UNITY**

This refers to the sexual unity between a man and his wife, a wonderful and pleasurable relationship in marriage. It is wider than the sexual connection, bodies, possessions, ideas, ambitions, problems, failures. Marriage is therefore the total commitment of the total person for total life. But this is not easy because of our sin. It can be destroyed by selfishness or pride or bitterness or jealousy or ingratitude or neglect.

GOD'S ORDER FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

(Chapter 6:1-4)

1. CHILDREN

A. Children.

God's command for children is composed in a single command. Children obey your parents, Jesus loves and works in the life of an obedient child, an obedient child will always be a happy child and so the child's responsibility is to obey their parents.

B. Reasons

i) Because it is right.

This is part of the basic rule of life, our parents have provided for us, they have taught us the essentials of life, and the child responds to that with obedience, this obedience is going to be shown in <u>word</u> and <u>deed</u>.

This is to be careful obedience and they follow through the commandments.

- ii) Because it is commanded in Scripture (Ex.20:10)
- iii) It is pleasing to the Lord (Col. 3:20)

 Obedience is proof that the children are growing in their Christian walk (v.3) the blessing is that every thing will go well and they will have long life.

1. PARENTS.

A. <u>Teach.</u> (Prov 22:6)

i) By the way of instruction.

A loving parent takes this seriously, it begins with the basics of life, Mom and Dad teach their kids the Word of God.

ii) <u>By setting rules.</u>

Children thrive on order and routine.

iii) Set examples.

B. Discipline

Bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. God holds parents accountable for the discipline of their children. (**Prov 4:1-3**)

- i) By way of the rod (**Prov 3:24**)
- ii) Rod must be the first response
- iii) It works
- iv) It is God's appointed means of discipline (**Prov.23:13-14**)

C. Love.

Do not exasperate your children

10 COMMANDMENTS OF A HAPPY HOME

- 1. Establish God's chain of command
- **2.** Obey the love commandment
- **3.** Show love and appreciation
- **4.** Have respect for authority
- **5.** Have training and discipline in the home.
- **6.** Enjoy one another
- **7.** Do not commit adultery
- **8.** Have a working family
- **9.** Pray and read the Word together
- **10.** Seek to bring the family to God.

SPIRIT FILLED LABOUR RELATIONS (Chapter 6:5-9)

INTRODUCTION

In our day the struggle between employers and employees has reached monumental levels, conflicts rage between workers and management. Employees want smaller workloads and more money, employers want more productivity.

1. <u>CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE</u> (v.5-8)

A. Right behaviour

Obey your earthly masters, obedience is in the present tense and it indicates uninterrupted obedience, being a Christian should always make a person a better more productive and more agreeable worker.

B. Right attitude

With respect, this implies not a cringing before a human master, but a reverent acknowledgement of the Lord Jesus Christ whose authority the master respects, the right attitude is that you go with respect.

C. Right commitment

With sincerity of heart, this means that our work is done with whole heartedness and without hypocrisy.

D. Right motive

As unto Christ, our work is to be done for the Lord, not only when they are keeping their eyes on us.

E. Right diligence.

Doing the will of God from the heart.

<u>Fred Catherwood</u> "The man who does not do his job in this way loses his grip on the situation and events take place. Crises begin to arise and he gets into a vicious circle of wariness and worry. In next to no time he has used up his stock of emotional energy, but had he applied himself to the job in the first place it would never have arisen."

2. THE CHRISTIAN EMPLOYERS

A. Do the same

Masters treat you slaves in the same way, this means the employer must promote the welfare of the employee in the same way expect them to promote the employer.

B. Stop threatening

Do not threaten.

C. Show no partiality

THE BELIEVER'S WARFARE (Chapter 6: 10-13)

INTRODUCTION

Paul in drawing this letter to a close now reminds us of our opposition. Beneath the surface there is an unseen spiritual battle raging, we are introduced to the devil and to his methods.

1. PREPARATION (Strength in the Lord (v.10)

Be strong in the Lord, to the extent that a Christian is strong in the Lord his victory over the worst that Satan has to offer is guaranteed (**Php. 4:13, 2Cor.12:9-10**) The reason of course is that the strength of the Lord in infinite.

- **A.** As seen in creation
- **B.** As was seen when it raised Jesus from the dead.

2. THE PROVISION: (The armour of God) (v.11a)

The full armour of God, this armour is to be the Christians life long companion, the Greek word put on has the idea of permanence and this will enable the Christian to stand firm.

3. THE ENEMY: (Satan) (v.11b)

The Devil, we are fighting is a powerful and subtle enemy, who though he was defeated at the cross, he is still active and powerful. (Matt 4:1, Jn 8:44, 1Peter 5:8, James 4:7.) Having been cast out of heaven he is now filled with fury and he walks around as a roaring lion seeking who he may devour. He has a powerful, well-organized army to carry to his schemes.

4. THE BATTLE: (against Demons)

Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the demons.

- **A.** Cunning
- **B.** Powerful
- **C.** Wicked (2 Peter 2:4, Jude v.6)

<u>J. Stott.</u> "They are utterly unscrupulous and ruthless in the pursuit of their malicious desires."

5. THE VICTORY: (in standing firm)

With the full armour of God, we will be able to stand our ground, but on the condition that we have the full armour of God.

STUDY 26 AND 27

THE ARMOUR OF GOD (Chapter 6:14-17)

1. INTRODUCTION

A. Our enemy

We have seen our Christian conflict is difficult and dangerous. It is described as a wrestling match.

B. His tactics

They are to scheme and destroy

2. <u>ARMOUR</u>

A. The BELT of truth

- i) The Word of God (**Jn. 17:17, 2 Tim. 3:16**)
- ii) Must be lived out in total commitment

<u>John McArthur</u> "When a man is fired by the truth of God he is invincible, he stands out like a colossus among pigmies".

It is the committed Christian who isn't content with mediocrity and half-heartedness.

B. The BREASTPLATE of righteousness.

- i) It refers to the imputed righteousness of Christ. And in that righteousness by the grace of God I am declared to be righteous.
- ii) Holiness. This must lead to holiness of life.

William Henry "Apart from such a life the would be Christian has no defense against Satan, he has no assurance of salvation, he lacks the power to attack, for the testimony of his life will be ineffective, the neighbour will never be won for Christ and the evil one will never be defeated. But on the other hand when holiness in conduct is present what a mighty weapon for defense and offense."

3. FEET - Gospel of Peace

- A. You need a firm foothold When you feel are filled with the gospel of peace there is a firm footing. E.g. (1 Kings 19)
- **B.** Readiness to share the Gospel This gospel of peace as it were gives us wings to our feet, it drives the Christian to evangelism.

4. THE SHIELD OF FAITH

'Above all take the shield of faith'

A. What is this faith?

- i) It is absolute trust in God the Father
- ii) It is absolute trust in Christ our Saviour
- iii) It is absolute trust in the Bible.

B. How to get this faith (Eph 2:8-9)

i) By grace ii) By the Word of God.

C. Characteristics

- i) Shield to protect.
- ii) It receives the blows
- iii) It must be strong
- iv) Well handled
- v) It quenches the darts of Satan

5. HELMET OF SALVATION.

Satan continually bombards the Christian with temptation to hatred, envy arises, pride, doubt and despair

- **A.** Salvation It is this that enables us to hold up our heads with confidence
- **B.** Hope of heaven

6. **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**

- A. Given by the Spirit Bible
- **B.** Applied by the Spirit
- **C.** Results

We gain victory.

PRAYING AT ALL TIMES

(Chapter 16:18-24)

INTRODUCTION

After we have put on the whole armour of God, we are to be in an attitude of prayer. Prayer is the very spiritual air that the soldier of Christ breathes. Jesus urged His disciples always to pray and never to lose heart (**Lk 18:1**) Jesus knows that when the battle gets hard the soldiers easily become tired, weak and discouraged. Prayer is the climax at the end of Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

1. **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS** (v.18)

- A. <u>Power</u> of prayer "In the Spirit". This means that we are to be prompted and guided by the Spirit in all our prayers. To pray in the Spirit is to pray in the name of Christ, to pray consistent with His nature and will and to obey His Word (**Rom 8:26**)
- **B.** <u>Variety</u> of prayer.
 - i) Prayers: This is a general word for prayer and it includes confession of sin, profession of faith and thanksgiving
 - ii) Requests: This is for definite need.
- **C.** Manner of prayer
 - i) Be alert Because the devil is prowling around and that we are never to stop praying.
 - ii) Keep on Don't give up/discouraged.
- **D.** Objects of prayers "Praying for all the saints"

2. <u>SPECIFIC ILLUSTRATIONS</u> (v.19-20)

- **A.** <u>Clarity</u> Paul was anxious when he preached his message that it would clearly be understood.
- B. Courage
- C. <u>BENEDICTION</u> (v.21-24) Tychius would now explain how Paul was progressing and be a source of encouragement to the Ephesians. The benediction is one where Paul prays for grace, love and peace to be with the Christians who love Jesus with an undying love.