

DEFINITIONS OF KEY DOCTRINES

IN EPHESIANS 1

- 1:2 saints. All Christians, consecrated to God, holy, sacred.
- 1:2 grace. The unmerited favor of God displayed and given through Jesus Christ.
- 1:3 heavenlies. The sphere of heavenly possessions into which the believer is brought because he is in the risen Christ.
- 1:4 chosen or elect. God's pretemporal choice of those who would be saved.
- 1:4 holy. Set apart to God.
- 1:4 love of God. God's seeking the highest good and glory.
- 1:5 predestination. God's pretemporal planning the destiny of His children. That destiny is to conform them to the image of His Son.
- 1:5 adoption. Placing the believer in God's family as an adult with all privileges.
- 1:6 glory. The display of the characteristics of the person or thing.
- 1:7 redemption. Release from the bondage of sin.
- 1:7 forgiveness. Cancellation of the obligation of sin.
- 1:10 dispensation. An administration of economy in the outworking of God's purpose in this world.
- 1:13 sealed. A sign of ownership, security, and a guarantee of safe arrival in heaven (4:30).
- 1:14 earnest pledge. A down payment, guaranteeing more to come.
- 1:23 the church which is His body. That spiritual organism to which every believer belongs and of which Christ is the head.

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Why should God want to do all the things described in chapter 1 that are involved in our salvation? Remember? He made us saints; He chose or elected us; He predestined us to adoption; He redeemed us; He forgave us; He sealed us; and He gave us the Holy Spirit as an earnest. Why? The people in Ephesus did not deserve to be saved, and neither did we. Isn't it too good to be true?

In 2:1-10 Paul gives three reasons why God wanted to have saved people.

1. To show His love, 2:1-6 (especially v. 4)
2. To show His grace, 2:7-9 (especially v. 7)
3. To show His workmanship, 2:10

Here are a couple of mini-outlines.

V. 2-- The unsaved person follows

1. the ways of the world
2. the ruler of the world
3. the spirit of the world

Vv. 4-6-- Love does 3 things:

1. it makes us alive in Christ
2. it raises us with Christ
3. it seats us with Christ

Here are a couple of notes.

1. The "it" in "it is the gift of God" (v. 8) refers to the entire work of salvation.
2. Salvation in the N.T. is always through faith, not because of faith (v. 8).
3. "Workmanship" in v. 10 is a word used of something only God can do, and the word is used here of people becoming new creations in Christ and in Rom. 1:20 of the creation God made. These are the only two places it is used in the N.T.
4. We walk by faith in those good works God has prepared (v. 10).

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

First of all, here is another mini-outline from 2:1-3.

The unbeliever is said to be--

1. dead (2:1) (separated from the life of God)
2. disobedient (2:2) (literally, disobedience itself)
3. depraved (2:3) (by nature children of wrath)

In 2:1-10 you remember, Paul gave 3 reasons why God wants to save people.

Now in 2:11-22 he describes 4 more things God does for all who believe.

They are:

1. He brings us near, vv. 11-13
2. He gives us peace, vv. 14-17
3. He gives us an introduction, v. 18
4. He gives us a new family, vv. 19-22

Notice 5 things that are true of unbelieving Gentiles in verse 12--

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. without Christ | contrast v. 13; in Christ |
| 2. aliens | contrast v. 19; citizens |
| 3. strangers | contrast v. 19; in the household |
| 4. without hope | contrast 1:18 and 4:4; hope |
| 5. without God | contrast v. 18; to the Father |

On "abolishing" the Mosaic Law (v. 15), the word means exactly that--

to abolish or set aside. *Note that meaning in 1 Cor. 13:11. Note,

too, other important passages on the end of the Law--Rom. 10:4;

2 Cor. 3:7-11; Heb. 7:11-12.

The cornerstone (v. 20) is the primary foundation stone that sets the bearings for the entire building. Our Lord is:

1. the cornerstone because of His atonement
2. the tested stone because of His temptations (Isa. 28:16)
3. a precious stone to believers (1 Pet. 2:6)
4. a stumbling stone to unbelievers (Rom. 9:33)

EPHESIANS 3

Chapter 3 is like chapter 1 in that the first part speaks of blessings that a believer has and the second part is a prayer (3:1-13 and 14-21).

Verses 1-13 speak of (1) God's Mystery and (2) Paul's Ministry.

1. The meaning of a mystery. Rom. 16:25-6.
2. The mystery as a dispensation, vv. 2 and 9.
(Dispensation: a distinct arrangement or economy or administration in the overall plan of God)
3. The revelation of the mystery, 3-5 (Col. 1:25)
4. The content of the mystery, 6
fellow heirs
fellow members
fellow partakers

1. The bases of Paul's ministry, v. 7--the gift and power of God.
2. The principal people of his ministry, v. 8--Gentiles (Gal. 2:7)
3. The content of his ministry, vv. 8-9.
4. The purpose of his ministry, v. 10.
5. The results of his ministry, vv. 11-13.
for Paul, tribulations
for Gentiles, glory

The word "faint" or "lose heart" in v. 13 is found in Luke 18:1 (concerning prayer); Gal. 6:9 and 2 Thess. 3:13 (of good works); 2 Cor. 4:1 (of ministry); 2 Cor. 4:16 (of life).

Paul's Prayer in 3:14-19

1. The position--bow my knees
2. The Person addressed--the Father of all
3. The petitions
 - a. strengthened, 16
 - b. Christ at home, 17
 - c. comprehend love of Christ, 18-19
 - d. be filled with God, 19

A note on v. 18, the love of Christ. On its breadth see 2:15
length see 1:4
height see 2:6
depth see 2:12

Some references to explain "exceeding abundantly" in v. 20: Luke 15:17 and Rom. 5:20.

EPHESIANS 4

Paul's letters are often structured with a section on teaching first, followed by a section on application. Eph. 1-3 is the doctrinal part, and 4-6 the application. Notice how 4:1 (your calling) relates to 1:18.

Chapter 4 divides into 3 sections. The principal idea in each is:

1. Unity, 4:1-6
2. Spiritual gifts, 4:7-16
3. Living the new life, 4:17-32

Spiritual Gifts (see also Rom. 12 and 1 Cor. 12)

A. A Definition

A spiritual gift is a God-given ability to be used to serve Him.

B. Some Distinctions

Gifts are abilities, not offices, places, not age groups, not techniques.

C. Description of some gifts, 4:11

D. Purposes of the gifts, 4:12-16 Equipping, edifying

E. Results of the use of gifts, 4:14-16 Stability, growth

A note on verse 9 "the lower parts of the earth."

This could mean--

1. hades--Christ descended to hades between His death and resurrection.
2. the grave--Christ was in the grave after His death
3. The earth itself viewed as the lower part of the universe, referring to His descent to earth at His incarnation.

In 4:17-32

1. the old, unsaved life is described, 17-19
2. the new, redeemed life is described, 20-32

In this section 5 areas of our lives are focused on.

- (1) falsehood and truth, 25
- (2) anger, 26-27
- (3) stealing and giving, 28
- (4) speech, 29-30
- (5) various vices, 31-32

EPHESIANS 5

In 5:1-17 Paul continues to discuss how a Christian should live in this world. Notice some key words or ideas in these verses. You may wish to underline the appropriate words.

Be imitators, verse 1
Be loving, 2
Be clean, 3
Be thankful, 4
Be Christian, 5
Be separate, 6-7
Be light, 8-9
Be pleasing, 10
Be contrasting, 11-13
Be awake, 14
Be wise, 15
Be efficient, 16
Be understanding, 17

In 5:18-21 Paul writes of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

In 5:18 is a description of what it is. It is control.

In 5:19-21 are manifestations of a Spirit-filled life.

1. Singing with others
2. Singing in your own heart
3. Being thankful
4. Being submissive.

This last idea of submission in the various relationships of life is what Paul discusses in 5:22-6:9.

He writes of (1) relationships between husbands and wives; (2) between parents and children; and (3) between slaves and masters.

The mutual submission of verse 21 is worked out in the various relationships described in 5:22-6:9. These do not imply inequality, but they do involve differing and distinct responsibilities which if followed brings harmony, and if ignored brings difficulties.

The principal responsibility of the husband is to love his wife (v. 25). This involves: (1) protecting (v. 23) and (2) perfecting (vv. 26-29).

The principal responsibility of the wife is to submit (v. 22) which involves respect or reverence (v. 33) and should result in spiritual growth.

EPHESIANS 6

For a change of pace let's have a fun quiz on this chapter. Now, don't panic. I'm going to let you use your Bible as you choose the answers to these questions. How easy can it be?

1. The command in v. 1 applies (circle the correct answer or answers):
 - a. only to children whose parents are believers
 - b. to children whether or not their parents are believers
 - c. only until the children become of legal age
 - d. only until the children leave home
 - e. all their lives
2. The command quoted in v. 2 is number ____ in the list of the 10 commandments (count in Exod. 20:1-17).
3. True or False. A Christian slave had to obey an unsaved master.
4. T or F. Paul taught that Christian masters should free their Christian slaves.
5. T or F. In the early churches there were Christian slaves who served as elders and deacons over members who included their masters.
6. T or F. A master over slaves was accountable to no one.
7. The powers against which we struggle (v. 12) are:
 - a. liberals
 - b. good angels
 - c. evil angels
 - d. Russians
8. The breastplate of righteousness (v. 14) is:
 - a. the righteousness God gives us
 - b. the righteousness we produce in sanctification
9. The word of God (v. 17) is the Bible.
10. Tychicus (v. 21) is also mentioned in
 - a. Acts 20:4
 - b. Philippians 2:25
 - c. 2 Timothy 4:12