

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

Ephesians

EPHESIANS

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY

How to Study Your Bible*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994***The New Inductive Study Bible***Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000***Greek Word Study Tools***(The following is a list of helpful Greek Word Study Tools:)*

VINE, W. E.; UNGER, MERRILL F.; AND WHITE, WILLIAM, JR.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985*

ROGERS, CLEON L., JR.; ROGERS, CLEON L. III

The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998*

ZODHIATES, SPIROS

The Complete Word Study New Testament*Chattanooga, Tennessee: AMG International, Inc. 1991*

WUEST, KENNETH S.

Wuest's Word Studies (3 volumes)*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1973*

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELIEN, FRANK E.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 4*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishers, 1990*

MACARTHUR, JOHN

Ephesians (MacArthur New Testament Commentary)*Chicago, Illinois: Moody Publishers, 1986*

MACARTHUR, JOHN

THE MACARTHUR STUDY BIBLE*Nashville, Tennessee: Word Publishing, 1997*

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FIRST-TIMERS

Welcome to Precept Upon Precept Inductive Bible studies. We're excited that you'll be studying with us! Inductive Bible study draws you into personal interaction with God through His Word so that your beliefs are based on a prayerful observation and understanding of the Scriptures—truth that will transform your life. Studying this way is summed up in the words of the psalmist: “for You Yourself have taught me” (Psalm 119:102). May the Lord bless you richly as you delve into the treasures of His Word.

The following will be helpful to you as you begin your studies:

OBSERVING THE TEXT

In the lessons that follow, you'll be asked to mark key words or phrases on a particular passage using Observation Worksheets.

- Key words or phrases unlock your understanding of the text. Marking them distinctively with colors or symbols helps you quickly locate the word or phrase, see how it's used and how often.
- It's advantageous to keep markings simple; colors and color combinations are easiest and least cluttering.
- You'll find suggestions on the back cover of your Precept book; however, colors and symbols are your choice.
- When you have several words or phrases to mark, it's helpful to read through the chapter more than once, marking a couple of words each time.
- It's also helpful to make a bookmark (e.g., an index card) and list all the key words, marking them the way you want to mark them in the text.

FILLING IN THE AT A GLANCE CHART

As you finish observing a chapter, you'll be asked to record its theme (main subject) on an **At a Glance** chart specifically designed for the book you're studying. This chart provides space to list each chapter's theme and places for recording other pertinent information on the book. When completed, this chart provides a synopsis of the book at a glance.

We have three sources that will show you how to do the above and more (all available at www.precept.org or by calling 800-763-8280):

How to Study Your Bible by Kay Arthur: Chapter 2, “Getting the Big Picture” (p. 27ff.).

The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB). See “How to Use the Inductive Study Approach” (NISB-15ff) and “A System for Marking Key Words... Throughout Your Bible” (NISB-26.)

Discover the Bible for Yourself by Kay Arthur (new), pages 7-19.

WORD STUDIES

You'll find out how to do word studies by reading the chapter, "It's All Greek to Me," in *How to Study Your Bible*.

There are many helpful computer programs, such as Logos Bible Software's wide range of products.

We're so thankful you've joined us. You're about to join hundreds of thousands in an exciting adventure that will help you discover truth for yourself in a way you've never done before. Your life will be transformed and strengthened through the Word of God.

However, we want you to remember that it takes time and practice to make these study skills "second nature." And it does not come without spiritual warfare. The only offensive weapon the child of God has is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. You need to sharpen this sword and not let anyone or anything discourage you. Precept is not difficult; it simply takes time and discipline, but that's what discipleship is about!

QUESTIONS

If you have questions, call your Precept Leader for help. We're sure he/she will help you or connect you with a student who can. We also want to urge you to take our training workshops *How to Study Your Bible* and *Studying and Leading Precept*. The second one teaches you basic skills, gives you opportunity to practice, and helps prepare you to lead Precept should God so direct. You can find out more about the training workshops by going online to www.precept.org.

Blessings, Beloved. Welcome to the Precept family.

Remember, you too can say with the psalmist, "I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, for You Yourself have taught me."

LESSON ONE

Blessed

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Ephesians
“Ephesians at a Glance” chart

“Blessed... with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places.”

What a promise! A promise that comes from the very mouth of God through His servant Paul.

Why did God ordain these words to be recorded for all time in the Holy Bible? What is His purpose? And what difference can knowing this make in the home, in the marketplace, in the world you live in?

How can it take you and others through the day-to-day conflicts of life from this point on?

This, Beloved, is what you will see in the weeks to come! The truths you are about to understand and possess are liberating. This knowledge in turn will produce great power to those who believe and choose to live in its light. It is our prayer that you will discipline yourself for the goal of godliness and find yourself among these committed believers.

DAY ONE

Our task for this week is simple—get an overview of this amazing epistle written nearly two millennia ago. By the time we finish this course, you will know and remember every precious portion of this treasure.

1. Your first assignment is to begin in prayer. You are about to study the very words of God! That ought to bring awe to your heart. Because this is God’s book you need to go to the Author and ask Him to lead and guide you into truth and use this truth to set you apart from every lie and deception of the evil one. It’s a good idea to record your very first prayer for the study of this book.

Remember prayer is simply talking to God—communicating with Him honestly, openly, and respectfully; acknowledging Him for who He is—the Sovereign ruler of all the universe, Creator of heaven and earth and all that is

in it. If you don't believe this, then tell Him. Remember prayer is communication—*honest, open* communication.

Your prayer can be as long or short as you want it to be. Write it out and then read it aloud. It's good for you to hear what you've written—it goes deeper into the soul.

2. Now read through Ephesians to familiarize yourself with the general tone of the epistle. An epistle is a letter someone writes to a person or group of people. Watch for the author and recipient(s). Notice what the author writes about. The text of this letter is in the Appendix.

This total assignment should not take more than 45 minutes, depending on how fast you read, think, and write. Thinking is most important and often we don't give adequate time to the process. We have an entire week to do the overview of these six chapters.

When you finish reading this letter, write down:

- a. the author:

- b. the recipients:

c. What the letter seems to be about and why it was written:

3. The psalmist, King David, said he hid God's Word in His heart so that he might not sin against God. In light of this precept of life, we are going to suggest you memorize a verse or two from Ephesians every week. This week the verse is Ephesians 1:3. A good way to memorize is to write the verse on a card and then read it aloud three times at three different times of the day. Eventually you will find yourself saying it without reading.

DAY TWO

When you inductively study an epistle, one of the first things you want to look for is the historical setting of the book. You want to see what you can learn about the author(s), the recipients (those to whom the letter was written), and what the author's purpose was in writing.

If you are new to Precept studies, please read "Important Information for First-timers" in the front of the book before you continue.

1. Read through Ephesians using the Observation Worksheets in the Appendix, coloring references to the author in a distinctive color. Mark the name of the author and the pronouns (*I, me, my*) that refer to the author, **BUT** do not mark *we* or *us* where the author links himself to the recipients. Remember at this point our focus is the author.
2. Now, what did you learn about the author? List information that answers the 5 Ws and H (who, what, when, where, why, and how) on the chart "The Author and Recipients of Ephesians" at the end of this lesson. List only the data about the author, not any instructions or commands. For instance:
 - **who** he is
 - **what** he is
 - anything that tells you the **when** of his life or his writing
 - **where** he is
 - **why** he is writing or saying what he says
 - **how** he got to be *what* he is and **how** (or **why**) he is *where* he is

3. Now, take a few minutes to reflect on what you observed. Did you gain any insights into Paul's calling as a child of God, where he is, and why he is writing? If so, write them out.

Be patient with yourself. Studying this way is a process of uncovering truth layer by layer, precept upon precept. As the psalmist says, it is through His precepts that you get understanding (Psalm 119:104), but understanding involves acquiring information and processing it. It involves thinking, and unfortunately many people don't want to think through information. "Just tell me what to believe; don't make me struggle to figure it out!"

Yet to not delve into truth yourself and reason through things leaves you vulnerable to false teachers—and as the Word says, there are many in these last days. The culture will swallow you whole down to the smallest toenail if you don't learn to think for yourself so you can separate truth from a lie.

4. Did you notice Paul's reference to being in chains? Scholars believe Ephesians was written about A.D. 60 to 62 when Paul was a prisoner of Rome. Read Acts 28:11-31, then list why Paul was in Rome, how he got there, where he stayed, what his circumstances were, and what he did. Also note how long he was there.

Don't you love studying this way? Think of the truth you're discovering for yourself! Studying inductively gives you a plumb line for measuring everything you hear against the Word of truth, the Word of God.

DAY THREE

Welcome, Beloved of God, to the third day of your study. Did you notice as you read through Ephesians that you are *beloved*? If not, you'll see it as we progress in our study today. *Beloved* is God's choice word to describe you; thus it is ours. It's a vital truth you need to remember.

Speaking of progress, inductive study is a process—you don't learn or understand everything all at once. It begins in prayer as you open God's Word, earnestly seeking His wisdom and insight without any "middleman." Inductive study begins with you and God—you accurately observing what God says.

Observation then leads to interpretation—discovering what it means. The more you observe the text the better you understand what it means. Both (observation and interpretation) result in application.

Once we are confronted with truth, it's our duty to change our thinking to align with truth and change our behavior to conform to it. This is application.

Let us underscore what we just said: application doesn't always involve physical action; it may involve just our mind. Application means at times you'll say, "My thinking, my beliefs were wrong—they didn't align with the Bible."

And what is the end result of observation, interpretation, and application? Transformation! Transformation comes by the renewing of our minds, by beholding Jesus, the perfect Son of Man, in the truth of God's Word and being changed into His image from glory to glory as Paul states in 2 Corinthians 3:18 and Romans 8:29. Paul wrote that he was laboring "until Christ is formed in you" (Galatians 4:19). Thus application leads us to conformity to Jesus Christ in thought and behavior.

Now, in light of this, let's get started on today's lesson.

1. Read through Ephesians again. This time mark clear references to the saints at Ephesus, including the pronouns *you* and *your*. Do not mark the pronouns *we* or *us*.
2. As you did yesterday, list the facts (not instructions) you glean on the saints in Ephesus on the chart "The Author and Recipients of Ephesians."

3. Analyze what you learned about the saints at Ephesus. Read through the list and think about what you read. Do you gain insights from this list into Paul's purpose for writing this letter? If so, record them.

We are so proud of you in the Lord for your desire and determination to discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness. Godliness comes only through knowing your God and disciplining yourself to walk in a manner worthy of your calling.

DAY
FOUR

1. Today, we want to get some historic background on the church at Ephesus. This will give you greater insight into the saints at Ephesus, Paul's relationship to them, and why he writes what he does. You'll find Acts 19:1–20:2 at the end of this lesson. This is an account of a portion of Paul's third missionary journey.

Observe the text by marking the following in a distinctive way:

- a. *Paul*
 - b. *the Holy Spirit*
 - c. geographical references by double underlining them in green—this answers the **where** of the 5 Ws and H.
 - d. references to time, including time sequences such as *after* and *about that time* with a green clock like this: . Or devise your own way of marking time.
 - e. references to evil spirits, magic, and other occult things including idols with a red pitchfork like this .
2. Now, summarize with a few sentences or a brief list of events what you learn about:
 - a. events in this chapter

b. the city of Ephesus and the culture of Paul's day.

c. the Ephesians (people). What were their lives like?

Enlightening, isn't it? We'll discuss this more tomorrow.

DAY FIVE

When Paul wrote the book of Romans to the church at Rome telling of his desire to visit them, little did he realize he would come to Rome as a prisoner one day. His arrival at Rome is recorded in Acts 28, as you saw on Day Two of your study.

Since Paul refers to himself as an "ambassador in chains" in 6:20 (you saw this when you marked the author), it's safe to assume that Paul wrote his letter to the church at Ephesus while a prisoner of Rome. Thus Ephesians is often referred to as one of the "Prison Epistles."

How would you summarize the content of this letter written by a man under house arrest? Let's work on that, then we will call it a day and you will have completed your first week of study.

1. When a person writes a letter, he has a purpose he either states or implies somewhere in the body.

Look at the references to *Paul* you marked and the list you made. Did Paul say why he wrote this epistle? Back up your answer from Ephesians.

2. If Paul didn't say *why* he wrote, then we look at *what* he wrote. The content of the letter will reveal a purpose. We always write for some reason, even if it's just to keep in touch.

In light of this, let's summarize the content of Ephesians and see what Paul wrote about in general. We will see far more as we analyze this letter chapter by chapter, verse by verse.

- a. Read through Ephesians 1:3-14. How does Paul open his epistle? What in general does Paul talk about in these verses?

- b. Now read through Ephesians 1:15-23. Watch for references to prayer. What generally is Paul telling the recipients in these verses?

- c. Now, read Ephesians 2. Who is being addressed in this chapter and what are they being told?

- d. Now let's look at Ephesians 3:1-13. What is Paul's main point in these verses?

- e. Now, what happens in Ephesians 3:14-21?
 - 1) Look first at Paul's statement, "I bow my knees before the Father." What is Paul doing here that parallels Ephesians 1:15-23?

 - 2) Basically, what is Paul's concern in this passage, his desire?

- f. Now read Ephesians 4:1. “Therefore” is a term of conclusion. According to this verse, what does Paul want the Ephesians to do?

- g. Read Ephesians 4:1-32. Who is the focus of this chapter and basically what does Paul want?

- h. Read Ephesians 5:1-21. What is Paul’s concern in these verses?

- i. Now, read Ephesians 5:22-33. What two categories of people are addressed in these verses? Generally what is Paul doing in this portion of his letter?

- j. Read Ephesians 6:1-9. What categories of people are addressed in these verses? Why are they being addressed?

- k. Now, look at Ephesians 6:10-17. What is the main topic of these verses?

- l. Look at Ephesians 6:18-20 and the references to prayer. Who is to pray and why?

m. Finally what happens in 6:21-24?

3. Now from what you have listed do you see logical divisions in Paul's letter to the Ephesians? List where and share why you think so. (We call these *segment divisions*. If you're new to studying Precept Upon Precept, we suggest you get the book, *How to Study Your Bible*¹ by Kay Arthur. It will give you a more thorough explanation of Chapter Themes, Segment Divisions, and how to discover the purpose of a book of the Bible.) If you don't see any division at this point, relax. You'll see it later. All of this is to get you familiar with the content and layout of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians and it takes time.

SEGMENT DIVISIONS

SEGMENT THEMES

4. Record under *Segment Themes* the main subject of each segment.
5. In the Appendix you'll find an "Ephesians at a Glance" chart. Fill in as much of this chart as you can at this point. Record chapter themes in pencil in case you want to erase anything and rewrite it. It may be premature to try to do the book theme. So relax.

Well done. You're on your way to understanding the epistle. Remember, we are at the analysis stage in studying Ephesians; so be patient and diligent. Hangeth thou in there!

Ephesians introduces you to a power within that will enable you to live as more than a conqueror! Make your study a priority. Don't let the devil deter you in any way. There will be warfare—which is good news because it means you are a threat to the kingdom of darkness. Just remember the victory is yours for the taking. Persevere as His valiant one.

¹You can find this book in your local Christian bookstore, at www.precept.org to order online, or by calling Precept Ministries International at 800-763-8280.

THE AUTHOR AND RECIPIENTS OF EPHESIANS

Author

Recipients

ACTS 19:1–20:2

- IT** happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples.
- 2 He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they *said* to him, “No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”
- 3 And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” And they said, “Into John’s baptism.”
- 4 Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”
- 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they *began* speaking with tongues and prophesying.
- 7 There were in all about twelve men.
- 8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading *them* about the kingdom of God.
- 9 But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.
- 10 This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.
- 11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.
- 12 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, “I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.”
- 13 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.
- 14 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, “I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”
- 15 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

- 17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.
- 18 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.
- 19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and *began* burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.
- 20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.
- 21 Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the spirit to go to Jerusalem after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”
- 22 And having sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.
- 23 About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way.
- 24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen;
- 25 these he gathered together with the workmen of similar *trades*, and said, “Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business.
- 26 “You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods *at all*.
- 27 “Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence.”
- 28 When they heard *this* and were filled with rage, they *began* crying out, saying, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”
- 29 The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia.
- 30 And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him.

- 31 Also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater.
- 32 So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together.
- 33 Some of the crowd concluded *it was* Alexander, since the Jews had put him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the assembly.
- 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, a *single* outcry arose from them all as they shouted for about two hours, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”
- 35 After quieting the crowd, the town clerk said, “Men of Ephesus, what man is there after all who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of the *image* which fell down from heaven?
- 36 “So, since these are undeniable facts, you ought to keep calm and to do nothing rash.
- 37 “For you have brought these men *here* who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess.
- 38 “So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against any man, the courts are in session and proconsuls are *available*; let them bring charges against one another.
- 39 “But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly.
- 40 “For indeed we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today’s events, since there is no *real* cause *for it*, and in this connection we will be unable to account for this disorderly gathering.”
- 41 After saying this he dismissed the assembly.
- 20:1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia.
- 2 When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece.

EPHESIANS 1
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

PAUL, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are at Ephesus and *who are* faithful in Christ Jesus:

- 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,
- 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
- 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
- 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
- 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
- 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight
- 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him
- 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him
- 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
- 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.
- 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

- 15 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which
exists among you and your love for all the saints,
- 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my
prayers;
- 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to
you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.
- 18 *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will
know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of
His inheritance in the saints,
- 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who
believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His
might
- 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead
and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,
- 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every
name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
- 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as
head over all things to the church,
- 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

EPHESIANS 2
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- AND** you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
- 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
 - 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
 - 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
 - 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
 - 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,
 - 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
 - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;
 - 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
 - 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
 - 11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands—
 - 12 *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
 - 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

- 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke
down the barrier of the dividing wall,
15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of
commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might
make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace,
16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross,
by it having put to death the enmity.
17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY,
AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;
18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.
19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow
citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,
20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ
Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,
21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a
holy temple in the Lord,
22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the
Spirit.

EPHESIANS 3
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- FOR** this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—
- 2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace which was given to me for you;
 - 3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.
 - 4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,
 - 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;
 - 6 *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,
 - 7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.
 - 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,
 - 9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;
 - 10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.
 - 11 *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
 - 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.
 - 13 Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.
 - 14** For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

- 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,
16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be
strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,
17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you,
being rooted and grounded in love,
18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and
length and height and depth,
19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you
may be filled up to all the fullness of God.
20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we
ask or think, according to the power that works within us,
21 to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations
forever and ever. Amen.

EPHESIANS 4
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THEREFORE I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,
- 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,
 - 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - 4 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;*
 - 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
 - 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.
 - 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.
 - 8 Therefore it says,
"WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,
HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."
 - 9 (Now this *expression*, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?
 - 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)
 - 11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,
 - 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;
 - 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

- 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
- 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,
- 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.
- 17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,
- 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
- 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.
- 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,
- 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,
- 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,
- 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
- 24 and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
- 25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another.
- 26 **BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN**; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
- 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.
- 28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.

- 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a *word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.
- 30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
- 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

EPHESIANS 5
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEREFORE be imitators of God, as beloved children;

- 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
- 3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;
- 4 and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.
- 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
- 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
- 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them;
- 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light
- 9 (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth),
- 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
- 11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;
- 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.
- 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.
- 14 For this reason it says,
“Awake, sleeper,
And arise from the dead,
And Christ will shine on you.”
- 15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,
- 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

- 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,
- 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
- 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;
- 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.
- 22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.
- 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.
- 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
- 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
- 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
- 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;
- 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,
- 30 because we are members of His body.
- 31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.
- 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.
- 33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.

EPHESIANS 6
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

- 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),
- 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.
- 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- 5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;
- 6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.
- 7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,
- 8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.
- 9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.
- 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.
- 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
- 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
- 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.
- 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

- 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;
- 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.
- 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
- 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
- 19 and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,
- 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
- 21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.
- 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.
- 23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible *love*.

EPHESIANS AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

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