

A Study in
Ephesians

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NOTES

Ephesians—A Letter to All Churches

Introduction

- A general letter not written to any specific church
- Divides equally
 - Chaps 1-3 doctrinal
 - Chaps 4-6 practical
- Sit—Walk—Stand

Greeting

- Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus
- By the will of God
- To the saints who are at _____ and are faithful in Christ Jesus
- Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

SIT

The Believer as God's Child (1:3-23)

God's blessings for us (1:3-14)

- Spiritual in nature
- Chosen in Christ by the Father
 - ⇒ Vs. 4—We are chosen, not rejected
 - ⇒ Vs. 5—An adopted child can never be disowned
 - ⇒ Vs. 6—A repeated refrain; vs. 12 & 14
 - ◇ grace is one of the themes of the letter.
 - ◇ II Cor 4:15
- Redeemed by the Son
 - ⇒ We are God's priceless possession
 - ◇ redeemed at a great price
 - ◇ Delivered from the enemy
 - ⇒ We have been forgiven
 - ◇ Accept by faith (I Jn 1:8-9)
 - ◇ Extend it to others (Matt 6:12-15)

Prayer (6:18-22)

- Pray in the spirit
- Pray on our behalf

The Closing (6:23-24)

Peace be to the brethren (6:23)

Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ (6:24)

- Take the helmet of salvation
 - ⇒ The enemy tries to take away hope (I Thes 5:8)
 - ⇒ Biggest battle is in the mind
 - ⇒ Hope is a joyful expectation; waiting to see fulfill His promise to me
 - Take the sword of the Spirit
 - ⇒ The only aggressive weapon
 - ⇒ Experience the Word of God (rhema)
- ⇒ He has made known to us the mystery of His will
 - ◇ God enlightens us
 - ◇ God transforms us (Rom 12:2)
 - ◇ We can hear God speak to us (John 15:14-15)
 - ◇ We are an active participant in His plan and ministry
 - ◇ The mystery
 - * Is now known (Rom 16:25; I Cor 2:7)
 - * The Kingdom of God (Mk 4:11)
 - * The grafting in of the Gentiles (Rom 11:25)
 - * We are going to be changed (I Cor 15:50-52)
 - * As Gentiles we are fellow heirs (Eph 3:3-10)
 - * The flesh does not understand (Eph 5:32)
 - * It is given to us to make it known (Eph 6:19)
 - * Jesus, Himself, and His indwelling presence (Col 1:26-27; 2:2-3)
 - ⇒ We have obtained an inheritance
 - ⇒ We are to the praise of His glory
- Sealed by the Holy Spirit
 - ⇒ We listened to the message of truth
 - ⇒ We believed the gospel of salvation
 - ⇒ We were sealed in Jesus with the Holy Spirit
 - ◇ Seal represents ownership
 - ◇ He is the earnest, down payment, of our inheritance
 - ◇ The Holy Spirit baptizes us into Jesus

God's desire for us (1:15-19a)

- Love—a trademark of a Christian
- Thankfulness—a bitterness detector
- Care—a motivation for prayer
- Paul's prayer for us
 - ⇒ Wisdom, revelation and knowledge
 - ⇒ Enlightenment
 - ⇒ Hope of His calling
 - ⇒ Riches of His inheritance in us
 - ⇒ God's great power

- Our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
 - ⇒ Enemy attacks with anxiety (Luke 4:38)
 - ⇒ Worry is: (Matt 6:25-34)
 - ◇ Irreverent
 - ◇ Irrelevant
 - ◇ Irresponsible
- Take up the (all covering) shield of faith
 - ⇒ The enemy uses hurts and disappointments (fiery darts) to produce bitterness
 - ⇒ Come from other Christians
 - ◇ We often react the wrong way
 - ◇ Ed Schmidt: People in the world never treated me the way Christians did.
 - ◇ When people constantly criticize us there is usually an unmet need or unhealed hurt from the past acting up.

The armor (6:14-17)

- Mainly defensive
 - ⇒ We occupy already; stand firm
 - ⇒ Do not turn your back on the enemy
- Girding our loins with truth
 - ⇒ Truth is a person, not a principle
 - ⇒ The enemy tries to bring indecision
- Put on the breastplate of righteousness
 - ⇒ Enemy tries to bring condemnation
 - ⇒ We are in a race (I Cor 9:24-25); when we fall, some—
 - ◇ Get up, dust themselves off (repentance), get back in the race
 - ◇ get up, leave the race and quit
 - ◇ Get up, dust themselves off, never leave the track, but continue to dust themselves off; never get back into the race
 - ◇ Get up, dust themselves off, get back into the race, but at a slower pace. Running slower because writing rules on how not to fall. Still falls, however, so writes more rules and runs slower.
 - ⇒ Our righteousness is Jesus and Him alone

God's power in Jesus (1:19b-23)

- He raised Jesus from the dead
 - ⇒ It is the proof of His power
 - ⇒ He was truly dead
- Jesus is now seated at God's right hand
 - ⇒ A position of rest
 - ⇒ Jesus' work is done
- Jesus has all authority
 - ⇒ The principle of authority/submission
 - ⇒ He delegates some to us
- The Church is now His body
 - ⇒ He has put all things in subjection under His feet
 - ⇒ Jesus is the Head over all things to the church

The Believer as a Member of Christ's Body (2:1-18)

We were once dead in sin (2:1-3)

- Sin—who we were, not what we did
- Under the control of Satan
 - ⇒ Separate from Christ
 - ⇒ Living according to the desires of the flesh

God's mercy—we are now alive with Christ (2:4-5)

- But God—what beautiful words
- Mercy is God withholding from us what we deserve
 - ⇒ We deserve judgment
 - ⇒ Mercy always triumphs over judgment (James 2:13)
- An expression of His love
 - ⇒ How can we love without showing mercy
 - ⇒ Imitate God
- We participate in Christ's resurrection

We are seated with Him(2:6)

- A position of favor
- A position of rest

STAND

The Full Armor of God (6:10-22)

Two approaches

- The five areas of our life the enemy tries to come against us
- End-times armor showing the church how to stand

Stand firm (6:10-13)

- Be strong in the Lord
 - ⇒ Our relationship with Jesus
 - ⇒ Our position of sitting with Jesus
 - ⇒ We stand from a position of rest
- In the strength (power) of His might
 - ⇒ Knowing God is powerful for you, not only others
 - ⇒ God is for us and wants to do mighty things through us
- All we need to do to stop the enemy is stand firm
 - ⇒ A position of defending territory already taken
 - ⇒ Repeated 3 times
 - ⇒ Satan tries to knock us off balance
- Our struggle is not against people
 - ⇒ People are not our enemy
 - ⇒ Spiritual forces dealt with in spiritual ways
 - ⇒ Pull down strongholds (II Cor 10:3-5)
 - ⇒ Use His name (Phil 2:9)

Relationships (6:1-9)

- Children to parents: honor
- Fathers (parents) to children
 - ⇒ Do not provoke to anger
 - ◇ Inappropriate discipline produces anger
 - ◇ Appropriate discipline produces repentance
 - ⇒ Bring up in discipline and instruction in the Lord
 - ◇ Age appropriate behavior/expectations/discipline
 - ◇ Motive of discipline is instruction
- Slaves to masters
- Masters to slaves

God's grace extended (2:7-10)

- God not giving us what we deserve
 - ⇒ A gift—Eph 2:8: *doron*: a sacrifice
 - ⇒ A gift—Eph 3:7: *dorea*: freely; without cause
- The unmerited favor of God
- Grace knows no limit
- It is the way we receive salvation (Rom 5:15-17); Eph 2:5-9)
- It is the power to do what He has gifted us to do (Rom 12:3-8; Gal 1:15-17; 2:9)
- It is the solution for sin; not law (Rom 5:20-21; 6:14-16)
- It is given for good works (II Cor 8:1-2; 9:8)
- We can abuse grace (II Cor 6:1; Gal 5:4)
- We can extend grace (Eph 4:29)

The one-ness of the Body (2:11-18)

- Our former state
 - ⇒ Separate from Jesus and His people
 - ⇒ Without hope
- Our current state
 - ⇒ We are brought near
 - ⇒ We have peace
- Today's application

The Believer as God's Building (2:19-22)

The household (2:19)

The foundation (2:20)

- Apostles and prophets
- Wise master builder (I Cor 3:10-15)
- An unwise master builder cause hurt and damage
- The foundation must be Jesus, Himself, in all His mercy, grace and fullness
- We commit people to Jesus, not to ourselves

Living stones (2:21-22)

- Quality not quantity
- We build relationships; like building blocks
- Commitment is the cement
- When the stones are cemented they do not stray

Marriage as a model (5:22-33)

- Men and women equal in calling; different in function
 - ⇒ Equal in redemption (Gal 3:28)
 - ⇒ Think differently: men-analytical; women-intuitive
 - ⇒ Men initiate (Jesus); women respond (Church)
- God's divine order: Himself, Jesus, husband, wife (I Cor 11:1-3)
- Wives, be submitted to own husbands
 - ⇒ An attitude, not words (I Pet 3:1-6)
 - ⇒ Under authority (I Cor 11:5)
 - ⇒ Women not to usurp authority
 - ⇒ Meet basic need of a man: respect
- Husbands, love your wives
 - ⇒ Meet basic need of a woman: security
 - ⇒ Wife the "weaker" (more valuable) vessel (I Pet 3:7)
 - ⇒ Understand
 - ◇ Women easily hurt
 - ◇ Compassion
 - ◇ She is an extension of her husband
 - ◇ Show her affection
 - ⇒ Wife is queen
 - ⇒ We are one
 - ⇒ Respond to her hurts the way I respond to the hurts of my body

The Corporate Life of the Believer (5:1-6:9)

Imitate God (5:1-21)

- As children [*teknion*] imitate their parents
- Walk in love
 - ⇒ Selflessly
 - ⇒ Put aside selfishness
- Walk as children of the light
 - ⇒ Learn to do what is pleasing to the Lord
 - ⇒ Put aside unfruitful deeds of darkness
- Walk as wise
 - ⇒ Make the most of our time
 - ⇒ Understand what the will of the Lord is
 - ⇒ Guard the attitudes of the heart; give thanks

Jesus, The Revealer of God's Mystery (3:1-21)

God's intention—a corporate man (3:1-7)

- The mystery revealed
 - ⇒ Gentiles are now fellow members and fellow heirs (Eph 3:6)
 - ⇒ Christ in you (Col 1:26-28)
 - ⇒ Christ, Himself (Col 2:2)
- Only one Christ
 - ⇒ When Jesus walked the earth He was contained in one body
 - ⇒ That body died; now there is a new Body with many members (1 Cor 12:12)
 - ⇒ We see this by revelation (Eph 1:17)

Paul's calling (3:8-13)

- To preach the unfathomable riches of Christ
- To make plain the mystery

To be the dwelling place of Christ (3:14-21)

- One household, one family
- Strengthened with power through His Spirit in the man within
- That we may comprehend with all the saints

WALK

The Corporate Life of The Body (4:1-32)

Life in the Body (4:1-6)

- Begins the practical half
- Walk: how we conduct ourselves; how we lead our life
- Begins with knowing who we are: blessed and at rest in Jesus
- Worthy of the calling
- Symptoms
 - ⇒ Humility
 - ⇒ Patience
 - ⇒ Forbearance in love
 - ⇒ Preservation of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
- There is only one:
 - ⇒ Compare 4:4-6 with I Cor 12:4-6
 - ◇ Varieties of gifts—one body, one Spirit, one hope of our calling
 - ◇ Varieties of ministries—one Lord, one faith, one baptism
 - ◇ Varieties of effects (workings)—one God and Father of all ...
 - ⇒ Only God

Put on the new self (4:23-32)

- Renewed in the spirit of your mind
 - ⇒ Contrast with futility of world's mind
 - ⇒ Learn to know Jesus
 - ◇ Take His yoke (Matt 11:29)
 - ◇ Become a disciple
 - ⇒ Have the mind of Jesus (Phil 2:5)
 - ◇ Humility
 - ◇ Care (Phil 2:4)
 - ◇ Hope (Phil 2:13)
- Change clothes (vs. 24; II Cor 5:17)
 - ⇒ Become spiritual in the likeness of God
 - ◇ Put on the Lord Jesus (Rom 13:14)
 - ◇ Put on the character of Jesus (Gal 5:22-24)
 - ◇ Put on submission (Heb 13:17)
 - ⇒ Walk in righteousness
 - ◇ Right relationship with God (Rom 13:12; Eph 6:14)
 - ◇ Right relationships with people (Col 3:12-17)
 - ⇒ Walk in holiness
 - ◇ To be holy is to be useful to God
 - ◇ Do what God has given you to do
 - ◇ We are each a part of the Body

Put off the old self (4:17-22)

- Not like the world
- Lay aside the deeds of the flesh
 - ⇒ Things that others have done to us in the past
 - ◇ People who have hurt us
 - ◇ Disappointments, bitterness, unforgiveness
 - ◇ Malice (I Pet 2:1)
 - ◇ Anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech (Col 3:8)
 - ⇒ Things we have done in the past
 - ◇ Frustrations, mistakes, failures
 - ◇ Pride and arrogance
 - ◇ Lying and cheating (4:25)
 - ◇ Lay aside deeds of darkness (Rom 13:12)
 - ◇ No more stealing (5:25)
 - ⇒ Bondages of the past
 - ◇ Judgments of others and self (Matt 7:1-2)
 - ◇ Superstitions

The gifts of Jesus (4:7-13)

- Three lists of gifts (I Cor 12:4-6)
 - ⇒ Gifts of the Father (Rom 12:1-13)
 - ⇒ Gifts of the Son (Eph 3:11-12)
 - ⇒ Gifts of the Holy Spirit (I Cor 12:7-11)
 - ⇒ They operate only by grace
- Gifts of Jesus are people
 - ⇒ Ascension gifts
 - ⇒ Full ministry of Jesus given severally to men
- Job description, not titles
 - ⇒ Servanthood
 - ⇒ Example of Jesus (John 13)
 - ⇒ Not like the Gentiles (Matt 20:25)
- Purposes:
 - ⇒ Equip the saints for the work of ministry
 - ⇒ Build up the Body of Christ
 - ◇ Attain the unity of the faith (doctrine)
 - ◇ Attain the knowledge (*epignosis*) of the Son of God
 - ◇ A mature man
 - ◇ The standard of the maturity which belongs to the fullness of Christ

- The full ministry of Jesus

- ⇒ Apostle

- ◇ Jesus—Heb 3:1
 - ◇ NT definition: Ones sent with authority; architects of local government; lay foundation; seeing the Church be fit together
 - ◇ Result: Love of the Body
 - ◇ Counsel: Bring definition to ministries and order

- ⇒ Prophet

- ◇ Jesus—Luke 24:19
 - ◇ NT definition: Special insight from God; line up the building with the cornerstone, Jesus; discern where change is needed.
 - ◇ Result: Love of God
 - ◇ Counsel: Change and repentance; points to freshly revealed direction from the Lord.

- ⇒ Evangelist

- ◇ Jesus—Mark 1:14
 - ◇ NT definition: Proclaim the good news and equip the saints to share the Gospel effectively
 - ◇ Result: Love for sinners
 - ◇ Counsel: Deal with fruitlessness in the church

- ⇒ Fathers: *pater*—fathers; a nourisher, protector, upholder

- ◇ Mature (Matt 5:48)
 - ◇ Sees in secret, rewards openly (Matt 6:4)
 - ◇ Gives good gifts to his children (Luke 11:13)
 - ◇ Spiritual father cares for his spiritual children (1 Cor 4:14-17)
 - ◇ Submitted to God; your desire is to be like God
 - ◇ “You know him who rules (*arche*).”

- ⇒ Characteristics

- ◇ You must be able to see Christ in him
 - ◇ He must be a man under authority
 - ◇ He must love you
 - ◇ He must have the capacity for the vision of who God wants you to be
 - ◇ He must agree to this relationship
 - ◇ He must hold you with an open hand.

- The way we grow up is that we put off and put on.

- I John 2:12-14

- ⇒ Children: *teknion*—infant (vs. 12)

- ◇ Enter Kingdom as babies; necessary (John 3:7; Matt 18:3)
 - ◇ First learn Jesus died for our sins, which are forgiven
 - ◇ High maintenance people, dependent upon others for care and feeding
 - ◇ Spiritually, do not know how to pray, understand Bible or hear God reliably.

- ⇒ Children: *paidion*—young child (vs. 13)

- ◇ Begin to know the Father
 - ◇ Early conversation centers around what they need. As children grow listen more. Prayer moves from talking to listening. (I Cor 3:1-2)

- ◇ We discover who we are

- ⇒ Young men: *neaniskos*—youth

- ◇ OT: one trained in art of warfare
 - ◇ Age in Kingdom not measured by time, but growth
 - ◇ In the natural, young men need to prove themselves, become independent, often think they know more than they do, sometimes rebellious towards authority.
 - ◇ In the Kingdom they have overcome Satan's attacks and know and trust God's word.
 - ◇ They are strong, but not much endurance

- ⇒ Pastor (shepherd)

- ◇ Jesus—Heb 13:20
 - ◇ NT definition: Caretakers of the flock of God; bring harmony to the local church
 - ◇ Result: Love of the saints
 - ◇ Counsel: Loving relationships bringing unity; caretaker of the flock (Heb 13:17)

- ⇒ Teacher

- ◇ Jesus—John 3:2
 - ◇ NT definition: impart the Word of God line upon line; bring insight and stability; work from the apostle's blueprint
 - ◇ Result: Love for the Word of God
 - ◇ Counsel: Sees insight into the Word; wants others to grasp fresh concepts from the Bible; encourages others to walk in that insight

- Other ministries

- ⇒ Workers of miracles, etc. (I Cor 12:28-30)
 - ⇒ Deacons (Acts 6; I Tim 3)
 - ⇒ Others—music, dance, intercession, artists, craftsmen, scribes

- Benefit of receiving the ministries (Matt 10:40-42)
- Our responsibility—study and define
- Sequence (I Cor 12:28)—the order in which the ministry must occur, not hierarchy or importance.

Growing up (4:14-16)

- Babies
 - ⇒ Require lots of care
 - ◇ Need milk, not solid food
 - ◇ Cannot feed themselves
 - ◇ Make messes
 - ⇒ Baby Christians (I Cor 3:1-4)
 - ◇ Cannot take solid food, i.e. correction
 - ◇ Cannot hear God on their own
 - ◇ Make mess—jealousy, strife, division
 - ⇒ Must grow up
 - ◇ Babies → children → adults
 - ◇ We are no longer to be children (Eph 4:14)
 - ◇ We are to grow in respect to salvation (I Pet 2:2)
 - ◇ God's provision: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, shepherds (Matt 5:48)
- Children
 - ⇒ Unstable
 - ⇒ Easily deceived
 - ⇒ Have a false opinion of themselves
- Adults
 - ⇒ Speak the truth in love (vs. 15)
 - ⇒ Are fitted and joined together (vs. 16, I Pet 2:5)
 - ⇒ Work properly together; each one contributes (vs. 16)