

COMMENTARY

EPHESIANS

Introduction:

Paul wrote this epistle to the congregation at Ephesus; reminding and instructing them about the meaning of their faith and how they should now live. This inspirational letter was written in 58 A.D. as Paul wrote from a prison cell in Rome and had the letter delivered by messenger.

Chapter 1:

vs. 1-2

Paul begins with his customary greeting concerning who he is, by what authority he writes, to whom he is writing, and finally with his desire for them. After having been recognized as faithful followers of the Lord, having the Lord's grace and peace wished upon them; they would certainly be anxious to hear what this messenger from their Lord had to say.

vs. 3-14

Paul shares with them the need to praise God for all that He has done for man. God knew who would accept His grace; and those individuals were the ones then chosen before the creation and destined, because of the faith they would show of their own free will, to be adopted as His children. We are to praise God for He had chosen such a blessing for us as a reward for our faithfulness.

It was through the blood of Jesus, that we have received the forgiveness of sins and have been redeemed. That is another reason for us to praise God. God has now lavished us with the knowledge of His Son and His will; that being that all things will be brought under the rule of Christ.

Paul shows how the early believers were fulfilling the will of God; and therefore bringing praise to Him through their faith. As others accepted Christ, they also received salvation and the Holy Spirit was given as a seal; guaranteeing us a place with those who belong to God and will be redeemed.

vs. 15-23

Paul informs the Christians of Ephesus, of his prayers for them ever since he had heard of them. He not only thanked God, but he prayed that they might grow in wisdom so they might know the hope, riches of His reward, and His power. This power has been shown when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand. Christ now rules, as God has designated, over all creation and will rule forever. Christ is to be the Head of the Church; which is to serve as His body here on earth, doing His will.

COMMENTARY

EPHESIANS 2:

vs. 1-10:

Paul, after talking about reasons for praising God and then sharing his prayers for the Ephesians. A with them; now reminds them of their former life; their life of sin and following the desires and temptations of the flesh. Whether we realized it or not, we were slaves to Satan and were serving him; but God in His great love for us, has raised us up to walk with Christ and partake of the privileges and benefits of being the servants of God. Even though we were destined for death, God has given us life through His Son. All will now see the greatness of God's love, in that He was willing to save us in this manner.

God has made us alive for one purpose. That purpose is so that we might do good works for the glory of our Lord. This is what God had originally planned and continues to be the purpose for all of His people.

vs. 11-22:

Paul teaches the Ephesians. A that though they were once far from God, not having God's Law and trying to serve Him as the Jews did, they have become equal and one with these same Jews who believe in Christ. This was accomplished through the death of Jesus and His reconciliation of ALL men to God.

All believers in Jesus are part of God's family. The Church or God's Family is based upon the teachings of the aposltes and prophets, yet even so, all is based and has to measure in line with Jesus and what He taught, since He is the cornerstone (in those days, the cornerstone was placed first and then all the other parts of the building were laid out and put in place according to where the cornerstone was. Thus the cornerstone was the most crucial part of the building). In Christ, we are being built (as we grow in our Christian lives) to become God's dwelling place, as the Holy Spirit dwells within each of our lives.

COMMENTARY

EPHESIANS 3:

vs. 1-13

Paul recounts the purpose of his ministry and how the direction and purpose of his ministry was received from God. This ministry being the spreading of the message of Christ to non-Jewish people and how they are justified through the blood of Jesus just as the Jews are.

It was because of the ministry that God entrusted to him, that he has become a servant of this Gospel. Even though he had persecuted the Church, he found that God still loved him and had a place for him in the kingdom.

Paul explains that the purpose of the Church is to spread the wisdom of God to all men so that all creation will know of God's love and deeds. This was the purpose for what Christ did here on earth; to spread the wisdom of God. It is now, through faith in this same Christ, that we can feel confident and welcome to approach God.

Seeing that this is the message that Paul has been spreading and is the reason that he is now in jail; Paul tells the Ephesians. A not to be ashamed or discouraged by his imprisonment, but to realize that he is in prison because of trying to reach people just like them.

vs. 14-21

Paul concludes this chapter with a prayer for the Ephesians. A prays that God might strengthen them with His Spirit, empower them to grasp the greatness of God's love and finally to know for themselves and be filled with this same love.

Paul ends his prayer with praise for the power of God, stating that His power is greater than we can even imagine. In view of this, the Church should seek to bring Him glory and praise forever and ever.

Study Guide

Ephesians 1:

1. According to verse 4, what did God choose those who would be in Him, to be?
2. What did God predestine believers to be?
3. What do we have in Jesus, according to verse 7?
4. What will God bring under Christ?
5. What were the first to hope in Christ, for?
6. What does the Holy Spirit in our lives guarantee and until when?
7. Why had Paul not stopped giving thanks for the Ephesians?
8. What and for what purpose did Paul want God to give the Ephesians (see vs. 17)?
9. What 3 things did Paul wish for the Ephesians to know?
10. How has God exerted His mighty strength?
11. What has Jesus been seated far above?
12. What is the relationship between Jesus and the Church?

BONUS:

1. What spiritual blessings have YOU experienced and found of great value and worth?
2. What can we learn from Paul's prayer and thanksgiving?

Study Guide

Ephesians 2:

1. In what, were the Ephesians once dead?
2. What were we by nature?
3. What has God done for us, according to verses 5 and 6?
4. What does God seek to show in the coming ages?
5. What have we been created in Christ Jesus to do?
6. What were the Gentiles without? (See vs. 12)
7. How had they who were far off, now brought near?
8. What has Christ destroyed, in making the 2 one?
9. What did Jesus seek to do through the cross (See verse 16)?
10. What did Christ come and preach?
11. What is God's household built on?
12. What are those being built together, to become?

BONUS:

1. How do You feel that you are more alive, because of your faith in Christ?
2. How important, through your studies, does the matter of making the Jews and Gentiles into 1 group, appear?
3. What are other foundations that people try to build Christ's Church upon?

Study Guide

Ephesians 3:

1. How was the mystery made known to Paul?
2. By whom, has the mystery been revealed?
3. What is the mystery?
4. What grace was given to Paul?
5. What is to be made known through the Church?
6. How can we now approach, through Jesus and faith in Him?
7. What did Paul ask them not to become, because of his suffering?
8. How can God strengthen believers in their inner being?
9. What did Paul say the Ephesians were rooted and established in?
10. What does the love of Christ surpass?
11. What is God able to do, according to Paul?
12. What is to be given to God through the Church and Christ?

BONUS:

1. What is the wisdom of God that we are to declare?
2. How does Christian growth take place? By the efforts of the Christian or the working of God in their life? Explain.
3. Explain the impact of verse 20 to you.