

"The Conclusion of Ephesians"

Ephesians 1-6

Introduction: Today we are going to finish our study of Ephesians and as we do I want to do a review of what we have seen in this letter.

"Chapters 1-3 - Position"

I. Chapter 1

1. Paul tells of the believer's identity in Jesus Christ

Notice Ephesians 1:1-13

In these verses Paul tells us of the riches that we have in Jesus Christ.

2. Paul prays that our wealth would be understood.

Notice Ephesians 1:17-19

II. Chapter 2

1. Paul tells us we have spiritually went from rags to riches.

Notice Ephesians 2:1-7

2. Paul tells us we went from having no hope to a life filled with hope.

Notice Ephesians 2:12-13, 19-22

III. Chapter 3

1. Paul prays that we would comprehend our position in Christ he stated.

Notice Ephesians 3:16-20

"Chapters 4-6 - Practice"

IV. Chapter 4

1. Paul exhorts us to walk worthy of our position.

Notice Ephesians 4:1-6

2. Paul calls on us to abandon the old life.

Notice Ephesians 4:17-24

V. Chapter 5

1. Paul calls us to be separated and to be filled with the Spirit.

Notice Ephesians 5:15-18

2. Paul shows us what it is to be filled with the Spirit.

Notice Ephesians 5:21-25, 6:1-7

VI. Chapter 6

1. The spiritual battle and the provisions of the armor.

Notice Ephesians 6:10-12

2. The necessity of prayer.

Notice Ephesians 6:18-20

This is where we stopped last week. I want to take a few minutes and go back to this to look at Paul's 2 prayer requests to see a little more then we shall move on to the closing verses.

VII. Paul's Prayer Requests

Notice Ephesians 6:19-20

1. Utterance and Boldness

Paul was in prison in Rome when he wrote this letter. He had appealed to stand before Caesar.

Acts 25:10-12

¹⁰ Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest.

¹¹ For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.

¹² Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go.

Paul was about to stand before Caesar as Ephesians closes and he requests that these believers pray for him to UTTERANCE and BOLDNESS.

Utterance would be a request for the right words to say. I want to stop and think about something here. Paul was not relying on his knowledge to produce the right words to say. He had a tremendous amount of knowledge.

Galatians 1:11-12, 15-18

¹¹ But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

¹² For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, **but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

¹⁵ But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

¹⁶ To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

¹⁷ Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but **I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.**

¹⁸ **Then after three years** I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

Paul had three years alone with the Lord where he received revelations. I point this out to help you to see that if this man needed prayer to speak the right words how much more do we need prayer? He was highly educated and had profound knowledge, but he still relied on prayer. Let us understand how important this was. He knew if the Gospel reached Rome, it would then reach the rest of the world because all roads lead to Rome. Today we have the Gospel because of what Paul preached in Rome.

Paul also prayed for boldness. He knew that there was the possibility that as a man he would become afraid to speak the Truth. Again, if that was a possibility for him how much more for us? This is the man who was caught up to the third heaven! Paul was a man who believed in the power of prayer.

Notice Ephesians 6:20 again.

Paul was an ambassador of heaven. He never saw this world as his home. This should be the way we view the world also. We are ambassadors of heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:20

²⁰ Now then we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

We represent Jesus Christ to the world around us. Heaven is our home not this earth. Be careful about getting caught up in trying to change this world. We are called not to change the world but to reach the lost.

VIII. The Conclusion

Notice Ephesians 6:21

Here we are introduced to one of Paul's companions while he was in prison. His name is Tychicus and there is something that we need to see about him.

➤ **He was a faithful minister.**

This man was faithful in whatever the Lord entrusted to him.

Application:

What about you? How faithful are you in what God has commanded you to do? Let us notice a principle that is taught in the Bible.

Matthew 25:14-

¹⁴ For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

¹⁶ Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

¹⁷ And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

¹⁸ But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

²⁰ And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

²² He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

²³ His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

²⁹ For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

This parable pertains to the Jews who will be faithful in the tribulation and then be trusted with more in the Kingdom. But the same principle is true today. The more faithful we are with what God entrusts to us the more He will entrust to us.

There are many believers who are missing out on so much because they are not faithful in the little things and therefore God is withholding opportunities from them. There are many believers who will not even come close to their full potential because they cannot be faithful in the little things. You are not the influence you could be.

Notice Ephesians 6:22

Paul is sending Tychicus to comfort them. This to me is amazing. Paul is the one in prison. He is the one who is under arrest. But his desire is to comfort the believers at Ephesus. He is certainly not focused upon himself. This is Christ in him.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

Notice Ephesians 6:23-24

Paul reminded these believers of their blessings. We are to LOVE the Lord with an incorruptible love.

Conclusion:

Revelation 2:1-5

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

² *I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*

³ *And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.*

⁴ **Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**

⁵ *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*