

# EPHESIANS

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Ephesians means 'fully purposed.' This letter was written by Paul to the fully purposed saints with a singleness of mind that God has proposed to. They see and hear His proposal, and they respond to it. These are those who are longing for, watching for, and loving the appearing of Jesus, and who desire to be part of that first trump rapture.

It is in the book of Ephesians we find the heavenly realm to which God has called us. The church is the heavenly body of Abraham's seed which represents the promise God made to Abraham in the book of Genesis:

## Genesis 22:17

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.

The stars of the heaven represent the Gentiles, and the sand of the sea represents the Jews.

## CHAPTER 1

### VERSE 1

**Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints that are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.**

The first six verses of this book are from God the Father and lay out the plan and purpose for us in Christ and Christ in us. In this we have all hope. God's desire and delight is toward us. John 15:16 tells us that He chose us and ordained us. We didn't choose Him.

### Paul

Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ, and not of men. That was the will of God. Apostle means 'the one sent.' Paul was a chosen vessel. In each of his letters he was encouraged of the Holy Spirit to always speak of his validation which came from one source, Jesus Christ.

### Will of God

Will means 'pleasure.' It was God's pleasure to make Paul an apostle. We can live a life that is pleasing to God, so that He can do His will and good pleasure in our lives. We are here to please God, and the only way we can really please Him is to place our faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. God wants all His children to win Christ as Bridegroom. This is God's best.

### Saints at Ephesus

The saints at Ephesus were faithful and they were full of faith. Since Ephesus means 'fully purposed,' it shows God's purpose for us. He has made full provision for the possibility of all in the church to have all the glorious blessings of God in Christ. But only those saints who are

under grace and not trying to keep the law will have the opportunity to attain all the glorious blessings.

In the book of Revelation, Jesus commends the church at Ephesus for many things, but He had “somewhat against them” because they left their first love. This church was a figure of the church as a whole in the heavenly realm. The first love is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and they failed in maturing in that love. Some did not become established in that great grace gospel Paul preached to them and didn't take their place in the heavens. But we can certainly take our place in God's full purpose.

#### To the faithful of Jesus Christ

This is a great separation because although God purposed the church to take their place in the heavens, not all the saints at Ephesus were faithful to Christ Jesus. Paul addressed this to those who can – and who do – take their place with Christ. We can be among those people.

#### **VERSE 2**

**Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### Grace and peace

Grace comes first, and then peace. Without grace we can do nothing, and without grace we are nothing. The gospel of grace produces peace, the very peace of God which passes understanding. Great grace brings great peace in our lives. The more grace we grow in the more peace we will have. Grace brings the seven-fold perfection, or completion, of peace:

- 1) Chapter 1:2 - Peace from God.
- 2) Chapter 2:14 - Christ Jesus our peace.
- 3) Chapter 2:15 - The new creation of peace.
- 4) Chapter 2:17 - The message of peace
- 5) Chapter 4:3 - Endeavoring of peace.
- 6) Chapter 6:15 - Gospel of peace.
- 7) Chapter 6:23 - Brotherly faith-in-love peace.

We will get to the point that we just rejoice in the peace of God.

#### John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

#### From God our Father

The only place grace and true peace come from is God, and it is ours when we are in Christ Jesus. Without grace there will never be peace. These are two of the many blessings we receive from them, if we are not trying to increase anything in our lives by the keeping of the law.

#### **VERSE 3**

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:**

### Blessed be the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

This verse doesn't really conclude until verse 12. This is one of the most glorious sentences the lover of our souls ever wrote to us, and to all the believers before us. It is the blessing of all blessings in Christ. If ever there was a key that could unlock and unleash the fervent spirit in our lives, it is realizing and laying hold of the promises of this verse. Paul is bringing this praise unto the Lord, because God has so richly blessed us. We should want to return praise and glory and honor to God. He deserves so much because of all He has done.

### Hath

This is past tense and shows that God has already blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies before the foundation of the world, and before a star was ever set in the heavens. He saw the new creation in His Son, and He blessed us in that. God is all in – and that means in everything. He has been since the very beginning.

### With all spiritual blessings

From the very moment we believe, we have all spiritual blessings in Christ. All we have to do is believe Him for them, take them, and grow up in Him to claim them all. It doesn't happen overnight, it comes to us line upon line and precept upon precept through the inexhaustible Word of God. Many Christians only concentrate on natural blessings. God has indeed given us many natural blessings, but spiritual people are only concerned with spiritual blessings which are what Paul expounds upon in this book. We have already been blessed with these in God's precious Son Jesus. There is nothing we need to wait for because God has given us a full, rich, well-rounded provision. There is nothing lacking in these blessings God has already poured out. All we need to do is claim them.

### In the heavenly places

This is better translated, 'in the heavens in Christ.' God always intended for the church to be separated from the world, but most of the churches today try to be like the world. Many of the ways of this world have been accepted by modern churches. We are called by a heavenly calling, not a worldly calling. True, we are in the world, but we don't have to be of the world. To attain heavenly blessings we need to be heavenly-minded, separated from the world unto heavenly riches and blessings in Christ.

When we take these heavenly blessings we have a formidable enemy, Satan himself. We are guaranteed to have spiritual battles against principalities and powers.

### **VERSE 4**

**According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:**

### According

According is found seven times in this chapter, and that is not by chance. Seven is the number of spiritual perfection, and the good pleasure of the Father's will is always spiritual perfection in us. By the grace of God may we have the will of God performed in our lives. It is in this agreement, or harmony of spiritual perfection, us in Christ, that God has chosen us.

### Hath chosen us in Him

We realize through study and revelation, through Paul and what was revealed to him, that the revelation of the Bride of Christ is a personal thing. We know how intimate this is by hearing Paul's gospel which gives us the vision of winning Christ as Bridegroom. 'He hath chosen us' means that we are called out to hear this wonderful Bridal message given to Paul by Christ Jesus, all by grace and mercy. Those of who hear Paul's gospel and embrace it have the unmerited favor of God. Mankind was meant to be God's masterpiece. We can be vessels prepared unto glory. 'Us' is the glorious body of Jesus.

### Before the foundation

Foundation means 'to cast or throw down; a sick spell.' The world was thrown down, or had a sick spell at the fall of Adam and all creation. God chose us in Christ even before the world fell, and before Satan came on the scene in the garden where Adam and Eve sinned. God chose us before all of this happened. Redemption was not an afterthought with God. He had everything all thought out before anything happened. God knew Adam would need redemption, so He had everything in place before the redemption would be needed. We were chosen in Christ before a Redeemer was needed.

When God created this world He didn't create it in vain. He created it to be inhabited, but God allowed a 'sick spell' to happen because He needed an evil one, Lucifer, to make sin rampant in this world, and to try to exalt himself above God. That is exactly what Satan did, and because of that God cast him down on the earth. When Satan was in heaven was a beautiful cherub, but all that changed when he tried to make himself greater than God. There is a darkness mentioned in Genesis 1:2 that is sin. Lucifer is the author of confusion, and all he wants to do is confuse and distort God's Word. God allows him to do this to show His faithfulness and power. God put His children in flesh, and in these weak vessels is where He puts His treasure, His wonderful grace. When we apprehend grace, the power of His might comes through. God's plan will go exactly as He intended it to go. Everything is in His precious Son.

### That we should be holy

This is where we must make the distinction between Adam and Christ, or Adam and us in Christ. Adam was in the Garden of Eden. At first he was sinless, but he only had a human righteousness so he wasn't holy. This meant that Adam was susceptible to failure and sin, and he did indeed fall into it.

Today we are holy and blameless in Christ. The new creation in Christ cannot sin because of His holiness. The seed of Christ is put in us the moment we accept Him as Savior. When God looks at us He only sees His Son, who knew no sin.

### Without blame before Him in love

Every believer has two natures: the new nature in Christ, and the old nature in Adam from our natural birth. When a Christian sins the old nature is the one sinning, because the new nature can't sin. We have the choice to surrender our lives and bodies either to the new nature, or to the old nature. When we surrender totally to the new nature, it is an absolute guarantee we do not sin. If we surrender to the old nature we can't do anything but sin because the old man is filled with sin. God has given us the new nature of Christ so that we can be without blame before Him in love.

## **VERSE 5**

**Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.**

### Predestined

Predestined refers to the new creation in Christ.

#### Romans 8:29

For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

That creation was predestined to live because it is in Christ, and the old creation was destined to die because it was in Adam. Whom He foreknew, He predestinated. It is done, finished, and our standing is secure. We can never be separated from God's love because His love will never let us go. We are accepted in the beloved, and seated together with Christ. All the spiritual blessings are ours.

### Adoption

'Adoption' is a weak word in the sense of how we perceive it. In reality God doesn't have adopted sons or stepchildren; He only has sons. When we are born again we are born into the family of God. 'Adoption' literally means 'to place as sons,' and this happens by the new birth in Christ.

### By Jesus Christ

Everything that God has done, or ever will do, is by Jesus Christ. Christ is the center of everything.

### According to the good pleasure of His will

It is by the good pleasure of His will that we were begotten.

#### John 1:12-13

12) But as many as receive Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

God is looking for fully mature sons.

#### Hebrews 2:10

For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Those willing to suffer as He did will be sun glory saints; joint heirs with Him, the Philadelphia saints, to the praise of the glory of His grace in us.

## **VERSE 6**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

### Glory of His grace

In creation God showed forth His power. In the first verses of Genesis we find seven beautiful days where God chose to manifest His glorious power in creating all things. In the new creation in Christ, God showed forth His grace. The spiritual creation is where God reflects and enlarges on His matchless grace. It is to the praise of the glory of His grace that He did it this way. God wants to magnify His grace every day.

### Accepted in the beloved

God makes us accepted in the beloved when we are born again in Christ. This is the only way we will be accepted before God. All of our self works, goodness, and good intentions will never make us worthy before God. Cain tried to bring all his marvelous works before the Lord to be accepted. The very best Cain could offer was not sufficient to gain him acceptance with God. The only thing that grants us acceptance with God is whether or not we are in Christ via the new birth. Once we are accepted in Christ, God accepts us to the degree he accepts His Son Jesus. Being in Christ is the key to gaining the acceptance of God.

In verses 1-6 we saw God's plan for us. In verses 7-11 we see Christ purchase and provide God's plan, and all of the wealth we have in Jesus. The moment we gave our heart to Jesus we were blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ.

## **VERSE 7**

**In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.**

### In whom

In whom - in Christ and in no other place. Christ shed His precious blood to save us. His own life was the price He paid for our redemption.

### Redemption

Redemption means 'full acquittal for our sins.' This is the beginning of everything, yet it is the continuing of everything. We will never see it until we understand that whom Christ has made free is free indeed.

Paul gives two avenues of redemption through Christ's blood:

#### 1) The forgiveness of sins.

His blood was what cleansed us from all our sin. Everything is done by the grace of God, and He has taken away all the guilt that our sin created, because He has no remembrance of our sins. From the moment we believe, we can enjoy the freedom from sin. Every person who has ever lived had already been forgiven when Jesus died to pay the price for sin. The difference between the sinner and the saint is that the saint has claimed that forgiveness, the sinner has not. Forgiveness is only valid if the sinner claims it.

## 2) The riches of His grace.

Redemption has given us the riches of His grace, and the riches of His grace go deeper than redemption, because redemption is the beginning of what God has given us in Christ. The riches of His grace are so extensive that verses 7-14 comprise only two sentences that are so connected that they describe to us in part the riches of His grace. The amount of the riches we will have depends on how much we take hold of, and this will determine the size of our bank account in heaven. These riches will never be taken away; they are all by faith through grace.

### **VERSE 8**

**Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence.**

#### He hath abound toward us

Abounding in the grace of God makes us able to take on fiery trials. Super-abounding shows we can take on the fiery trials with joy. The Lord wants to show himself faithful and mighty in us. He will put us and keep us on the path to win the crown. In abounding we can be pressed out of measure and still have a song on our lips. We can be happy in spirit if the suffering is for Christ's sake. God is able to have all grace abound toward us that we always have all sufficiency in all things, and that we may abound to every good work. We are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us and gave himself for us.

#### In all wisdom and prudence

The wisdom is the wisdom in Christ. Prudence means 'insight into spiritual things.' We have wisdom and prudence in Christ.

### **VERSE 9**

**Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in himself:**

#### Mystery of His will

These are God's secrets that are revealed only to those who earnestly desire them. Jesus used the parables to separate those that have a hearing ear from those who don't. The mysteries are there for those who have the desire to understand the depths of God. The spiritual blessings include the understanding of the mysteries. If we have the desire and the longing, we can understand any mystery in the scripture through the power of the Holy Ghost.

God showed Abraham things, but He showed us even more through His mysteries. We should be fully persuaded that this is the will of God. We live in the age of 'us in Christ,' fully purposed. Fully purposed shows we eat strong meat, much more than Abraham was shown. We are called to rule and reign with Christ. We have been chosen to hit the lottery of the ages to come, because we have been sought out to marry God's Son Jesus. God purposed this in himself, and called us out to hear His high calling, that beautiful Bridal message that had been hidden in ages past, but that was revealed to the apostle Paul. We are heirs of God, but if we suffer with Jesus we can be joint-heirs with Him and share in His glory. Our purpose should be to win Christ, and to be part of that first trump rapture.

### According to His good pleasure

God will clue us in to the purposes that He had for creating man, and going the way that He has gone. God shows us those marvelous mysteries.

### **VERSE 10**

**That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him:**

The dispensation of the fullness of time is just about upon us. This is when God will reveal that all things are in Christ. He will gather all the stars of heaven, and all the sands of the sea together as one. It will be manifested that they indeed belong to Christ.

### **VERSE 11**

**In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will:**

This verse is still speaking of spiritual blessings and the riches of His grace.

### Predestinated

Predestinated means 'marked out beforehand.' This is not about one individual being predestinated, but rather the collective new creation that has been predestinated to be blessed. When we take our place as a new creation in Christ, we come into the enjoyment of the wonderful provision God has made.

### After the counsel of His own will

This is what God did, and He didn't ask anybody about it. He just simply did all these things, and He has given us the privilege to know and understand them.

### **VERSE 12**

**That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ.**

Verses 12-14 speak of the precious Holy Spirit who applies the plan of God and brings the wealth to us through the very power of His might.

### We

Paul is referring to the Jews because he was a Jew. Paul makes the distinction between Jews and Gentiles over and over.

### First trusted in Christ

The Jews were the first ones who trusted in Christ, and God purposed that the Jews should be to the praise of His glory. Even the Holy Spirit fell on them first on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2.

### The praise of His glory

God gave us everything when He gave us Christ; to the Jew first, then to the Gentile. It is a done deal, and we don't have to beg for it. Religion says 'work,' but grace says 'free gift.'



Every gift is in Christ Jesus, and this is the treasure we have in Him. We should walk in our fore-ordained good works, and we should be to the praise of the glory of His grace.

### **VERSE 13**

**In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,**

#### In whom ye also trusted

'Ye' represents the Gentile believers who had been brought in to the wonderful blessings of the Lord through redemption. God never had any intention of leaving the Gentiles out of His wonderful plan.

#### Hebrews 11:40

God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

God not only included the Gentiles, He provided a better thing in that He made it possible for all saved people to marry His Son, Jesus. God is offering this better thing to those who attain the prize of His high calling in Christ Jesus. This is far above being redeemed. The Gentiles were brought into this potential when the Jews rejected their Messiah.

#### Heard the Word of the truth

The Word of God is all truth and shines the light. In Him there is no darkness, because He is truth, and He shines brightly. God's Word tells us we must be born again. There is only one way to God, and that is through the redemption of His Son, Jesus Christ. We can't even believe in God without first believing in Jesus. God put everything in His Son. Once we believe Him, we can have everything.

#### The gospel of your salvation

Paul went to great lengths to tell how the Gentiles are as blessed as the Jews and can enter into that same wonderful blessing that has been pronounced on the Jews.

#### Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise

It takes the Word of God to believe. After the Gentiles believed they were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. Sinners can receive salvation, but only a believer can receive the Holy Spirit. Salvation and being filled with the Holy Spirit are two separate events. They can happen the same night, but they never happen at the same time, because it is always salvation first, then the infilling of the Holy Spirit. This order never changes. The blood is applied first, and then the oil is applied. A believer will know they are filled with the Holy Spirit because they will speak in tongues.

#### The sealing

Sealing means 'to stamp for security', to be shut up to Christ. God gives us this seal and He puts us in the same place as the Jews. God is no respecter of persons. We can have complete sanctification if we want to be totally shut up to Christ, go without the camp and take our rightful place with Him. Only by His grace could we ever attain the crown of victory He made

possible for us to have. If we are willing to suffer with Him, we can also reign with Him and share in His glory. He wants this for us more than we want it for ourselves.

#### **VERSE 14**

**Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.**

#### **Earnest**

'Earnest' is just the foretaste of our inheritance, a down payment on things to come. When we first receive the Holy Spirit it is not the fullness of what God has for us. In fact, being filled with the Spirit is just a foretaste of our inheritance. In the Greek the word earnest means 'an engagement.' The Holy Spirit is the engagement ring Jesus has given to us. He brings the proposal to us just as the servant did to Rebekah. He tells us of the Master's love in every way and leads us down the bridal path step by step to meet our Bridegroom.

#### **The redemption of the purchased possession**

Christ bought us with His blood; we are not our own. This is referring to the body, and some in the body do experience that marvelous sensation of being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, which is a dynamic power. This is just an earnest, a downpayment, until the body is glorified. This is what Paul means when He says the redemption of the purchased possession unto the praise of His glory.

Those in the race to win Christ as Bridegroom become purchased possessions of great price, the goodly pearl that the merchant sold all he had to attain. Bridal saints in the race, like the cherubims on the mercy seat, don't ever take their eyes off the blood on that mercy seat.

#### **VERSE 15**

**Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,**

#### **Heard of your faith**

This is faith in Jesus Christ, which worketh by love. Paul commended these saints for the progress they had already made. They had been saved and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Love unto all the saints**

Having faith in the Lord, and love for all the saints are wonderful characteristics to have in our walk. Philadelphia saints are completely full and bursting with brotherly love, and there is no hypocrisy in it. The love of Jesus was in all these saints' lives. There was nothing lacking, no gaps anywhere. We need truth in love flowing, and overflowing in us. If we love the Lord we also need to love all our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

#### **VERSE 16**

**Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;**

Paul's prayers were more for saints than for sinners. We are to pray for the salvation of souls. Paul went to great lengths to reach his own people (Jews) who had never accepted Christ. He

had a great burden for them, but the majority of his prayers were for spiritual blessings to be poured out upon the saints.

### **VERSE 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:**

#### The Father of glory

Paul addresses God as “the Father of glory” because he wanted that same glory to be revealed in His people. The Father of glory is the one who has all the glory. Paul prayed to God the Father, and to Jesus Christ. When we pray to the Father we see that new relationship that we have with Him, and that He is very approachable. He is our Abba Father that we are to embrace intimately.

#### The spirit of wisdom

God wants us to have the spirit of wisdom every day, and it is in our spirit to submit to wisdom. When we speak of wisdom we are talking about Christ himself.

#### Spirit of revelation

This is not only the riches of His grace, but also spiritual blessings. We can have that spirit of revelation whereby God reveals His Son to us day after day. When we have the spirit of revelation and look into the Word of God, we don't see rules, laws, or do's and don'ts. We see Christ himself.

#### In the knowledge of Him

God wants to reveal Christ to us, and in us. We must see more of Him to become like Him. We find the knowledge of Christ Jesus in the Word.

### **VERSE 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,**

#### Eyes of understanding being enlightened

We can be shown the light that is Jesus Christ himself through the scriptures we read. There are a number of things that we may know:

##### 1) What is the hope of His calling.

There are many callings in the scripture, but we have been called as the sons of God, and this is the hope of our calling that we want to understand. It is the very will of God that men become His sons. The only way we know God's will is by the Holy Spirit, and through the Holy Spirit we are introduced to Christ Jesus. We take Jesus as our Savior because His blood was shed for an atonement for sins, and that precious blood is everything. The high calling of God in Christ Jesus is the bridal calling, the chance to suffer with Christ and to reign with Him if we say “I will go” and join the race to attain Him as Bridegroom. The Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth, and take the love of God and shed it abroad in our hearts. We run the race, and press toward the mark for the prize of God's high calling. We should rejoice in this calling, because it is the invitation of His nail-pierced hand in marriage.

2) The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

Our redemption saved us from hell, but our redemption was not just for us. God redeemed us for himself. Paul wants us to know what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance. God wants us to know what benefit He will receive by redeeming us. The more of Christ that God can see in redeemed lives, the greater His riches are going to be. God's inheritance in the saints is when He sees, and finds, and enjoys, Christ in us. Our God is rich and needs nothing except a Bride for His Son. His inheritance is in us, and us in Christ. The measure of Christ in us is the measure of God's inheritance.

### **VERSE 19**

**And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power,**

3) What is the exceeding greatness of His power.

God has performed many miracles throughout history such as raising Christ from the dead, the fall of Jericho, parting the Red Sea, etc. There have been many examples of the power of God all through scripture. The word 'exceeding' is used here, but it should be super exceeding, which is way beyond exceeding. This is to us-ward who believe according to the working of His power. According means 'in agreement.' The mighty power is nothing short of Holy Spirit believing. Paul wants us to know the exceeding greatness of His power in our own lives. We were dead in trespasses and sins, but we were raised out of the dead, and this is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. We experience this explosive power when God produces the life of His Son in us degree by degree. This is the power God wants to show us and put on display in our own lives.

### **VERSE 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,**

This is the believing power He has given to us, and part of the spiritual blessings we already have which were given as a provision: us in Christ from the foundation of the world. We can do all things in Christ who strengthens us. We are seated together with Him in the heavens, and now are we the sons of God. The crowning glory calling, which is to win Christ as Bridegroom, is what Paul's gospel is all about. This hope has been set before us, and the eyes of our understanding will be enlightened by the spirit of wisdom, and the revelation of the knowledge of Him. This is what God want for us, and we can have it all if we just take it.

### **VERSE 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:**

This principality and power is Satanic power. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead will give us victory over the devil even today. This is the power Paul wants us to know in our lives, the power that is above every power ever named in this present world and for all the ages to come.

### **VERSE 22**

**And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church,**

This is what God has done, and we are to have the same victory in our lives because of Christ. It has been given for Christ to be the head over all things, and Christ must be allowed to assume that headship in our own lives. The power of God that will do that work in our lives.

### **VERSE 23**

**Which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.**

The church is His body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all. The church becomes the manifestation of Christ, what the world is should see in the church today. The church is to express the fullness of God.

## **CHAPTER 2**

In chapter 1 the plan of the Father, the good pleasure of His will, is laid out for us. Chapter 2 shows us all the provision in the blood of God's only Son Jesus. He chose us, and now we are accepted.

Verses 1-10 reveal seven provisions that are all in Christ, seven being the number of perfection and completeness:

- 1) We have died with Him.
- 2) We have been made alive with Him.
- 3) We have been raised together with Him.
- 4) We are seated together with Him.
- 5) We have been created in Him to good works.
- 6) We have been made nigh to God in Him.
- 7) The Jews and Gentiles have been made one in Him.

### **VERSE 1**

**And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;**

#### **You hath He quickened**

When a person accepts Christ as Savior, he experiences the same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead. Only the power of God can call us out of that spiritually dead state. Salvation is our first encounter with that awesome power. When we accept Jesus we are made alive and given the very Spirit of Christ. His very life now lives in us, and it is personal.

Quickened means 'a recipient of grace.' The only way we can be abundantly alive is to receive His grace. The simplicity in Jesus is in grace. We can't approach God in our own goodness. We can only receive from God because Jesus did everything on the cross where He finished it all. When we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, and when we surrender to God's message, we begin to grow. That growth can increase at an increasing rate until we are established as the readied wife.

#### Were dead in trespasses and sins

'Were' indicates in the past. After we are born again we are no longer dead, and all our sins, past, present and future, are wiped away. God puts them in a sea of forgetfulness never to be remembered again. Christ's finished work on the cross paid the sin debt for all mankind. All we have to is believe Him.

#### **VERSE 2**

**Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:**

#### Ye walked

This is also in the past. Paul wanted these saints (and us) to know they have been divorced from their former life; it is no longer a part of them.

#### Prince of the power of the air

In time past they walked according to the course of this world, i.e. as sinners without Christ. Satan is the prince of the power of the air and an expert at deception and bondage. All of us walked according to the course of this world before being saved. We were all under satanic dominion. This doesn't mean we were possessed of the devil, it means we were in his realm, under his bondage until God came forth in His power and raised us up and out of it.

#### Children of disobedience

Children in this verse means 'mature sons of disobedience.' A son of disobedience is a son that is mature and fully developed in rebellion and disobedience. These are the Christ rejecters who make one decision after the other to stay in the dominion of Satan. This same spirit is still working in the disobedient sons today. Their only hope is in Christ whom they have rejected.

#### **VERSE 3**

**Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

#### We all

When Paul says 'we' he is referring to Jew and Gentile alike. We all had our manner of life in the lusts of our flesh in times past. Every person born into this world is under Satan's dominion until we accept Christ and are freed from the grip of the devil.

#### Fulfilling the desires of the flesh

This is the old nature with which we were born, the nature that will always be under the power and authority of the enemy fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.

### Children of wrath

The word 'children' in this verse is likened to an infant. From the moment a child is born into this world he is under the sentence of death, or wrath. But belief in the blood of Christ made us children of light. We do not have to escalate into being those mature sons of disobedience.

### **VERSE 4**

**But God, who is rich in mercy, for the great love wherewith He loved us.**

### But God

The little word 'but' always means there is a change coming, and most of the time it is a change for the better. 'But God' stepped in for all of us, and in that moment of faith, 'but God' changed everything. 'But God' changes so much in a life that it brings all the spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ Jesus. At that moment of salvation we stand just as much a son of God as Jesus himself. It is God's will that we know who we are in Christ. In that moment we believed, God gave us every provision. We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, if so be we suffer with Him.

### Rich in mercy

God's grace brought us out of that disobedient condition wherein we were held. It is nothing of our own merit that brings us out of that condition. It is because of God's great mercy and love for us.

### His great love

John 3:16 tells us that God's love for us was so great that He gave His Son to die to save us. His love is the reason we can be saved and brought out of that disobedient condition of a child of wrath. He loved us even when we were dead in our sins.

Verses 5-14 reveal seven marvelous provisions God has made for the church:

### **VERSE 5**

**Even when we were dead in sins, he hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved;)**

#### 1) When we were dead in sins.

Until we come to Christ we are walking dead, full of sin and filthy in the sight of God. Our sins made Christ go to the cross to atone for them. Then when we believed we were quickened by grace, and because of Christ's precious shed blood we were made sons of the living God forever. We are saved, redeemed, holy, righteous, clean and forgiven because of Christ's atonement. When speaking of this death we are speaking of dying with Christ. God looks at Christ's death as the death of our sin.

#### 2) He quickened us together with Christ.

This is the quickening by the power of the Holy Spirit. A dead man can do nothing to raise himself from the dead. It is God who has raised us out of that death state. We are quickened together with Christ by faith.

## **VERSE 6**

**And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**

3) Hath raised us up together.

Not only has God raised us up in Christ, He has seated us together with Him in the heavens. We have experienced that wonderful resurrection power, and we have been made one with Christ. We haven't been raised up just to walk this earth, although many Christians do that.

4) Made us sit together in heavenly places.

This is where the resurrection power makes such a difference in our lives. Yes, we are in the world, but we are really a part of the heavenly realm. We become strangers in this world, and we don't feel we are a part of it at all. This is the way God intended it to be, because in Christ we are a heavenly people. 'Sit together' means we intend to stay with the heavenly realm.

## **VERSE 7**

**That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**

We must never get the idea that this is some far-off day; this applies to the age we are living in now. This is when God is showing His grace and kindness to us through Christ Jesus. We are to be experiencing the marvels of grace now, not way into the future. It always was and always will be grace. We are rich in Christ, and if so be we suffer with Him we can also reign with Him. Christ in us is the hope of glory. God help us to not glory in anything but Christ our Savior.

## **VERSE 8**

**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**

By grace are ye saved through faith

This means right now, and it means much more than just salvation from the guilt of sin. This means deliverance from whatever nature we may need deliverance from. Day after day being delivered in one way or another – not only from, but delivered to – the marvelous majesty of God's grace and power. Being saved by grace through faith applies to the majesty of God's great power.

And that not of yourselves

This grace doesn't come from us, it is the gift of God, and God gives us the faith to believe it. All the glory for believing belongs to God because He furnishes everything we need.

## **VERSE 9**

**Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

We didn't put any effort in to work for it. We can't do anything or add anything to what God has already done. Our faith is simply because we believe God's Word. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.



## **VERSE 10**

**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

5) We are His workmanship.

We are His product. He made us, and He knows us. We are His concern, His investment, and His inheritance. Everything God hopes to reap someday is us in Christ. This is beyond anything we could ever imagine, but this is exactly what God's love is. He never gets tired of telling us He loves us, and we should never get tired of telling Him we love Him, and how thankful we are for all He has done for us, both now and in the ages to come. The word workmanship means 'a product or a fabric, something built or woven.' God builds our lives one stitch at a time. He doesn't turn the whole fabric out in one day. He does it gradually; one stitch upon another.

### Created in Christ Jesus

It took God seven days to create this world. He didn't do it in one day, and He didn't create in our lives in one day. Our lifetime consists of those seven days, and God wants to produce all seven of these creation days in our spiritual lives. When God gave us Jesus, He gave us everything. We are God's jewels, and He wants us to grow more magnificent, and grow up in all things concerning Christ so we can finish the race to win Him with a full joy. We can do this if we let Him complete us.

### Good works

We are created in Christ Jesus unto good works, and only that which God is a part of can be called good. We can't go looking for good works because we would never find them. The good works are those ordained by God that we should walk therein, and they are right under our noses. Once we are created in Christ the good works follow. We don't have to look for them because God already knows which works He wants for our lives. All we have to do is walk in what God has already ordained.

## **VERSE 11**

**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;**

Paul is simply pointing out something he has pointed out again and again in his writings: the difference between Jew and Gentile. There was very strong prejudice the Jews had against the Gentiles, and the Gentiles against the Jews. This should not be so because we are all one in Christ.

## **VERSE 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:**

### Strangers from the covenants of promise

The covenant was with the Jews, but if there was a willing Gentile heart God would show himself faithful. Ruth and Rahab are two good examples. God is always looking for those who will look to Him.

### No hope

This was the life of the Gentiles before God made the difference. Now hope comes only from Jesus Christ, and the Gentiles are certainly enriched because of Him. Without Christ we have no citizenship, and we are aliens and strangers without hope. But for God, we would be eternally caught in our trespasses and sins. Gentiles were never given the law, but through Christ we have a better promise. Not only do we hope, we have the potential to abound in hope.

### **VERSE 13**

**But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.**

6) Ye who sometimes were far off.

Gentiles are no longer alienated if we are in Christ Jesus, because He brought us into God's family by the shedding of His precious blood. We are now in His keeping and accepted as sons. This is the intimate fellowship that God has provided for us in Christ Jesus. He is the one who makes the difference in the life of the Jew as well as the Gentile.

### **VERSE 14**

**For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;**

7) He is our peace.

Christ's blood gave us everlasting peace with the Father, and that means every child of God. That everlasting peace can never be severed. We are born of God in Christ Jesus, and that standing we have with God will never change. We will always be sons of God, because when we are saved, Christ's seed is planted in us, and it is the seed that remains forever. We are God's sons just as much as Jesus is His son.

### Wall of partition

The law given to Moses was the middle wall of partition. People trying to bring law into their lives are only trying to separate themselves from the love of God, and this hinders their minds and their fellowship with Him. God has made Jew and Gentile one, and has broken down the separating barrier between them. This seventh provision God has made is the one of Jew and Gentile known as the church. The bride will come out of the church and will be comprised of both Jews and Gentiles.

### **VERSE 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;**

### Abolished in His flesh the enmity

As was previously stated, the law is what separated the Jews and Gentiles. The law was never given to the Gentiles - only to the Jews. It became a real source of contention and division between the Jews and Gentiles. Jesus abolished the law by His death on the cross. There is no peace in the law, because in the law people will always be guilty and sinful.

### One new man

Jesus abolished the law to make Jew and Gentile one new man, and create peace between them. God is the one who joined the two together in the church as one in Christ. The law had to be completely done away with so we could go boldly to the throne of grace. Christ brought us nigh unto God and the middle wall of partition is gone.

### Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

### **VERSE 16**

**And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:**

The enmity that was slain by the cross is the law. The law was abolished, and all in Christ became part of His church. He reconciled us as one body at the cross. We who believe on Him were crucified with Him.

### **VERSE 17**

**And came and preached peace to you which were far off, and to them that were nigh.**

'You which were afar off' speaks of the Gentiles. The Jews were nigh. Now the Jews and the Gentiles have the same provision because of Christ.

### **VERSE 18**

**For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.**

Neither Jew nor Gentile has an advantage over the other. We are all one in God's eyes and we all have the wonderful spiritual blessings.

### **VERSE 19**

**Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;**

### No more strangers and foreigners

Before Christ came the Gentiles were called the uncircumcised heathen, and the Jews were the circumcision. Now God identifies the Gentiles as fellow citizens with the saints, of the household of God. We are no longer considered outcasts, or those who have no right to be here. The blood of the Lamb has made us sons of the living God.

### Household of God

We are collectively Jews and Gentiles alike, the household/family of God. There is much joy to dwell together now, and fellowship with one another.

### **VERSE 20**

**And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;**

### Built upon the foundation

Both Jew and Gentile are now part of this house built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

#### 1 Corinthians 3:11

For other foundation can no man lay that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The apostles and prophets introduced the truth of Christ, and they built all that foundation. Now we are simply building on the foundation they laid. The truth they brought is everlasting. What God has brought is complete; nothing can be added. We need to measure everything by the Word of God.

### Jesus Christ the chief cornerstone

If doctrine doesn't center around Jesus Christ, it is not the truth and must be discarded. We should never give credence to any doctrine that doesn't preach Jesus, and Him crucified.

### **VERSE 21**

**In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:**

This is another way that we are identified as being part of Christ. We are portrayed as a building fitly framed together and growing into a holy temple of the Lord. God builds this building very painstakingly, stone by stone. Growth takes time, and that is what God is doing. Every believer is a vital part of this building.

### **VERSE 22**

**In whom ye are also builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**

#### Ye also

Paul is speaking of the Gentiles. God is making us a part of that wonderful building that He ordained in Christ before the foundation of the world. We are so very privileged to be part of this church.

#### An habitation of God

God is building himself a dwelling place to dwell in. He could dwell anywhere, but He chooses to dwell with us. This is how much He loves us in His Son. Every piece of Solomon's temple was completed, then gathered up and put in its place in the temple. Jesus Christ, by His Spirit, is doing the same thing in this age. He is preparing all His pieces, i.e. all of us who believe. We live in the age where God's habitation is being built. We are vessels prepared afore unto glory, made and formed by grace and by the blood of Jesus Christ, His very life. This is where God will dwell.

## CHAPTER 3

In this chapter, God, who has invested everything in us in Christ, is looking for a return on His investment. God wants an increase in His investment; an increase at an increasing rate. We are about to enter into the age of the exceeding riches of His grace where our faith will be made whole, and we will be like Him. God desires the greatest return of His investment in us. He wants us to rule and reign with His Son.

We also find in this chapter that the Holy Spirit is going to take God's plan and put us in it if we will let Him. If we are ready to walk in it, the Holy Spirit is ready to guide us into the crowning glory truth.

### VERSE 1

**For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,**

#### For this cause

Cause means 'for this grace,' - the grace Paul wrote about in chapters 1 and 2. Paul got the message of the spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. They are all ours. That wonderful provision has made us one in Christ, and has made us nigh unto God. God chose Paul to bring and bestow that message. We will receive it the same way Paul did: by revelation, line upon line and precept upon precept.

#### Prisoner of Jesus Christ

Paul was a prisoner of Christ's love. That is how he was able to deliver all the marvelous messages he preached. We will never see any of Paul's message until Jesus captivates us. We love Jesus because He first loved us, but to see all of Paul's messages in detail we have to be in love with Jesus and totally captivated by Him.

#### Song of Solomon 7:10

I am my beloved's, and His desire is toward me.

Those who are captivated are groaning for the manifestation of that which is to come. We are bound to Jesus by love, and we love everything about Him.

#### For you Gentiles

In chapter 2 we were in time past Gentiles in the flesh. But in chapter 3 Gentiles are seen as children of the king; children of God, and the children of Abraham by faith. We need to get a vision of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus and run the race to apprehend Him as bridegroom.

### VERSE 2

**If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:**

#### Dispensation of the grace of God

'Dispensation' comes from the word domestic, and means 'keepers of the house.' This is who Paul was concerning the mystery of the grace of God. All truth and all the riches of Christ had been given, but they were not revealed until God revealed them to the apostle Paul. Jesus

Christ is the Word and He completed that message. The Holy Spirit is the one who will guide us into all truth. He had been with them, but at Pentecost it was made it possible for Him to be in them. They couldn't understand the truth Paul spoke about until they got filled with the Holy Spirit. We need to be full of the Spirit and yield our lives to the instruction that comes by the Holy Spirit.

A dispensation is the way God deals with men in certain eras, or ages of time. Time is divided into seven dispensations. God has dealt differently with men in each of these time periods.

#### The seven dispensations of time:

1) Dispensation of innocence.

This covers the period of Adam and Eve in the garden until they were cast out.

2) Dispensation of conscience.

This lasted about 1,656 years. It covers a period from the eviction of Adam and Eve from the garden until the flood. This period demonstrates what man will do if left to His own will and conscience, which had been tainted by the inherited sin nature from Adam.

3) Dispensation of human government.

This age began after the flood in Genesis and lasted until the call of Abraham. God saved one family from the flood to restart the human race. Eventually, because of the separation caused because of the building of the tower of Babel, human government emerged.

4) Dispensation of promise.

This age started with the call of Abraham and ended with the exodus of the Jews from Egypt which was about 430 years after Abraham. During this dispensation God developed a great nation He calls 'His people.' This is the 12 tribes of Israel.

5) Dispensation of the law.

This dispensation lasted almost 1,500 years from the exodus until it was suspended by Christ's death. The ten commandments were given to Moses during this time.

6) Dispensation of grace.

This dispensation was the new covenant in Christ's shed blood, which took the law out of the way and ushered in the time of grace. This time of grace, or Church Age, occurs between the 69th and 70th weeks of Daniel 9:24. It started with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and will end when the Bride and the church have been raptured.

7) Dispensation of the Millennial kingdom of Christ.

This age will last for 1,000 years. It is the time Christ will reign as God almighty. This age will see the preaching of the gospel all over the world. At the end of the age Christ will put away all evil at the white throne judgment. Satan and all sinners will join death, sin, and the antichrist and the false prophet in the lake of fire. This will usher in eternity, and a new heaven and new earth.

#### Given to Paul

The dispensation of the grace of God was given to Paul for the Church Age. God committed into Paul's hands the truth for the entire Church Age. It is no accident that Paul wrote over half of the New Testament. God gave him a very special message that was completely unique to any other message.

### **VERSE 3**

**How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,**

The message Paul preached was revealed to him directly from Christ Jesus. After Paul was born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, God took him out to the deserts of Arabia for about three years – back to where the law of Moses was given in order for him to understand why it was given. God gave Paul the revelation of the Church Age, and the truth concerning it. He made known unto Paul the mystery of the Bride of Christ. Jesus tried to put the law in perspective when He was on the earth when He said the whole law was fulfilled in two commandments: love God with all thine heart, and love your neighbor as yourself. These two commandments to love replaced the law of the ten commandments.

### **VERSE 4**

**Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)**

#### My knowledge

Paul wasn't trying to set himself up as the great one because of his knowledge, but he expressed that he wanted us to have the same knowledge God gave to him. This is the purpose of every pastor and teacher: to pass along the wonderful message that God has revealed to them.

#### Mystery

A mystery is something that is not just wide open for everyone to see; it is something that has to be sought after. Jesus spoke mysteries in the form of parables to separate those who have an ear to hear from those who don't. If people don't have an ear to hear or a heart to understand, they will never know the glory of the mysteries in the Bible. People must have a heart that is submissive to Him in order to understand the deep mysteries of God. We can know and understand the deep mysteries if we have the heart to know them. We need to read and study to show ourselves approved.

#### Mystery of Christ

We have to understand the mystery of Jesus. This includes all the glorious and inexhaustible provisions that God has given to us in Christ. We should spend the rest of our lives on this earth learning of all the glorious mysteries, provisions, and abundant wealth that God has given us in Christ.

### **VERSE 5**

**Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.**

#### In other ages

Paul is talking about the other ages that preceeded the age of grace. There were some powerful and spiritual men in those previous ages. They understood great mysteries, but they didn't understand the mystery that was given to Paul. God had that mystery closed up until this Church Age.

### Now revealed by the Spirit

The Holy Spirit is needed to enlighten our spiritual eyes and give a vision of the mysteries in the Church Age. We need to yield to His leading and guiding to understand the deep things of God.

#### 1 Peter 1:12

Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels long to look into.

### **VERSE 6**

**That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel:**

This is the mystery hidden to all those in ages past in the Old Testament. God didn't reveal it until the apostle Paul came on the scene. We find out about the mystery of the bride of Christ in Paul's gospel.

### That the Gentiles

#### Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

This was written six years before the book of Ephesians was written. The mystery in this verse is not the salvation of the Gentiles. Rahab and Ruth prove that Gentiles could be saved. That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body was known. What wasn't known was the mystery of God's call for a Bride for His Son Jesus.

#### Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.

This is not talking about God's heirs, because everyone who believes in Jesus is an heir of God. This is talking about joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, His Bride. It is God's desire that His children embrace His deep truths and become that wife for Jesus.

### Should be fellow heirs

To be a fellow heir is to be grown up in Christ in all things. Not all of God's children will embrace the potential to rule and reign with Christ. We should embrace the bridal truth, and walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called. The vocation is the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. He is waiting to be completed which will happen when He takes His Bride.

### **VERSE 7**

**Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power.**



### I was made a minister

The only way we can minister in any capacity is by the grace of God. The more grace we have the more ministering we will be able to accomplish. Paul speaks of the marvelous grace that was revealed to him, and he speaks of the things he had to go through to get that grace. God didn't deliver Paul from the thorn he had in the flesh, but He did tell Paul that His grace was sufficient for him. Paul learned a great deal about the depths of God's grace through that thorn in the flesh he endured. Grace enabled him to minister the same message to us.

### The gift of grace

It wasn't just grace, it was the gift of grace, and freely given.

#### Romans 5:15

But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

The gift of God's grace is Jesus Christ, and if fully received we become one in the very fullness of God. There is but one way into all truth, and one way into agape bridal love: through our guide and Comforter, the Holy Spirit. It has to be the effectual working of His power.

### **VERSE 8**

**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;**

#### Less than the least

Paul is not taking of himself. He knows that he is abased, that he is nothing, the chief of sinners, and less than the least of all saints. We must all remember we are nothing but for God. Paul never puffed himself up, but instead magnified the Lord. He knew it wasn't about him, and he didn't hold even his own life dear. He knew it wasn't Paul, it was Paul in Christ.

#### Unto me is this grace given

Being less than the least of all saints is not an option. Paul had to take that place in order for that grace to be given. God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. The more humble we are, the more grace we will experience in our lives. Humility is a state God brings about in our lives by the things which we experience. Only God can understand the depths of the humility that we are in. He can give us the marvelous grace Paul wrote about.

#### Preach among the Gentiles

Paul was given this grace so that he could preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to the Gentiles.

### **VERSE 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:**

### To make all men see

Paul doesn't leave anyone out. It is God's will that the gospel given to Paul be preached to all men.

### Colossians 1:5

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the Word of the truth of the gospel;

### Fellowship of the mystery

Fellowship means 'participation.' This fellowship is to participate in this mystery. Running for the prize is not something we can do from the sidelines. We have to participate in it, and be a part of it. Christ wants a wife, and she will know Him intimately. If we yield to the Word and suffer with Christ we can be part of that wonderful Bride. God not only wants us to know the mystery, but also to fellowship in it.

### Hid in God

The message Paul preached was hidden in the Old Testament all along. Even the spiritual ones were not given the eyes to see it because it wasn't in God's timing to reveal it yet. When the fullness of time was come, God lifted the veil. Paul saw the Church Age and the message hidden in the Old Testament. Once we see it, we see it all throughout the Old Testament. This message can be seen in type right from the Garden of Eden. Adam was only a type of Christ, and Eve was a type of the Bride of the Lamb. Their experience was a type of the redemption that we have in Christ himself.

### **VERSE 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,**

### To the intent

God had a purpose then, and He has a purpose now. 'To the intent that now (during this Church Age) unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places' speaks of the church because the church is seated in heavenly places. The church is the heavenly body of Abraham's seed just as Israel is the earthly body of Abraham's seed.

### Known by the church

The manifold wisdom of God can be known by the church. God is putting His wisdom on display in those of us in the church, and He is putting it on display to the principalities and powers. God is showing Satan himself His manifold wisdom, and He is using our lives to do it. From the very beginning the devil has tried to destroy God's masterpiece, but he will never be able to do it. God is putting us on display as absolute proof of His manifold wisdom that is never-ending, illuminated, and inexhaustible.

### **VERSE 11**

**According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:**

The church and the Gentiles were not an afterthought with God. He purposed everything before He ever created Adam. His eternal purpose has always been in Christ.

## **VERSE 12**

**In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him.**

In Christ we have boldness and access with confidence. We are confident that we have a right to come into the very presence of God. We do this by the same faith that Christ Jesus came with when He came before God.

## **VERSE 13**

**Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.**

### Wherefore

This is because of all of the messages Paul declared in the last few verses. He didn't want anyone to feel bad about the tribulations he had in order to bring them the gospel because he knew this was the reason God chose him. He knew tribulation came as a matter of course.

### Tribulations

There is treasure in the suffering and we need it. There is much evidence of many in the race being pressed out of measure beyond strength. Despairing of our lives is not uncommon. The Lord encourages our hearts not to despair.

#### 1 Peter 4:12-13

- 12) Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:
- 13) But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's suffering; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Through the suffering we learn the plan of God concerning apprehending the prize of His high calling in Christ Jesus and winning Him as Bridegroom. Everything around the throne will be a perfect work of grace. God comforts us in all our tribulation, and even though suffering is not joyous for the moment, there is abounding hope that happens by faith. Because of faith there is peace and rest for us. Because we suffer, we can help others who are suffering.

## **VERSE 14**

**For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

This is the most important prayer, or petition, that Paul gives throughout his epistles. These people he is praying for are saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, and walking with the Lord. Paul prayed that they would take heed to the calling of God's deeper truth; the very high calling of God in Christ Jesus, the Bridal truth that he preached. Learn how to pray the way Paul prayed, by praising the Father before asking for anything. Pray unto the Father through Christ, and give Him honor.

## **VERSE 15**

**Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,**

When the whole family in heaven and earth is named it gives glory to Christ, because He is the reason this prayer is effective.

## **VERSE 16**

**That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man**

The five petitions of Paul's prayer:

1) To be strengthened.

This is to be strengthened with might by His Spirit. There are three ways Paul prayed for strength:

### **With might**

This means with the dynamo power of the Holy Spirit. He wanted the Holy Spirit to indwell and to empower these saints.

### **By His power**

Only by the power of the Holy Spirit, and not by our own strength. Nothing of us, but by the Spirit only.

### **In the inner man**

Paul didn't pray for the physical body, but for the strength of the inner man. In order for the inner man to be strong, the old man must be weak, lowly, humble, and willing to receive correction. When we are weak we are strong in Him.

## **VERSE 17**

**That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,**

2) Christ may dwell in your hearts.

This is by faith. Doesn't Christ reside in every heart of every believer? Yes, He does, but dwelling in the heart by faith is different than just being present. Dwelling in the heart means it is Christ who takes up ownership of the heart and rules and controls it. He is not just an honored guest, He has absolute authority. This is what God wants Him to be to us.

3) Rooted and grounded in love.

We have to have our roots in divine love. That is why Jesus said the law was fulfilled in two commandments: Love God above all else, and love our brother as ourselves. It will be love that brings us through – not our love for Him, but His love for us. The Shulamite in Song of Solomon finally realized she was her beloved's, and his desire was toward her. She knew she had totally captivated his heart and his love. Christ's love and desire for us will never fail. This is a joy unspeakable and full of glory. His love is the entire basis of it all, and we can never be separated from His love. Rooted and grounded means 'to be fixed and not moved.'

## **VERSE 18**

**May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;**

#### 4) Comprehend with all saints.

We are going to have to interact with other saints wherein this love is concerned. Love is not something we learn all by ourselves, and this is not just knowing about it, but to comprehend it by allowing the Holy Spirit to make it our own. The Holy Spirit takes the love of Christ and sheds it abroad in our hearts.

#### Breadth, length, depth, and height

Paul is presenting God here as a giant cube, and that cube corresponds with different phases and expressions in our lives. We have all the dimensions of His love; nothing is left out.

#### Breadth

This signifies prosperity and the blessings of the Lord. We learn the wonders of God's love during His time of making us prosperous in the Lord, both spiritually and naturally.

#### Length

This means extremely. This is when we learn of God at the end of our rope, when we have exhausted all of our resources and we learn the length that God will go to help us.

#### Depth

This speaks of the deep holes we sometimes find ourselves in, otherwise known as valley experiences. Some Christians think that if they are not always on top of the mountain they will not be an overcoming Christian. This is not true because we learn so many lessons in the valley. All the great fruit and blessings are not on the mountaintop. Many are down in the depths of the valley. This is where God is going to produce fruit in our lives. Divine love is learned in the valley experiences.

#### Height

This tells us of the mountaintop experience. No Christian could survive going through the valley continually. We need all four of these dimensions to understand the fullness of God's love. We need to be in the valleys to appreciate how wonderful the mountaintops are. God leads us through all these different experiences so that we may comprehend with all saints that fullness of what His love is all about.

#### **VERSE 19**

**And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.**

#### To know the love of Christ

The love of Christ passes all knowledge. You can't learn it out of a book, it has to be learned by experience. This is no mystery; Paul is telling us exactly what God desires. We don't have to go through life wondering what our purpose is, because God is very clear about His desire for us: to be saved and to come to a full knowledge of His love. This is simple and straight-forward when we believe it and settle into it.

#### 5) That we might be filled with all the fullness of God.

This is to come to a place of fullness and completion. This verse proves that this walk is a spiritual walk that cannot be attained by the natural mind.

This is needed to know the deeper things of God, which is His high calling in Christ Jesus. He who wills to know will know, and it all comes by revelation of His Word, and by His Spirit. The way to be filled with all the fullness of God is to be filled with divine love. God is love, and to be filled with Him is to be filled with love. Filled with all the fullness only happens one way: in the life of God's Son Jesus. We need to grow up in Christ to have all the fullness of God.

#### **VERSE 20**

**Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.**

#### **Unto Him that is able**

Paul closes this prayer glorifying the Lord. We can expect Him to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think. God is always faithful in these things. There are many different ways we could apply this to our lives. Paul wrote about the five petitions in his prayer that he gave to the Lord. God is able to answer that prayer exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, in all the requests that Paul put before Him. God can do all those things in our lives.

#### **According to the power**

This is calling on the power of the Holy Spirit, which is the very Spirit of God, in order to fulfill these things in our lives. This is the encouragement to rest solely in His grace, and to know we are His workmanship. We have everything in Christ so we need to trust Him. How much are we going to live in the provision He has made?

#### **VERSE 21**

**Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.**

God is not just going to be glorified now, He will also be glorified throughout all the ages to come for what He has done in this Church Age in the glorious body of Christ. This is also pertaining to the body within the body, the rib portion of His body that will become His Bride. We need to run well and win Him as our Bridegroom because there is no greater gift. His Bride will love the body the same way Jesus does, and they will cherish the treasure He has so greatly blessed her with.

## **CHAPTER 4**

In this chapter we see a change in Paul's message. Chapters 1-3 detailed the plan and provision of God. The last three chapters refer to the practicality of this message. We have to have the first part in order to fulfill the last part. We have already been made worthy by the blood of the Lamb. That blood conquered everything. We now can step out in faith to live the plan God has for us by super abounding in the all sufficient grace God has given us. Many Christians get into trouble when they try to practice the gospel when they haven't really taken it in. We need to be built up in faith with the truth and let God make it a part of our lives.

## **VERSE 1**

**I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.**

### Prisoner of the Lord

Paul was a willing prisoner of Christ's love. This love-prison is a prison Christians need to rejoice in.

### Beseech you

Beseech is not just a call, it means 'to call to one's side with authority.' God is calling us closer to Him in His Son, and He calls with authority. Our calling and our purpose is to grow up in Christ in all things and win Him as Bridegroom. God wants us to walk in this calling by His glorious grace, and He gives us faith in His ability to accomplish it in us.

### Walk worthy of the vocation

Vocation means 'divine invitation to embrace the salvation of God.' The vocation wherewith we are called refers to all the callings referred to in the first three chapters of this book. God has called us unto a heavenly inheritance, to be one with Christ, and dwell in the heavenlies. Paul urged the saints to take God up on something more, something greater that they didn't yet have – the invitation to embrace and apprehend His high calling in Christ Jesus. God wants to put those who are walking worthy of the calling on display throughout all the ages. We need to get a running start and manifest it now.

## **VERSE 2**

**With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;**

Verses 2 and 3 tell us how to walk worthy. Walking worthy is not by all the wonderful works we can come up with. Walking worthy of the calling means:

1) With all lowliness.

This is about discovering what true humility is. It is all lowliness and meekness, not just some here and some there. True dependence on the grace of God is the only way we are ever going to be able to walk in the new life.

2) With all meekness.

We are going to have to let God fight our battles, because we can't fight them in our own strength. We believe God to fight principalities and powers in His strength.

3) With longsuffering.

This doesn't mean suffering for a long time, this is an attitude whereby we may have to bear with someone else during our walk, just as God does with us.

4) Forbearing one another in love.

The practicality of our walk in our new man means we are need to forbear one another. We are need to have grace with other people, and be longsuffering in forbearing with them. Forbearing one another is holding one another in Christ's love, not in ours.

### **VERSE 3**

#### **Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

5) Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Unity with the saints of God is another example of our wonderful, worthy walk. Endeavoring means 'make haste, be diligent.' Be diligent to guard the oneness and stand in defense of it. The bond of peace is that peace that passes all understanding.

### **VERSE 4**

#### **There is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;**

This is a glorious verse intended to bring about unity. One hope of our calling means 'the overall hope of being with Christ.' The Holy Spirit brings the unity to our lives.

#### **One body**

Man's attempt to unify and organize the body doesn't bring unity, but instead causes division. In Christ there is no division.

#### **1 Corinthians 12:12**

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.

There are no schisms in His body, no divisions or separations caused by differences of opinions or beliefs.

#### **One Spirit**

There is only one Spirit, and that is the Holy Spirit. He only dwells in one place, and that is in the body, the church. He is the Comforter Jesus sent after He ascended to heaven to sit on the right hand of God. The Holy Spirit only speaks of and professes one thing: Christ Jesus.

#### **1 John 4:1**

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

When these spirits appear they sound good, but they will not profess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh and/or that He is the only way to the Father. There are many wolves in sheep's clothing, and they are out to try to kill, to steal, and to destroy.

#### **One hope of your calling**

Paul wrote about embracing the salvation of God, which is winning Jesus Christ as Bridegroom. Paul wanted to be resurrected out from among the body and to meet Christ in the air at the first trump. God is calling us to this also.

#### **Philippians 3: 12-14**

12) Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting



those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.

14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Not many people want to hear and embrace this salvation of God. We who want it are truly blessed to have the chance to win Christ Jesus as Bridegroom. This is made known to all who want to know it.

#### **VERSE 5**

**One Lord, one faith, one baptism,**

##### One Lord

Lord means 'master or owner.' This is Christ who is the head of His own body, the church. He is also to be the head of our own personal life. When we took Christ as Savior, He bought us with His precious blood. We are not our own.

##### One faith

There is only one faith, and that is the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. If we don't have His faith, we have no faith. There are many faiths in the world, but God only recognizes the faith of our Lord Jesus, and without that faith it is impossible to please Him. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

##### One baptism

This is talking about the baptism that was a one time event when the whole church was baptized into one body on the day of Pentecost. This is not speaking to water baptism after we are saved by Christ.

##### 1 Corinthians 12:13

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.

This is separate from individual infilling of the Spirit. The baptizing of the Holy Spirit on that day was for every child of God that would ever be in the church. All who believe Christ become part of that one body the second they are born again.

#### **VERSE 6**

**One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**

God in us in Christ is the fullness of God. There is one God and Father of all.

##### Isaiah 43:10

Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, and My servants whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He: before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me.

Matthew 23:9

And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

**VERSE 7**

**But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**

Unto every one of us

This is referring to individuals who make up Christ's collective body.

Given grace

This means individual grace. We need to understand the tremendous grace that God has given to us. This grace is the freely-given unmerited favor and undying love of God.

According to the measure

According to the measure of the gift of Christ refers to the quantity of the unspeakable gift of Christ. There is no way we could ever measure the quantity of this gift of grace, nor could we ever begin to exhaust it. The plan, the provision, the wealth, the favor, and the promise were all freely given while we were yet sinners.

Romans 8:32

He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

These are spiritual blessings, freely given. They can't be earned. When God gives, He gives everything. Trying to find favor with God in our own efforts is an insult to God.

**VERSE 8**

**Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.**

Before Christ ascended up on high

This is in reference to just after Jesus died on the cross and went into upper Sheol, or paradise. When Jesus told the thief on the cross that He would be with Him in paradise that very day, this was what he was talking about. Upper Sheol was the abode of the righteous dead at that time. All of the unrighteous dead were in lower Sheol, or hell. There was a great gulf fixed between upper and lower Sheol.

Led captivity captive

When Jesus ascended on high and led captivity captive, He took all the spirits of the righteous dead in upper Sheol to heaven with Him. Christ had to defeat sin and death on the cross before that could happen.

Gave gifts to men

The first gift He gave was that all who believe died with Him, are raised with Him, and are seated together in the heavens. Christ completed it once for all. Jesus gave each one of us as a gift to the rest of the body, the church. We are to be beneficial to the rest of the body of Christ as a gift from God.

### **VERSE 9**

**(Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)**

When Jesus died, paradise was in the lower parts of the earth where He went to take the righteous dead to heaven with Him. Paradise is now in heaven.

### **VERSE 10**

**He that descended is the same also that descended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.)**

#### He that descended

The prison of death could not hold our precious Jesus. He broke the bars of that prison, not only for himself, but for all those He brought out with Him.

#### Fill all things

God raised Jesus from the grave, and brought Him back to heaven where He came from originally. Christ will fill all things, and will have preeminence.

### **VERSE 11**

**And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;**

These pastors, evangelists, prophets, etc., are gifts God gives to us. He gives many gifts, and He always knows what gifts the body needs. All the gifts are by grace. There are 5 mentioned:

#### 1) Apostles.

The word apostle means 'to set in order, to arrange, to be sent out.' Paul the apostle was given as a gift to the church.

#### Colossians 1:25

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God.

Fulfill means 'to complete.' It wasn't Paul that fulfilled the Word of God, it was the message he gave out. Paul was the vessel God chose to preach the glorious message of His full counsel, the deeper things of God, and the Bridal truth. Paul preached the gospel given to him by Christ through the Holy Spirit. We are to follow Paul as he followed Christ.

#### Prophet

A prophet is a brother or sister in Christ who speaks to edify, comfort and exhort; one who interprets the scriptures. A prophet expounds the Word of God, and prophesy is the spirit of the Word of God. There are many false prophets that go against the Word of God. They look to the sensational, distort the Word, and rob people of the true gospel.

### Evangelist

An evangelist is a messenger of God. Evangelists share the Word of God and save many souls from an eternity in an everlasting hell.

### Pastors and teachers

These two are linked together. A true pastor is a teacher, but a teacher is not always a pastor. Those who are teachers should take the gift God gave them and be content with it. A pastor is a shepherd, one who tends and feeds the church. Jesus manifested all of these gifts while He was on the earth.

### VERSE 12

**For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

All of the ministers are for the purposes found in verses 12-16. These verses give us 10 ultimate purposes that God uses ministers for. All of them have one thing in common: ministering God's Word. This is how God has them fulfill the ministry of edification to the rest of the body. The purposes God has for giving out His message:

1) For the perfecting of the saints.

God intends to perfect, to complete and bring saints to maturity. He intends for us to be complete. Any completeness we have will be in Christ, and God has given all the tools to do that. We have to take hold of the provisions for this to be accomplished.

2) For the work of the ministry.

God gave us this message so that we might complete the work He has given us to do as far as the ministry is concerned.

3) For the edifying of the body of Christ.

God intends for all ministers to edify the body. This literally means 'to build one another up in love.' We are built up by the truth in love as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### VERSE 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 fullness of Christ:**

4) Till we all come in the unity of the faith.

God intends to bring this unity about in the Bridal company. To the rest of the church it will be accomplished to some degree because the entire church is going to be in heaven.

5) The knowledge of the Son of God.

It is the knowledge of the Son of God that needs to be brought forth. Paul was obsessed with the giving of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Jesus is everything; He is all in all.

6) Unto a perfect man.

This refers to a complete man. There is nothing missing or left out of the complete man. We need to be led by the Holy Spirit because He takes us where we need to go. He takes the things of Christ, and makes them ours. Christ in us is the hope of glory, and us in Christ becomes this perfect man.

7) Unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

This is what God wants to do. He wants to produce His Son in us. The only life that God has been completely satisfied with is the life of Christ Jesus. When we were saved, God put this life in us. He intends that each one of us manifest that life to the degree that we are all put together to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. The plan and provision are already there, and the power is given for us to take that place. The measure means 'the rule, or a standard, or a mark.' This is exact and precise, and is about the life that He has already given to us, and that He wants to grow up in us. Stature means 'a time of life, or age.' The time of life is the fullness of Christ and the age is the Church Age.

#### **VERSE 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;**

8) That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about by every wind of doctrine.

We are operating as mature sons of God or we are operating as children. 'Children' literally means 'infants.' God wants us to settle down in the strong meat of His Word, and grow to maturity. One of the greatest purposes for us is that we are not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. Those who don't know what is right, or what to do will be constantly battered about by the enemy.

'Every wind of doctrine' shows that Satan has his ministers in the world. There are many ungodly doctrines of men, and the enemy is spreading his lies everywhere. Unfortunately, many Christians pay heed to them. All the fear and anxiety these devilish doctrines cause could be put to rest just by knowing God's Word. We should stay away from those who make void the grace of God. We should flee those who refuse to preach the doctrine. Many churches don't preach doctrine today, because people don't want to hear it anymore. Christ warned that some would not endure sound doctrine.

#### **By the sleight of men**

Slight literally means 'dice playing, trickery.' These slights of men are illusions, counterfeit. They may seem real, but they are not. Many today are practicing deceit to promote their own agenda. They lie in wait for the purpose of deceiving Christians, as well as the unsaved. God doesn't intend for us to fall victim to this.

#### **Cunning craftiness**

Cunning craftiness equals disguise and evil means 'motives.' Those who practice these are wolves in sheep's clothing that are ready to lead others astray. God directs our steps in faith. He will keep us from them. Everything we need is in the will of God.

## **VERSE 15**

**But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:**

9) Speaking the truth in love.

To speak the truth in love we need to know the truth. Truth is the greatest weapon against error and lies. The love of the truth completes the vessel to grow up into Christ in all things in order for us to apprehend the prize of God's high calling in Christ Jesus.

10) Grow up into Him in all things.

Growth is actually divided into four parts: may grow, may grow up, may grow up in Him, and grow up in Him in all things. To grow, Christ has to be the center focus of our lives, and everything about us surrounds Him. If Christians stop at any one of these growth stages they will have a limited amount of growth. To grow up and become mature in Christ, He has to be the focus in every area and part of our lives. It is the Son that knows and realizes we are nothing except for what we are because of the Father's love. It takes a humble heart by grace to grow up in Him in all things. When we realize it's all God's work we will cease from our own works, and trust in His ability to make us into that complete and readied wife.

## **VERSE 16**

**From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**

### From whom

When we grow up in Christ we draw from Him. He is the vine, and we are the branches. We have to stay with the vine and draw from it or we have no fruit to give to God or man.

### Every joint supplied

Every joint draws love from Christ, the supply. When we get love from Christ we show the same love back to the rest of the body.

### Effectual working in the measure of every part

First we receive from Christ, then we supply according to the effectual working of every part which makes increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. The many things we get from Jesus can be summed up in one word: love. We draw love from Christ in all its different manifestations and then we share that love back to the rest of the body.

The evidence of the sun glory life radiates from within the Bride because she loves the saints. She loves the body as she loves the Head. She yields to that tightly-compacted calling, and she supplies the needs of the body. She takes her place willingly and joyfully. She knows she is nothing without the Head and the rest of the body. God's family is so essential. We need to come together to worship, fellowship, love, and grow up into the place God has ordained for us.

### **VERSE 17**

**This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,**

We draw from Christ, and He wants us to walk in love toward others. Not as other Gentiles who walk in the vanity of their mind.

### **VERSE 18**

**Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:**

Verses 18 and 19 are not a description of the life of Christ, but rather a description of the old, fallen Adamic nature in which we all walked in at one time. This describes the walk of some Gentiles in the vanity of their mind. This is the walk that every Christian had before coming to the Lord. Unfortunately some Christians continue this walk after they receive Christ as Savior.

The walk of the Gentiles we want to stay away from:

1) Having the understanding darkened.

Some do not walk in the right way because they don't understand how to walk that way. Their understanding has been darkened.

2) Alienated from the life of God.

Men will never understand or walk the Christian life without Christ himself, and without yielding to Him and having Him in their heart. They are alienated because of the blindness and hardness of their hearts.

### **VERSE 19**

**Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**

3) Being past feeling.

They are so selfish they don't feel anything for anyone but themselves.

4) Given themselves over unto lasciviousness.

Lasciviousness means 'lawlessness.' They are given to a life of moral impurity.

5) To work uncleanness with greediness.

This is a description of the old life that we must walk away from.

### **VERSE 20**

**But ye have not so learned Christ:**

A change comes when we learn Christ. The next few verses show us that it is only as we take Christ that we are able to minister to the rest of the body. The only things we can give are what belong to us.

### **VERSE 21**

**If so be that ye have heard Him, and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:**

'If so be that ye have heard Him' is the key to the rest of the verses in this chapter. Paul is trying to get us to hear our Lord and to be taught by Him. The truth is in Jesus, and we must walk according to truth.

The Ephesian Church was an elite and spiritual church. Paul addressed the full overcoming Ephesian Christians in this manner because he wanted them to realize that even though Satan is our greatest enemy he can't get to the new spiritual nature Christian. He can only get to a Christian through the old nature of the flesh.

Satan will use our own flesh against us. That is why we must put into operation the things we see in the latter part of this chapter. We must bring our flesh into submission and follow these exhortations for our own protection so that Satan does take advantage of us.

### **VERSE 22**

**That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;**

Paul first tells us to put off the old man; then he gets very specific. We can't put off the old man by our own wishful thinking, our own resolve, or our own willpower.

### **VERSE 23**

**And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;**

To be renewed in the spirit of our mind, God has to teach us to think differently. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. We need our minds renewed by learning and hearing God's Word.

### **VERSE 24**

**And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.**

We receive the seed of Jesus' life when we are saved. How much we grow in that new life depends on how much of God's truth we learn in the Word through preaching, Bible studies, in prayer and worship. We need to immerse ourselves in truth and love. The more we know of Christ the more that new life takes over.

### **VERSE 25**

**Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.**

#### **Put away lying**

There is no way we could ever put away lying unless we are willing to speak truth. We replace lies with the truth. Romans chapter 12 tells us that we overcome evil with good. It is only as we exercise good that we overcome evil.



### Members one of another

This shows the oneness of His body. This is a warning from Him for us to protect the unity and hold the fort until He comes. God desires for us to be part of the glorious church without spot or wrinkle. His grace gives us the desire to win Him. Winning Him requires the maturing and edifying of His body in supplying His grace one to another.

### VERSE 26

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

#### Be ye angry and sin not

Everyone has to deal with anger. Being angry is one thing, but when we are controlled by that anger is a sin. Sometimes the anger is justified. God is angry with the wicked every day, but anger never controls Him.

#### Let not the sun go down upon your wrath

Don't justify wrath, but instead, apply scripture to it. Go by the principles of scripture and don't let the sunlight of God's Word get lost on maintaining or justifying anger.

### VERSE 27

**Neither give place to the devil.**

A person who is controlled by anger is wide open to the attack of the enemy. Satan will control an angry person. We are told to flee the very appearance of evil. We are not to enter into it when the devil starts to tempt us in the old man. A grieved heart toward sin reproves and rebukes and seeks to cover sin that we see in our brother. This doesn't mean we condone the sin, it means we are to cover our brother's nakedness. This is a testimony to the grace of God and will make us look more like Christ than we ever imagined we could. After we cover the sin we then pray that God give us the right heart to respond in love. When we respond in love, it stops Satan cold.

### VERSE 28

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

Substitute the stealing with work, not only for the things you need, but also to give to others in need. This is the way to overcome evil and the traits of the flesh.

### VERSE 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.**

We are to replace corrupt communication with good communication to edify and be a benefit to others. We shouldn't tear people down, but build them up. Nothing will destroy our testimony faster than evil speaking. When someone says something about us we don't like, remember that God has given us the grace to overcome. Seek to be a vessel that edifies and promotes spiritual growth in one another. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Gossip is also evil communication that hurts the body. These things need to be overcome if we are to win Christ. We need to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We need to not only talk the talk, but also walk the walk.

### **VERSE 30**

**And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption.**

#### Grieve not the Holy Spirit

We grieve the holy Spirit of God by rebellion.

#### Isaiah 63:10

But they rebelled, and vexed His Holy Spirit: therefore He was turned to be their enemy, and He fought against them.

To grieve the holy Spirit of God is to not to allow Him to do the things in our lives He wants to do. He wants to control our tongues as well as the rest of us.

#### Sealed unto the day of redemption

This means the day of the redemption of the body.

#### Romans 8:23

And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

### **VERSE 31**

**Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:**

The person that grieves the Holy Spirit is the person who allows all things in this verse to come into their life without allowing God to conquer these things. Let all these things listed be put away from us. Clamor means 'always needing to speak out about an issue.' Whatever the issue is we need to take it to God, not to man.

### **VERSE 32**

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

#### Be kind one to another

We must at all costs replace verse 30 and the anger in verse 26 with this verse. You can tell when you have truly forgiven a person and are no longer angry with them when you can be kind and tenderhearted toward them and minister to them. You can know by this that God has given you the Spirit of forgiveness, of grace, of kindness, and tenderheartedness.

#### Even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you

If we wait for the offender to ask for forgiveness we may wait for a long time. An unforgiving heart is an angry heart, and an angry heart is the devil's workshop. Don't give the devil that sort

of a foothold. We can't afford to be unforgiving and angry. We must forgive even as God for Christ's sake forgave us. God didn't forgive us because we asked for it, but because Jesus paid our sin debt at Calvary on that cruel cross. When someone has offended us, one of the best ways to forgive a person who never even asks for forgiveness is to visualize that offence, and then visualize hanging it on the cross where Jesus has already paid for it. The price is paid, so nothing is owed. When we forgive this way it is not for the benefit of the offender, but it is for our benefit. This keeps the enemy from holding us in an attitude of unforgiveness and anger.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **VERSE 1**

**Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;**

#### Be ye

In Christ we are vessels blessed with all spiritual blessings. God just wants us to be who we are.

#### Therefore

This points back to the plan and provision. In 4:21 - 31 we are told how to conduct ourselves.

#### Followers of God

The only way we will achieve the things God wants in our lives is for us to follow Him. 'Follow' shows that God does not demand of us or drive us.

#### Dear children

This is also talking about the faith of children. 'Dear' indicates the special place God's children have in His heart. This is a matter of love, endearment, and a close place with Him. He wants us always to have the faith of children, because children are quick to believe. We should never grow so much that we lose that child-like faith.

There are three distinct walks in this chapter:

- 1) Verse 2: walk in love.
- 2) Verse 8: walk as children of light.
- 3) Verse 15: walk circumspectly.

All of these are part of our walk as followers of God as dear children.

### **VERSE 2**

**And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor.**

#### Walk in love

The standard for this is Christ himself. Jesus is the standard, the example, and the pattern.

### John 13: 34-35

34) A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35) By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.

To the degree that we have experienced the love of Christ in our own lives is the degree that we are able to express such love to other people: To walk in love is God's perfect will, the perfected walk of love; the perfected ones in Christ. This life lives and breathes what we read in Romans 8:28, 'All things work together for good to those who are called in Christ Jesus.'

### 1 John 2:5

But whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we are in Him.

Keepeth means 'guards, protects, cherishes, takes heed to.' Rejoice in those whom the love of God has perfected, and they walk in love just as Christ Jesus has loved us. This is a love walk.

### An offering and a sacrifice

Jesus sacrificed himself for us so as to make that sacrifice a sweet smelling savor to God our Father. Christ loves the church and gave himself for it. Sacrificial love means that there are times when we show love that we may have to sacrifice to do it, just as Christ did. Jesus' sacrifice, as well as ours, is unto God. We are the beneficiaries of the wonderful plan of redemption. We need to realize that what motivated Christ was sacrificing himself unto His Father. Our bodies should be a living sacrifice unto God and a sweet smelling savor unto Him.

### **VERSE 3**

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

God is mentioning these things to the Ephesians to let them know that yielding to the flesh is a definite possibility. Satan can't touch the new man, but it is possible for him to get to the old creation we still have living in us. We have to learn to overcome the flesh and resist temptation because no man is beyond yielding to the flesh.

### Fornication

Fornication means 'harlot or idolatry.' This fornication is something far beyond the natural fornication – it is spiritual fornication. In Revelation, in the letter to the church at Ephesus, this fornication is the only thing Christ had against them. He commended them for the good things they did, but He had "somewhat against them." That 'somewhat' was that they had left their first love and allowed false doctrine to come in. This left them open to spiritual fornication and uncleanness. Many Christians are defeated today because they believe things that are not truth. Spiritual fornication is committed when men take headships other than Christ and believe false doctrines. They substitute God's will and authority for their own.

### Coveting

Coveting means 'something we long for that God did not intend for us to have.' This can be in a religious way.

### Not once named among you

We must learn how to make Christ – and Him alone – our Head. We cannot come under denominational heads where men take the place as heads of the church. Christ always has been and always will be the only Head of the church.

### **VERSE 4**

**Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.**

#### Filthiness

Filthiness simply means 'shameful.' Foolish talking means 'a rebellion.' The fool said in his heart 'There is no God.'

#### Jesting

Jesting means 'a well tuned or facetious joke.' This is referring to dirty jokes and dirty stories. Jest is joking at someone's expense. There are those who will make others look small for a good laugh.

#### Not convenient

This means 'it is not proper,' and Paul says to refrain from such things. Our speech toward other people should build them up, not tear them down, and not make them the point of embarrassment. We should be giving thanks to God for people.

### **VERSE 5**

**For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.**

This verse is not talking about life and death, it is talking about inheritance. There are religious idolaters who are saved but have taken headships other than Christ. These people can be saved and in God's family, but there won't be much of an inheritance for them. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 tells us that if any man builds on his foundation wood, hay, and stubble, and not gold, silver, and precious stones, their work will perish when tried with fire. His work will burn up, but he himself shall be saved. There will be a sparse inheritance for that life. We must build on the right foundation, build with the right materials, and build in the Spirit of the Lord if we are to receive a reward. Those who do not appreciate the blessings of the Lord will not have the lavish inheritance they could have had if they had believed God.

### **VERSE 6**

**Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.**

#### Let no man deceive you

Vain words are religious words. There are some false apostles who are deceivers.

### 2 Corinthians 11:13

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

Vain deceivers are living to their own bellies and their own desires. They use good words and deliver fair speeches, but lie in wait to deceive by every wind of doctrine. Speaking the truth in love is what grounds us. Men's thoughts and perceptions have no place in God's pulpits. We are espoused to Christ Jesus, and He should be our Head always. The glorious church without spot or wrinkle will not commit adultery with those religious fornicators.

### Because of these things

Because of all the ungodly things, the wrath of God falls on the children who defend them. There is always a price to be paid. Men can't speak things that are contrary to the truth and get away with it. Tickling peoples' ears by telling them things that are not right just to gain a following greatly displeases God.

### Children of disobedience

These children of disobedience are the Christ-rejecters, and God will judge them. He will also judge the saved children of disobedience. God doesn't have a double standard; He doesn't excuse His children from wrongdoing just because they are His children. They will not lose their place in heaven but they will most assuredly lose their inheritance.

### VERSE 7

**Be not ye therefore partakers with them.**

Don't be partners with those who partake of the wrongdoing. Judgment will come.

### VERSE 8

**For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:**

### Ye were sometimes in darkness

These were once just like the wrongdoers, but that was in the past. Children abiding in darkness will not inherit with the worthies of faith, i.e. the children of light. The Bible tells us that if we sow to the flesh, we will reap corruption. Sowing to the spirit is life everlasting. God's Word is always true and just.

### Now are ye light in the Lord

Once in darkness but now in light is the difference between God's people and the sons of the devil. The devil's children are known as the sons of darkness. God's children, even though they don't always act like it, are children of the light the moment they are born again. God would rather we acted like children of light and not as children of darkness. To walk as a child of the light we have to become active in that light. We need to let the world know that we are of light. We should stick out like a sore thumb against the darkness of this world.

### VERSE 9

**(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth:)**

This is the walk of the children of light that is manifested in the spirit. When we manifest this fruit in our lives it is an indication that we are walking as the children of light.

### **VERSE 10**

**Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.**

We are to walk as children of light so that we might prove ourselves before God and prove what is acceptable unto Him. Many Christians are trying to prove what is acceptable to the world, not God.

Verses 11 and 12 are a warning to get away from anything that would keep us from God's best. The things we will come against are not worthy to compare with what He has for overcoming saints. It will be worth the fight to attain Christ as Bridegroom and all the glory that will be revealed in us.

### **VERSE 11**

**And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.**

#### No fellowship

Fellowship means 'to partake.' Many Christians are partakers of unfruitful works of darkness of this world and have nothing to do with the light. That doesn't mean we have a 'holier than thou' attitude, but it does mean we do not engage in the same practices and activities that the world promotes. We are to be children of the light, not with those who partake in the works of darkness.

#### Rather reprove them

We need to understand how to reprove those who dwell in darkness.

### **VERSE 12**

**For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.**

The way to condemn such things as abortion, homosexuality, etc. is not to get on a soapbox and declare all the shameful and ungodly things people are doing. Prayer is always the answer.

### **VERSE 13**

**But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.**

Walking in the light is the reproof of darkness. When we walk in the light we will show up quickly in the darkness. People can be reprov'd and convicted by our walk without us saying a word. People may lash out against us as they are convicted by the light that is in us.

### **VERSE 14**

**Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.**

### Wherefore

'Wherefore' indicates the principle found in verse 13. We as Christians need to wake up and let our light shine.

### Awake that sleep

Sinners are never asleep; sinners are dead in trespasses and sins. Some Christians aren't dead, they are just sleeping. However, there is little difference in a sleeping Christian and a dead sinner in the way they look at the world and the way they behave. Paul called on sleeping Christians to awaken. When we are living luminaries unto the rest of the world we will reprove the darkness in the world.

Spiritual slumber is all around us in the 'organization' of the church. The church is to be seen as an living organism, not an organization. Religious traditions and ceremonies are not how Jesus does it. God has not appointed us to wrath, but to win His Son.

### **VERSE 15**

**See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.**

### Walk circumspectly

Circumspectly means 'exactly.' We don't stagger about like drunks. We have a definite purpose in our walk. In order to walk circumspectly, we need let the Holy Spirit put our feet exactly where they need to be so we don't trip and fall.

### Not as fools, but as wise

A fool is one who leaves God out of his life. Don't walk as a fool by not reflecting the way and principles of God, but walk as a wise person who walks in conjunction with the scripture.

### **VERSE 16**

**Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**

### Redeeming the time

We can't wait until tomorrow, or next week, or next year to start walking in the light. We have to do it now. We need to invest in the things moths, rust, or thieves can't take or destroy. Build with gold, silver, and precious stones instead of wood, hay, and stubble.

### The days are evil

Those evil days are now – not just with the immorality and the ungodliness of the world, but also with religious evil that is very deceptive.

### **VERSE 17**

**Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.**

The unwise person is one who rejects God's counsel, and does not do God's will. When we understand the Word of God, we understand the will of God.



## **VERSE 18**

**And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;**

This verse forms the basis for the rest of this book.

### Be not drunk with wine

When the disciples and other believers were filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, there were those who said they were full of wine and that they were acting like they were drunk. What Paul wrote of here is not natural wine. Paul wrote that we must be filled with the Holy Spirit and that when we are filled we will have that original Pentecost experience. The initial experience makes some people seem like they are drunk on wine, but they are not. They speak with different tongues as the Spirit gives them utterance. After the initial infilling we need to be full of the Spirit and grow up in Christ in all things.

### Wherein is excess

The wonderful euphoric initial filling cannot continue. Some try to have this Pentecost experience day after day. But they can never grow if they don't get beyond that initial filling. Those who drink of the wine of the Holy Spirit like an alcoholic but never eat of God's Word will never come to maturity in the spiritual sense. God didn't allow the church to camp around Pentecost; He scattered them. They had problems but they began to find out what walking in the Spirit meant.

### Be filled with the Holy Spirit

We find four major expressions after being filled with the Spirit:

- 1) Speaking to yourself in psalms and hymns, singing and making melody in your heart in the Lord. (Verse 19.)
- 2) Giving thanks always for all things unto God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Verse 20.)
- 3) Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. (Verse 21 – 6:9.) All the verses from 5:31 to 6:9 are about submission. We must have the power of the Holy Spirit to submit in all of these areas.
- 4) Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. (6:10 to the end of the chapter.) This means being filled with the Holy Spirit for our battle against Satan in the heavenlies.

## **VERSE 19**

**Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;**

### Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns

After we are filled with the Spirit and speak in tongues, we then speak to ourselves in psalms. Psalms signify singing with instruments. This means our lives have become worship unto the Lord. One of the first expressions of being filled with the Spirit is worship unto Him. Our lives are lived in continual worship with love songs of the heart sung to the Lord.

Hymns are songs of worship, and we are the instruments. We receive truth in love, and allow the grace of God to come into our lives. We feel His hand strumming across our hearts. The

most beautiful songs ever be played are what God does in us. We can have lives that make a joyful noise unto the Lord and that rejoice always.

### Spiritual songs

'Song' means any kind of song, but when 'spiritual' is used to describe it, it means 'that which is of the Spirit.' We want spiritual songs that are empowered by the Spirit. Once we are filled we can sing these spiritual songs. When people are singing songs they are in victory, and this is what God wants in our lives.

### Making melody in your hearts

This is the secret of the spiritual song. It is not done as a performance, and although we love the special singing, those songs that are motivated and powered by the Spirit. If we sing these songs we are to first make melody in our hearts to the Lord. Every song we sing should be sung out of a heart of worship and praise.

### **VERSE 20**

**Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;**

### Giving thanks always

We should thank God our Father always for all things and in every circumstance. Amidst tragic circumstances it may seem extremely hard to thank God, but Job managed to do it. Job was a man motivated by the Spirit of God, and he thanked the Lord always and in all things. If we are going to manifest that Spirit-filled life, we must come to the place where we can honestly give thanks to the Lord always in good or bad.

Singing songs of thanksgiving and praise are the evidence of great love and faith. This is a vessel that grace has transformed into being content in whatsoever state we are in. This is a heart that knows to be abased and how to abound everywhere and in all things. Faith in God and believing in His Word causes us to give thanks.

### In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

Anything we pray for or ask for must be asked for in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only way we can approach the Father.

### **VERSE 21**

**Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.**

### Submitting yourselves one to another

This submission is manifested in a number of different ways. It isn't easy to be submissive; this is why we need the Spirit of God to follow through with submission.

### The fear of God

The fear of God means 'awe.' We submit ourselves unto God, and we bow before Him. We submit to His authority, and we give Him reverence. He is so awesome this is easy to do.

## **VERSE 22**

**Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.**

We are to submit to Jesus just as if He was standing right in front of us.

## **VERSE 23**

**For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the savior of the body.**

This is God's ordained place for the husband. The husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church. The chief rule for husbands is to protect and provide for their wives. Wives are to submit, respect, and reverence their husbands.

## **VERSE 24**

**Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.**

### Church is subject unto Christ

Before the church can experience the protection of Jesus, they must submit to His authority. We will never experience that protection of Christ to the fullest unless we submit to Him.

### Let wives be to their own husbands

The same goes for a wife. She won't experience the protection of her husband unless she submits to him. Just as wives have to learn to submit in the natural, we have to learn to submit to Christ in everything in the spiritual.

## **VERSE 25**

**Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;**

This is what is known as sacrificial love. If a husband really loves his wife, he must do it at the sacrifice of himself, i.e. 'take the heat.'

### Song of Solomon 2:3

I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

The only way she can sit in his shadow is if he takes the heat.

## **VERSE 26**

**That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.**

The husband must sanctify and cleanse her, just as Christ does the church. This doesn't mean he straightens her out. It means he leads her by the Word of God that cleanses.

## **VERSE 27**

**That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

### That he might present her to himself

A husband does anything and everything in both word and deed to consecrate the woman to him, and to endear her to him. Husbands should treat their wives in such a manner that they will want to be with him more than anyone else. Jesus washes us, cleanses us, and sanctifies us by the Word. We should want to be with Him more than anything else.

'Might present' in the Greek means 'to be placed at His side.' His wife is His glory, His workmanship without spot or wrinkle. When we behold Him we are changed into His same image from glory to glory. This place beside Him can be ours if we embrace the truth and the message of grace which is Paul's gospel.

### A glorious Church

A husband is responsible for the glorious appearance of his wife. It is his responsibility to see that he has a contented and joyful wife. This is what Christ does when it comes to presenting to Himself a glorious church. This is speaking of Christ's wife – those who are full of the Holy Spirit and have a zeal for God's Word.

### **VERSE 28**

**So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies, He that loveth his wife loveth himself.**

As Christ loves the body and cherishes it as Himself so the husband is to love his wife as he loves himself. The wife is not merely an extension of the husband; he must make her part of him and part of his life.

### **VERSE 29**

**For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourished and cherished it, even as the Lord the church.**

### Nourish

The husband is to nourish and protect his wife the same way he cares for himself. Not only is he to nourish her physical needs, but her spiritual needs as well.

### Cherish

Cherish means 'to warm or foster.' A husband cannot be cold, indifferent, or selfish if he is going to cherish his wife. She is the most important treasure in his life. This is the way Christ cherishes His body, the Church.

### Matthew 13: 45-46

45) Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

46) Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all he had, and bought it.

The merchant found other pearls, but he sold all he had to get one very special pearl. We must learn to submit to Christ in every way and let Him love, cherish, and protect us.

### **VERSE 30**

**For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.**

All Christians are one in Christ, and every one members of His body.

### **VERSE 31**

**For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.**

#### For this cause

This was first spoken in Genesis 2:24 when God brought Eve to Adam. Adam called Eve 'woman' because she was taken out of man. As God made Eve from a rib He took out of Adam, she was part of him. Just like Adam's whole body was not used to make Eve, the bride for Christ will come out as a rib portion from the body of the church. God put a deep sleep on Adam, just as there is a deep sleep on the church today. While the body of Christ (the church) is asleep, God is taking out one rib portion of that sleeping body and forming the wife for the Lord Jesus.

#### They two shall be one

For this cause the rib portion was taken out of Adam. A man shall leave his father and mother, and be joined unto his wife, and the two shall become one. The Bride of Christ will be one with Him.

### **VERSE 32**

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

Marriage itself is not a mystery. The mystery is that only the rib portion of the church will become one with Christ.

### **VERSE 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.**

Nevertheless means 'even though you don't see the mystery.' "Let everyone love his wife even as himself, and the wife must reverence her husband" are the major building blocks of marriage.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **VERSE 1**

**Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.**

Parents should be obeyed, highly esteemed, and respected. This also applies to obeying the Lord in love and reverence. The more we see Jesus for who he is, the more we fall in love with Him. He is altogether lovely.

## **VERSE 2**

**Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)**

This is not the first commandment in line, but it is the first one with promise. We are with promise, and that is what God is to His children. The promises and great blessings are unlimited to children who obey Him. This doesn't mean material blessings, but rather in the things He will reveal to us, and in making all the spiritual blessings of Christ ours. We see all the inheritance God has made provisions for us to attain.

Obedying is following the leading of the Holy Spirit and saying, "I will go." The race we run to win Christ as Bridegroom will be worth it all. Blessings from God often come in the form of a trial or a test, but He is able for anything that comes our way. We find the deepest fellowship with Him and the most spiritual growth through trials.

## **VERSE 3**

**That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.**

Although this verse addresses living a long life in the natural, the exceeding riches of Christ's grace are much more than our natural lives.

## **VERSE 4**

**And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**

Fathers are to bring children up in godly authority in all things in the Lord. They are to mature them, and not provoke them to wrath.

## **VERSE 5**

**Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;**

People need the inner working of the Spirit of God to be subject to some masters in this world. People are to work for them as if they were working for the Lord. Jesus is our Head and Master. By grace we are all His servants, set aside for the Master's use. This is our sanctification.

### **2 Timothy 2: 20-21**

20) But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood, and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor.

21) If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Some vessels are seldom used while others are used often. Some are personal vessels which are only for the Master's use. This brings out the quality of the vessels.

## **VERSE 6**

**Not with eye service, as men pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;**

### Eye service and man pleasers

This means to not be doing something that looks good on the outside just to get by, but rather doing all things as a service unto the Lord – and not just when others are watching or for our own benefit. We are to do all things unto the Lord, and not for the praise of men.

### Doing the will of God

Only the Lord called attention to the widow with the two mites. No one else noticed her or what she did. We do nothing for ourselves, but only to please our Lord because we love Him. We do what we do out of willingness, not out of duty. Doing the will of God from the heart is the secret of a real servant.

## **VERSE 7**

**With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.**

### With good will

This means 'a good attitude.' Sometimes people do things, but their attitude is anything but godly.

### Not to men

Serve the Lord in all that you do, not to gain favor from whomever you are doing it for.

## **VERSE 8**

**Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.**

We have to realize that even though we are working for natural man, it is really for the Lord. The Lord is our Master. Any money or reward we receive is from Him.

## **VERSE 9**

**And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening; knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with Him.**

Masters are to work for the Lord just as those who are in their employ. They must know Christ their Master in heaven and be subject to Him.

## **VERSE 10**

**Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.**

### Finally

This is concluding, and having understanding of all that we have received in the Word of God, and specifically in this letter. This is a pleading of the Spirit for us to lay hold of this joint-heirship with Christ Jesus for our lives. This is the invitation to be glorified together with our precious Jesus.

### Be strong in the Lord

This is not just strong in the Lord, but even the power of His might; the very power from on high.

### **VERSE 11**

**Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

Before we can take a stand in our own lives, we need to put on the whole armor of God. This doesn't mean a piece here or there when we feel like it. We need every piece of the armor. This armor is mainly defensive; God will show Himself mighty. We put on the whole armor in weakness, but victory comes because of the Lord's strength and might that is resting upon us.

### Wiles of the devil

This is the warfare of the believer. We must put on the whole armor of God so that we can stand against the wiles of the devil. We must be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit in order to wage a successful warfare against our enemy who is very cunning and beyond our human abilities to ever go against him.

In Christ we are not ignorant of the devil's devices. He doesn't catch us unaware. We are able to flee the very presence of evil. God is not concerned about the power of the devil. What God is concerned about is us falling prey to his wiles. In order not to succumb to the devil's trickery we must be filled with the Holy Spirit.

### **VERSE 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.**

### We wrestle not against flesh and blood

When we take our place with Christ in the heavenlies, we will go head to head against Satan because he is the prince of the power of the air. It takes the power of the Holy Spirit in to wage warfare and overcome the rulers of darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places.

### Spiritual wickedness

Spiritual wickedness takes wickedness to another realm. We are in a mortal realm having to battle a spiritual realm. There is no way we could wage spiritual war without the power of the Holy Spirit. God has prepared the wicked for the day of evil, but greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. The devil is on a chain, being used by God to tempt us. But he can only do what God allows him to do. He is being used to finish the good work Christ has begun in us. The devil can't do anything to us unless God lifts the hedge of protection He has around us, and when He does that it is always for our good. He puts us through tests and trials to mold us and make us as His masterpiece.

### **VERSE 13**

**Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**



### Whole armor of God

There are seven pieces to this armor. Seven is the number of perfection and completion, and we need every piece of it. The armor is not man's armor; it is the armor that proclaims "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

### Stand and withstand

Many want to pursue, but standing in the Lord produces the greatest victories we can have in life. To stand means to be glad in the Lord, to be thankful.

### **VERSE 14**

**Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;**

### Stand therefore

Stand means 'to stand in the presence of others, in the midst of.' We should stand in the midst of this world as a light. We can never put on the armor until we stand and have confidence in the Lord and all the possibilities in Him. The beginning of putting on the whole armor of God sees the completed perfect work in Christ. We take hold of and accept the unspeakable, undeserved, unending, and unfailing love that Christ has for us. God wants us to see and take hold of His provision and plan for us, and it is all by grace.

There is no coincidence in how this whole armor is put on. Without each piece put in its proper order and place, we will never endure hardness as good soldiers to win Christ Jesus as Bridegroom.

### The seven pieces of armor:

#### 1) Having your loins girt about with truth.

This truth is the truth of God which is everything to us, and it will endure forever. We must have God's truth if we are to stand against the wiles of the devil. What is missing in the church is the drive to study the scripture. A lot of Christians are not interested in learning God's Word because they would rather be entertained in God's house. They don't want to be rooted and grounded in God's Word because being strengthened in His Word takes a real commitment. The truth tells us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is God's high calling for our lives.

### Loins

Loins means 'guidance or instruction.' The Holy Spirit will guide us into all the truth. He will take the things of Christ and make them ours, and He will shed Christ's love abroad in our hearts. The Spirit is the one who leads us to where we need to go to be ready to marry Christ. Without the truth rightly divided, we won't be ready.

### Girt about

Girt about means 'to equip for war.' The girdle of truth is the first thing we put on. All the other pieces of the armor are part of that girdle. Without the girdle of truth we cannot be the warriors God intends us to be. We need to study and know the Word of God in order to understand the plan of God.

## 2) The breastplate of righteousness.

This breastplate is the righteousness of Christ, and we must claim His righteousness and not our own. The breastplate is over the heart, and speaks of having that love for Christ, a pre-eminent love for Jesus. This is what will carry us through. We are righteous when we believe Christ, but there is a crown of righteousness for those who grow up in Him in all things and finish the race by faith to win Him as Bridegroom. The crown of righteousness is an exalted rank of righteousness. Because the breastplate is over the heart, He wants us to display His righteousness and to have His very heart.

### **VERSE 15**

**And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

## 3) Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

'Preparation of the gospel' means we have to put in the time of preparation of the gospel, because we are the ones who have to prepare for this message. People want to magically get it all at once, but preparation is needed for us to actually walk the gospel. Preparation takes time; it's line upon line and precept upon precept. Until we believe Christ's banner over us is love, we can't have our feet shod with the gospel. The shoes are of great importance to the the soldier. The feet carry us, and without good feet and shoes it would be impossible for the soldier to finish the course laid out for them. The word shod means 'binded' and this shows total protection for the feet. The feet are completely covered with the gospel of peace, making them straight and making us strong in the Lord.

### **VERSE 16**

**Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.**

## 4) Shield of faith.

This is the fourth piece of the armor, and in God's Word the number four stands for human weakness. Faith comes forth when we realize we are weak, but He is strong. Without faith we will never be empowered to be the warriors God wants us to be. This shield protects us, and quenches all the fiery darts of the devil. We want to be able to quench the fiery darts. The shield keeps out the things that would be detriments to our lives. Only unbelief can defeat us.

### **VERSE 17**

**And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.**

## 5) The helmet of salvation.

This is the piece of the armor that guards our minds, our thoughts, and our reasoning. The devil can inject thoughts into our heads and we have to have this helmet of salvation. This is the helmet of deliverance, and we know God is going to deliver us. We put our confidence in God's deliverance rather than men. Putting on the helmet shows our submission to Christ. A mind that is stayed on Christ is in perfect peace. We start to fret when our minds are not stayed on Him. When we believe His Word it works effectually in our lives. God tells us not to lean unto our own understanding.

#### 6) The sword of the Spirit.

The sword is the Word of God. This is the all-powerful sword, the sharper than any two edged sword. This is the sword seen in Revelation 19 and in 2 Thessalonians 2 that proceeds out of His mouth. This is by Jesus Christ by whom all things are made and consist. The all powerful sword will smite the nations, the enemy, and all the wicked. Nothing can come against Him.

The Spirit is the Holy Spirit, the comforter, the one who guides us into all the truth, and the inspirer of the soul. We take this anointed sword, and we allow the Holy Spirit to wield it into our hands. Even though we take it by God's grace, the Spirit wields it. It is the Spirit who enables us. By God's grace and by His Spirit we wield that powerful sword. When we take the sword of the Spirit the truth becomes truth in love, and Spirit in truth. We need to dwell in the Spirit, and walk in the Spirit. The sword goes before us in our battles in power and encouragement. Nothing can stand against this Word of truth. Christ has called us to be good soldiers and mighty men of God conquering every foe, not backing down and standing sure in the whole counsel of God.

#### **VERSE 18**

**Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.**

#### 7) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

There is no substitute for prayer, and we must have the saints praying. Prayer has to be an active part of our Christian experience if we are to survive as runners in the race to win Christ as Bridegroom. This does not mean being on bended knee 24/7, but rather to have a heart that is always bowed and in awe of God. This reverences God and keeps us in communication and fellowship with our Lord. His thoughts are always toward us. By His grace and through a bowed heart we let Him know our thoughts are always toward Him. As we go with the Lord, we realize how vital continuing in prayer is. He never tires of hearing from us because He loves the sound of our voice. One of the most precious things to the Lord is the praise His saints give Him.

This is the 7th piece of the armor. Seven is the number of perfection and completion, so it is fitting that prayer is the 7th piece. The reason prayer completes the armor is because prayer gives us the strength to wear the armor. Prayer is just as much a weapon as the other six are. Prayer was needed to put on the armor, and prayer is needed to keep it on and be able to fight in it. Prayer is the supply line of the soldier. Prayer keeps the supply line open for the continual sufficiency in all things. This is why we can be more than conquerors. The only way we can be defeated is to cut off our supply line, and the only way we can do this is by stopping communication with God. This is when the battle turns against us. Praying in the Spirit doesn't always mean praying in tongues. We pray in the Spirit as we are prompted by the Spirit of God.

#### Watching thereto

This means to keep awake. This doesn't mean to be sleepless because of worry and fretting, it means to be awake to pray.

### All perseverance

Praying is not just done one time. This is steadfast, intense, strong, prayer. This is continuing in prayer for one another. This is to our benefit, because God uses us to benefit others.

### Supplication

Supplication means 'to beg, to bind oneself.' We are completely cast upon the Lord himself. Prayer is not just for ourselves, but for all saints, and not just ones we have selected. We are to love all the saints as Christ has loved us. Only brotherly love will win the Bridegroom.

### **VERSE 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,**

### And for me

Paul put in a special prayer here. He wanted utterance so he could boldly make his gospel known. Utterance means 'expressing something aloud.' Paul asked for more boldness to speak and more opportunity to speak. He had a unique message. There should be constant prayer that Paul's gospel goes forth and is preached around the world.

### The mystery

This is what is missing from what is preached today. Most pastors are not preaching about the mystery, but are preaching about basic salvation, general things, or the "feel good" gospel. Sadly, they don't preach the mystery because they don't know what it is. The mystery has to be studied to understand it, because it is the hidden things of Christ, the depth of the gospel which is far above the fundamental gospel of salvation.

### **VERSE 20**

**For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

### Ambassador in bonds

Paul wrote this letter to the saints at Ephesus from a prison. He didn't consider himself to be a prisoner of anyone except Christ Jesus. Earthly chains meant nothing to Paul.

### Speak boldly as I ought

Paul's gospel was not a popular message in his day, and it's not popular in our day. We need the Holy Spirit to understand it and speak it boldly. Paul was completely affixed on the message Christ gave him and he wouldn't let anyone deter him from proclaiming it. It wasn't Paul who did anything to bring his message forth. He knew it was the grace of God that was with him.

### **VERSE 21**

**But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:**

### That ye may know my affairs

Paul realized the need for communications with others. Preachers need the interaction of the people they give the message to, and to get some kind of feedback about the message.

### Tychicus

Tychicus means 'fortunate.' When we get the high calling message we are most fortunate, and when the message is preached to others they are fortunate as well. Tychicus was a faithful minister, making known all things to God's children. Paul withheld none of the truth from them, and he preached it no matter the cost. We follow Paul as he followed Christ.

### **VERSE 22**

**Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.**

The purpose Paul spoke of was that if we suffer together with Christ, we will also reign with Him, and this is all the comfort we need. This shows we are all in it together and not oblivious to other saints in the body. The body is one in unity and accord. We are all battling against the same enemy, the devil.

### **VERSE 23**

**Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Faith with love

Peace and love with faith.

#### Galatians 5:6

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, not uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

Faith and love go hand in hand. We can have all faith, but if we have no love, we have nothing.

### Peace

Peace means 'to be still.' Only the brethren have peace in this chaotic world today. There is increasing unrest in our world as the day of the Lord approaches. There is no peace found except in Christ. Be at peace and be still. Settle into the most holy faith – the faith that works by love.

### **VERSE 24**

**Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.**

### Grace

Grace is with all those who are in Christ Jesus and this is all the grace we will ever need. Grace will keep us, and give us the power of love to ready us to be Christ's bride.

### Love our Lord Jesus Christ

Paul is getting at the pre-eminent love for Jesus in this verse. In his last exhortation to the Ephesians saints Paul said "Grace be with all of them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity." This is the first-love we must have for Jesus if we are going to win the race to attain Him as Bridegroom. Be still and abide, for His coming draws nigh. Even so come Lord Jesus!!!