

Bible Study

Ephesians



Jesus Only Way
Ministries

Summary:

Free From Bondage God's Way

Mankind is in bondage. Some people are in bondage to Satan, and thus to self and sin. Others are in bondage, held captive by the enemy's lies, because they don't know truth. Still others are in bondage to the law or to a legalistic style of Christianity that snuffs the life and joy out of their walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Who can set us free?

The study of Ephesians will help answer this question. "It was for freedom that Christ set us free" (Galatians 5:1).

Week One—Why Are You in Bondage to Others' Opinions of You?

Day One

- Read through the entire Book of Ephesians without interruption
- Watch for the chapter where the author turns from talking about our position *in* Christ to our walk *with* Him
- After reading the entire book answer the Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How questions
 - Who wrote Ephesians? To whom was Ephesians written? What chapter does the book turn from talking about our position in Christ to our walk with Christ?

Day Two

Paul visited Ephesus for the first time on his second missionary journey. A brief account of his trip is recorded in Acts 18:18-21. Then on his third missionary journey, Paul returned to Ephesus. Acts 19 gives some interesting insights into his return visit to Ephesus. It also reveals the background of the Ephesians and Paul's intent in writing the letter to them.

- Read Acts 19
- List what you learn in about the Ephesians
- What is the Ephesians' city like?
- How did they live?
- What did they worship?
- Ephesus was located in modern day Turkey

Day Three

- Read Ephesians 1:1-14
- Mark any reference to *God* in a distinctive way (including personal pronouns)
- List what you learn about God & the spiritual blessings He bestows on you in Christ
- Take a few minutes to thank God for all that He has done for you

Day Four

- Read Ephesians 1:1-14 again
- Mark the key word *in Him* (*in Christ* & *in Christ Jesus*)
- Think about what you have "in Christ," if you are God's child

Day Five

When you listed what you saw yesterday from marking *in Christ* or *in Him*, you listed that "in Him" you have redemption. The word *redemption* means "to buy or to purchase something."

- Read Ephesians 1:7, 8 and then read 1 Peter 1:18-21
- Who is redeemed?
- How are they redeemed?
- What are they redeemed from?
- What is the result of that redemption?
- List what you learn about redemption

Day Six

- Read Ephesians 1:1-14 again and mark the phrase *according to*
- List what you have or what God has done for you "according to...."
- What was it *according to*?

Day Seven

- Memorize Ephesians 1:3, 4
- Questions:
 - ◆ Read Ephesians 1:1-8; John 15:16; 1 Peter 1:1, 2; Romans 8:28-39
 - ◆ What do you learn about believers?
 - ◆ Who chose whom? When? Why? Get your answer from the text
 - ◆ The word *predestined* means "marked out beforehand." According to these passages, do you know why "they" were predestined and what they were predestined for?
 - ◆ What did you learn this week about redemption?
 - ◆ How precious are you to God? Remember what you saw in Ephesians 1:1-14 as you answer this question!
 - ◆ What spoke to your heart the most this week? Why?

Thought For the Week

So often you are held in bondage to what has been said about you---to man's evaluation or assessment of you, or to your own thoughts or feelings about yourself. When you believe these and live accordingly, you're held captive by very real but invisible misconceptions. Only truth can set you free and break the chains of the enemy's lies. How you need to know what God says about you---and live accordingly!

You have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places. You are part of the church, the body of Jesus Christ. Nothing can or will ever change that.

God is for you, not against you. He chose you for Himself. He marked out beforehand for you to be adopted as His child. Remember this, precious one, no matter how you feel, no matter what anyone says. God is not a liar. He cannot lie. Believe Him. What assurance, what confidence, what security, what peace, what joy, what freedom it will bring.

Week Two—Secure And Seated With Jesus!

Day One

- Read Ephesians 1:1-14 again
- Mark any reference to the *Holy Spirit* in a distinctive way
- List what you learn about the *Holy Spirit*
- When were you sealed?
- What were you sealed with?
- What does it mean to you?
- How is the Holy Spirit described in verses 13 & 14?

Day Two

- Read Ephesians 1:13, 14 & Romans 8:9-17
- Mark every reference to the *Spirit* (*Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ, Spirit of Him*)
- What did you learn about the Holy Spirit & His relationship to the believer?

Day Three

- Read Ephesians 1:14 & Romans 8:18-23
- Mark *redemption* & *Spirit* (personal pronouns)
- How do these two passages relate to each other?
- What do you learn from these verses about the Spirit?
- What does the Spirit of God have to do with your redemption?
- Compare this with what you saw in Ephesians 1:7
- What does the Son have to do with your redemption in comparison with the role of the Spirit?

Day Four

- Read Ephesians 1:15-23
- List what Paul prays for the Ephesians

Day Five

- Read Ephesians 1:15-23 again
- In verses 18 and 19 you will notice three occurrences of *what*
- I have put numbers 1, 2, and 3 above these "whats" in my Bible because they list three things that Paul is praying for
- Note these and think about them
- (If you are using an NIV, you will read in verse 18 the words *in order that you may know*)
- The three things Paul prays follow this phrase
- The NIV does not use the word *what* to precede the three parts of his prayer
- List the three things Paul wants them to know

Day Six

- Read Ephesians 1:15-23 again
- Today focus on verses 18-23
- Draw a simple diagram showing where Christ is in relationship to God
- Draw a simple diagram showing where Christ is in relationship to all rule, authority, power, dominion, and every name
- Draw a simple diagram showing where Christ is in relationship to the church
- In your diagram make sure you show where the church is in relationship to Christ
- Record the theme of chapter 1 on the **EPHESIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (Page 24)

Day Seven

- Memorize Ephesians 1:18, 19a
- Questions:
 - ◆ Read Acts 19:8-20. What were the Ephesians involved in before they came to Christ?
 - ◆ Whose power or authority did they seem to be under?
 - ◆ What did they do after they believed on the Lord?
 - ◆ Do you see any reason for Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-23?
 - ◆ How does what Paul prayed correspond to what he says to them in these verses?
 - ◆ Look at Ephesians 3:10 & Ephesians 6:10-13
 - What terms are the same as the passage in Ephesians 1:19-21?
 - What do you think Paul wants the Ephesians to know and understand?
 - Why?
 - ◆ What do you learn from Ephesians 1:15-23 about the believers in Ephesus?
 - ◆ List the elements of Paul's prayer
 - ◆ What does Paul specifically pray for the "saints at Ephesus"?
 - ◆ What does each element of the prayer mean and how does that knowledge help believers in their daily walk?

Thought For the Week

When you come to know the Lord Jesus Christ, you move into another realm spiritually. You become a member of His body, and you are permanently seated with the Lord Jesus Christ in the heavenly places. As you will see next week, this position moves you out from under the dominion of the prince of the power of the air! You are seated above all of Satan's rule, power, authority, and dominion, and above every other name. Now you belong to Jesus! You live under the authority of the name of Jesus Christ, whose name is above all names.

What brought you to this lofty and secure position? It was the power of His resurrection. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead because He conquered sin, Satan, and death. In conquering these, He set you free, redeeming you by His blood.

Week Three—Grace That Covers And Provides

Day One

- Read Ephesians 2
- Mark the key word *formerly* in a distinctive way
- Mark the key phrase *in Christ Jesus (with Christ, with Him, through Him, in whom)*
- List what you learn about "in Christ"

Day Two

- Read Ephesians 2:1-7
- List how you lived "formerly," before you were made alive in Christ
- Think carefully about what the Bible text says and how those who do not belong to the Lord are describe

Day Three

- Read Ephesians 2:1, 2
- Read John 8:44
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4
- List what you learn about Satan
- You will see Satan called by several names: the prince of the power of the air, the ruler of this world, the god of this world, the devil, murderer, and liar

Day Four

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10
- Read Titus 3:4-8
- Mark the key word *grace* in a distinctive way
- List what you learn about the grace of God
- Read Ephesians 1 again and mark any reference to grace and list what you learn

Day Five

- Read Ephesians 2:11-18
- Take notice of the words *peace* and *enmity*
- What did you learn about the two groups that are described?

Day Six

- Read Ephesians 2 again
- Mark every occurrence of *you* and personal pronouns (we, us, yourselves, our)
- Read Ephesians 2 again
- List what you learn by marking *you*
- Think about all God has done for you!
- Record the theme of chapter 2 on the **EPHESIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (Page 24)

Day Seven

- Memorize Ephesians 2:8-10
- Questions:
 - When the New Testament was written, it was written in the Koine Greek. The Greek word for grace is *charis*. It means "unmerited or unearned favor." Read Ephesians 2:8-10
 - How is the definition of grace demonstrated in these verses?
 - What is contrasted with grace in these verses?
 - According to this passage, what role do works have in the life of a child of God?
 - What did you learn from Romans 5:6-11? Read Romans 5:12-21 and see what else these verses tell you about the grace of God.
 - If you studied Galatians—What did you learn about the grace of God?
 - What was the Galatians' problem?
 - Read 1 Corinthians 15:9, 10 and note Paul's reference to the grace of God. According to these verses, how was grace demonstrated in Paul's life?
 - How does this parallel with Ephesians 2:8-10?
 - Is grace a license to sin, to live any way you want to live?
 - Read Jude 3, 4 and note what some people will do with the grace of God and how these people are described.
 - How are you to respond to the grace of God?
 - What are you depending on to get you to heaven?
 - According to what you have read in Ephesians, will it work?

Thought For the Week

Are you bowed to the ground, unable to look up because of the weight of guilt or sin you're carrying? Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. You are not alone. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory ("the true estimate") of God (Romans 3:23).

Yes, you who were created in God's image have desecrated that image and failed to give a true estimate of the character of God in your life. But, Beloved, Christ came to save you! Like all mankind, you are born dead in trespasses and sins. Because of sin, you have walked your own way. Like all of us, you have followed your lusts and walked under the power of the devil. But Jesus Christ brings all that to an end when you turn to Him, when you acknowledge that He is God and that He has a right to rule your life.

The minute you simply believe, the minute you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord and acknowledge Him as God, you are saved by the grace of God. You are saved, but not saved to live as you please. Rather you are saved so that you can walk in the good works that God has ordained for you. Works that He has planned especially for you. The good works vary, but they all have their source in God.

Don't miss these good works by focusing on your past, your sin, your failures, or by excusing yourself from serving God because of what you were or what was done to you. You must choose, to believe God, to say with Paul, "By the grace of God I am what I am" (1Corinthians 15:10).

Week Four—Loved Unconditionally

Day One

- Read Ephesians 3
- Mark the key word *mystery* in a distinctive way
- Mark any key words you may have missed

Day Two

- Read Ephesians 2:19-3:7
- Who is the "you" in 2:19? Jews or Gentiles? Ephesians 2 makes it clear.
- What is the mystery that Paul revealed?
- Read Ephesians 1:1-14 again
- Note the context in which the word *mystery* is used

Day Three

- Read Ephesians 3 again
- Mark the key word *grace*
- What do you learn about *grace*?
- Carefully observe the *grace* God gave Paul and what God's *grace* enabled him to do

Day Four

- Read Ephesians 3 again
- Mark the phrase *in Christ*
- What do you learn about *in Christ*?

Day Five

As you survey Ephesians, it is so important to keep the entire message before you. In the first three chapters of Ephesians, Paul deals with the believer's position in Christ. Paul uses certain key words to help him convey his point.

- Read Ephesians 1 & 3 again and watch for the word *purpose (d)*
- What does this tell you about you, Beloved?
- Is your life meaningless to God?

Day Six

- Read Ephesians 3:14-21
- Mark the words *Spirit, power, & love*
- Mark *power* in Ephesians 1:19
- Mark *love (d)* in Ephesians 1:4 & 2:4
- Do you know how loved you are, and by whom?
- List the specific things Paul prays for the church at Ephesus
- Record the theme of chapter 3 on the **EPHESIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (Page 24)

Day Seven

- Memorize Ephesians 3:20, 21
- Questions:
 - What is the mystery Paul reveals in Ephesians 2 but specifically calls a mystery in chapter 3?
 - How did this mystery come about? Or, what did God or Jesus do to bring it about?
 - Where does it place the Jew & the Gentile?
 - What kind of a temple are we?
 - Where are we seated & why?
 - What role does the Spirit play in this mystery? (See Ephesians 2:18-22)
 - How have you seen the love of God manifested in Ephesians 1-3?
 - What shows you the depth & breadth of God's love in these chapters?
 - According to the prayer in Ephesians 3, where does Christ dwell & how?
 - The prayer in Ephesians 3 is Paul's second prayer for the Ephesians. The first prayer is recorded in Ephesians 1:15-23. You will notice that power is mentioned in both prayers. What does Paul want the believers at Ephesus to know? What does God want you to know?
 - To whom is this power available? How are you strengthened by this power? Where? Consider both prayers as you answer these questions.
 - How can Christ do exceeding abundantly above all you ask or think?
 - What have you learned about the Spirit from marking the references to Him in Ephesians 1-3?
 - Look at the list you have made for the phrase *in Christ*. How has knowing these things about your position in Christ personally ministered to you?
 - What have you learned from Ephesians 1-3 about the grace of God?
 - What has spoken to you the most in these first three chapters of Ephesians?

Thought For the Week

Paul prayed that the Ephesians would recognize and know with a certainty what was theirs because they were Christ's. They were a part of His body, His temple, in which He dwelt by His Spirit.

But not only does God want you to comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of His love, He also wants you to know the surpassing power that works in you. It is resurrection power that God brought about in Jesus when He raised Jesus from the dead. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that is there to strengthen you in your inner man. It is His power that is at work in you. His power enables you to live a supernatural life as a man or woman of God. It is a life beyond your own wisdom or abilities. It is a life that brings God glory and that gives a true picture (a true estimate) of the character of God.

Week Five—Forgiven---And Able To Forgive!

Day One

- Read Ephesians 4
- Mark every reference to the *Spirit* in a distinctive way
- Note the change in the letter at this point
- What does Paul begin to do at this point in his letter to the Ephesians?
- Remember to add insights about redemption

Day Two

- Read Ephesians 4:1-6
- Mark the word *one*
- List all that Christians have in the unity of the Spirit and how they are to walk

Day Three

- Read Ephesians 4:1-16
- Mark the key word *grace* in a distinctive way
- Mark every use of the word *gift(s)* in a distinctive way
- List what you learn from this passage in Ephesians about the gifts that are mentioned
- Who gave them, to whom, when they were given, and why they were given
- Remember to list new insights you learn about *the grace of God*

Day Four

- Read Ephesians 4:11-16
- Mark every occurrence of the *word* body and *the saints* (including pronouns)
- List what you learn about the saints and the body from this passage
- Interrogate the text (ask the who, what, when, where, why, & how questions)
- For example: How is the body built up? What are the saints to attain to?

Day Five

- Read Ephesians 4:17-24
- Mark the phrase *old self*
- Contrast the way the Gentiles walk with what those who are in Christ are to do

Day Six

- Read Ephesians 4:17-32
- Did you see the "therefore" in verse 25?
- Whenever you see a "therefore", find out what it is there for.
- How are you to behave now that you have put on the new self?
- Record the theme of chapter 4 on the **EPHESIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (Page 24)

Day Seven

- Memorize Ephesians 4:1-3; 4:32; or 4:1, 32
- Questions:
 - From Ephesians 4:25-32, what did you learn of how we are to behave?
 - Ask yourself if you are doing what God says to do? If not, why?
 - Is there anyone you haven't forgiven? Why is that?
 - How much has the Lord Jesus Christ forgiven you?
 - What is the difference between offending another person & offending the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - Who is perfect, without sin?
 - Would your offense toward man or toward God seem greater? Why?
 - According to Ephesians 4:32, how are you to forgive others?
 - Are there any conditions to this forgiveness?
 - Are there transgressions or sins that you don't have to forgive others for because of how bad, cruel, or unloving they have been to you?
 - Read Colossians 3:12-14. How do these verses parallel what God says in Ephesians?
 - If you refuse to forgive others, what happens to you? Look up the following verses: Matthew 6:12-15 & Matthew 18:21-35
 - According to what you have learned about your position in Christ, do you have the power, the ability, to forgive? Where is that power? How is it yours? If you have it & don't use it, then are you wailing as God called you to walk? If you don't walk as God called you to walk, what are you doing?
 - Are you, Beloved, willing to obey the Lord in the matters set forth in Ephesians 4? If not, why?

Thought For the Week

The entire body of Jesus Christ is made up of people who have been forgiven all their sins. And if you are part of His body, you have been forgiven not because you deserve it or because you have earned the right to be forgiven, but simply because of the unconditional, lavish, undeserved, unearned grace of God that He bestowed on you freely in Christ Jesus, His beloved Son.

You deserve condemnation, but there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. That's where you are if you belong to Him.

If you, who have sinned against a holy, blameless God, have been forgiven so very much, how can you withhold forgiveness from others because of the debt you feel they owe you and because of their sin against you? To withhold forgiveness is to act contrary to all that you understand about the gospel of your salvation, which is the forgiveness of your sins, your debts, from a holy God. To refuse to forgive is to deny or forget what salvation is all about. It is to play God and to say, "God would forgive you, but I won't. Your sin is too great!!

Beloved, listen carefully. If you refuse to forgive, you are like the person in the story Jesus told in Matthew 18. Until you forgive, you are going to be held in a prison of your own making. You are going to be given over to the "torturers," so to speak. In other words, you are going to feel tormented until you walk in obedience and forgive others. If you are a child of God, you can forgive because you have His Spirit and His power. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.

Week Six—How Can I Walk In Love?

Day One

- Read Ephesians 5
- Mark the key word *walk & love (loved, loves)* in a distinctive way

Day Two

- Read Ephesians 5:1-6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; and Galatians 5:19-21
- In each passage underline the phrase *inheriting the kingdom of God*
- List what you learn about these passages about those who won't *inherit the kingdom of God*

Day Three

- Read Ephesians 5:7-14
- Note the contrast between light & darkness
- List what the children of the light are to do

Day Four

- Read Ephesians 5:1-21
- Keep the context fresh in your mind
- Contrast the wise with the unwise
- How are the wise to walk?
- List exactly what this passage says the wise are to do
- Examine your walk with the Lord in the light of this passage
- Are you walking as a wise person?

Day Five

- Read Ephesians 5:15-33
- Note in Ephesians 5:22-33 how husbands & wives are to live?
- Where does the power to do so come from?
- What is the command of Ephesians 5:18?
- List exactly what wives are told to do
- Ask the who, what, when, where, why, & how questions of the text
- If you are a married woman, examine your walk in the light of these verses
- Does God tell you to submit only if your husband loves you as Christ loves the church?
- Who will give you the power to submit?

Day Six

- Read Ephesians 5:22-33 again
- This time focus on God's word to the husbands
- List exactly what husbands are to do
- Note the why & the how of the instructions
- Mark every reference to *Christ (Lord, He Himself, Savior, He, Himself, His)*
- Make a list of what you learn about the Lord from these verses
- If you are a husband, examine your walk in the light of these verses.
- Are these words conditional?
- Does this passage say you are to love your wife in this way if she is submissive & respects you?
- Does this passage command you to make your wife submit to you?
- Record the theme of chapter 5 on the **EPHESIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (page 24)

Day Seven

- Memorize Ephesians 5:2
- Questions:
 - It seems easier to *say* "I love you" to God, to your mate, or to your fellowman than it is to *walk* in love. What did you learn from Ephesians 5 about walking in love?
 - Drawing from what you have studied in Ephesians, if you walk in love, how will you walk with respect to: God? Your mate? Your fellowman?
 - According to 1 Corinthians 13, if you don't walk in love, what is the end result? In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, you see a list of things you may have or do, but what do they profit if you do not love?
 - According to Ephesians 5, what is the believer's pattern or example for walking in love?
 - To what degree does that love go?
 - To what degree is a husband's love for his wife to go? Under what conditions?
 - What or who will give you the love you need in order to love others? Read Galatians 5:22. How would all this compare with the command in Ephesians 5:18?
 - According to Ephesians 5:22, the wife is to be subject to her own husband. However, according to Ephesians 5, is the wife the only one who is to be in submission?
 - In your study this week, what did you learn about those who will not inherit the kingdom of God? In the passages you studied in Day Two, did you notice the repeated warning not to be deceived? What does this tell you about those who are really children of God?
 - What verse or verses spoke to you the most in Ephesians 5? What are you going to do with what God has said?

Thought For the Week

How can a wife submit to a husband who doesn't love her with a sacrificial love?
How can a husband love, nurture, and cherish a wife who has so many shortcomings?

The answer to these and other hard questions is found in one verse, Ephesians 5:18: "Keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit is there, living within. You are sealed in Him until the day of your redemption. Christ is in you, and you are in Him. You have the Spirit. You have His resurrection Power! Now walk in the light of it. Walk in love. Be filled with the Spirit. He is there, and He is longing to fill you, waiting to fill you.

The fruit of His filling will be ninefold: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22, 23).

Because the command to "be filled with the Spirit" is in the passive voice, it means that the Spirit will do the filling if you will only allow Him.

Week Seven—Stand Firm!

Day One

- Read Ephesians 6 to get a good overview of this final & important chapter
- Mark the key words *Spirit* & *mystery* in a distinctive way

Day Two

- Read Ephesians 6:1-4; Exodus 20:12, & Deuteronomy 5:16; 6:1-9
- List what you learn from these passages about how a child is to behave toward his parents & the responsibilities of the father to his child

Day Three

- Read Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Peter 2:18-25; & James 5:1-6
- List what you learn from these passages about the servant & the master (the rich man in James) by listing their responsibilities & how they are to respond to each other.
- Think about this list in the light of the relationship between employer & employee
- How do you measure up?
- Read Ephesians 6:1-9 again
- Think of how different our society would be if we really heeded these words from God
- It is our responsibilities to live as God tells us to live, not matter what others do or say

Day Four

- Read Ephesians 6:10-17
- Mark every reference to the *devil (the rulers, the powers, the world forces of this darkness, the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places)*
- List what you learn from marking these words

Day Five

- Read Ephesians 6:10-17 again
- You should memorize this passage
- Mark every occurrence of *stand firm* in a distinctive way
- List every instruction given to the recipients of this letter you find as a result of marking this phrase

Day Six

- Read Ephesians 6:18-24
- Mark the key words *prayer* (*pray, petition*) in a distinctive way
- Mark the key word *love* in a distinctive way
- List what you learn about prayer from this passage
- When you finish, stop & think about the importance of prayer
- Would Paul have prayed what he prayed for the Ephesians, or would he have asked for prayer, if prayer didn't make a difference?
- Record the theme of chapter 6 on the **EPHESIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (page 24)
- Record the theme of the book of Ephesians on the **EPHESIANS AT A GLANCE** chart (page 19)

Day Seven

- Memorize Ephesians 6:13
- Questions:
 - No other letter has as much to say about warfare as the book of Ephesians. Review once again the background of the church at Ephesus. In the light of this background, wouldn't it seem logical that Paul would stress the Ephesians' need to remember who they are and where they are seated---and that they need to stand firm in the Lord and in the strength of His might?
 - What do you learn from Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1 that parallels with his words in Ephesians 6:10-17? Watch the use of the words "strength of His might" & "power."
 - What do you see in both passages about "the strength of His might"?
 - What conflict of power do you see in Ephesians 1 & Ephesians 6? Which conflict is greater? How do you know this from the text?
 - What are God's general instructions to the believer in Ephesians 6:10-17 concerning warfare?
 - What are the specific pieces of the armor that are to be "put on"? Name them. As you do, list what each piece of armor represents in the Christian life. What is God showing you that is going to combat the schemes of the devil?
 - What are the specific pieces of armor that the child of God is to "take up"? Name these pieces of armor & then describe what each piece represents, as you just did in the previous question.
 - How many offensive weapons does the child of God have? What are they or is it? What does this show you about combating the enemy? What are you to use? How does this compare with John 8:44? How would all this go with the passage you read in 2 Corinthians 11:2-4, 13-15?
 - How does 1 Peter 5:8, 9 go with what you learned in Ephesians about warfare?
 - How does one build his faith?
 - What place do you think prayer has in spiritual warfare? Could it be your "walkie-talkie," so that as you go to battle you remember to stay

in communication with General Command Headquarters? How essential is it?

- Well, our study of Ephesians has come to a close. What has ministered to you the most in these seven weeks of study? What truths from Ephesians have liberated you and freed you from bondage? How have these truths freed you from bondage?

Thought For the Week

Life is filled with conflicts. One major conflict is the battle for your mind, your beliefs, your thoughts, the standards by which you chose to live, and the principles for which you are willing to die.

You once lived under the dominion of the prince of the power of the air. You walked under his domain according to the lusts of the flesh and the desires of your mind. But then you met Truth, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He set you free and seated you in heavenly places and blessed you with every spiritual blessing that you will ever need to live as more than a conqueror.

The enemy would seek to have you forget that your warfare is not with flesh and blood. He would love to get you to fight against him in the strength of your own flesh. He would love to have you warring against him without your armor. He would love to have you out of touch, out of communication with the Captain of the Hosts.

Be alert, be vigilant. The battle is not going to lessen. These are the last days. The enemy's time is short and he knows it. He's desperate, but he's defeated. Don't ever forget that. So put on the armor of God daily. Keep girding your loins with God's Word. His Word is pure, unadulterated truth. Protect your vital organs with the breastplate of righteousness. Stay away from sin. Live the way God says to live. Be filled with the Spirit.

God tells you to walk by the Spirit so you will not fulfill the lusts of your flesh. Walk in those sandals of peace. Remember, you are at peace with God. Jesus won that peace at Calvary. Stand in that assurance. Take the shield of faith. The more you know of the whole counsel of God, the greater will be your shield. It will be easier and easier to put out the fiery arrows the evil one hurls at you. Take that helmet of salvation. Remember to whom you belong. Don't ever forget it! And because you belong to Christ and He is in you, then greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Finally, get your sword out of its sheath. Lift it high. It's the sword of the Lord---the Word of God. It's the same sword that will come out of Jesus' mouth when He comes to reign on this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The Captain of the Hosts is coming! Occupy until He comes. Soon you'll even be free from Satan's attacks, for he will be thrown into the lake of fire to be punished forever. But you will spend eternity in the city of our God!

Theme of EPHESIANS

Author:

Date:

Purpose:

Key Words:

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