

December 16/Day 350

Ephesians 1

Verses 1-2

- Who authored this letter? This is another of his prison epistles, meaning he was imprisoned in Rome when he wrote.
- To whom is this letter addressed? Do you remember as Paul was boarding ship, he did not stop by to see the entire church but called the elders out to see him off?

Verses 3-14

- With what has God blessed the believer?
- When did He choose us? For what purpose?
- For what are believers predestined? Why?
- What did He freely bestow upon us?
- How to we have redemption and forgiveness?
- What has He lavished upon us?
- How did He make known the mystery? Do you remember what it is?
- How have we obtained an inheritance?
- According to verse 13, how did we obtain salvation?
- What does the Holy Spirit do for the believer? Think about a seal, what it means, what it represents. It shows the authority of the one by which something is sealed. It shows legitimacy. It shows protection. A pledge (KJV-earnest) is like earnest money or an engagement ring.

Verses 15-23

- What had Paul heard about them?
- How often did he pray for them?
- What did he pray for them in verse 17?
- What three reasons did he pray the eyes of their heart would be enlightened in verses 18 and 19?
- What was brought about in Christ?
- Where is Jesus seated? He's seated because "It is finished". He spoke those words and sat down at the right hand of God. There was no more work to be done. He did it all.
- What things are subject to Jesus?

Ephesians 2

Verses 1-10

- Chapter one just told us everything a believer is “in Him”. What were we before?
- How did we formerly walk? What did that look like?
- But God... Why did He make us alive? When did He do this? Before we believe our body is alive but our spirit is not. When we receive the free gift of salvation by receiving Jesus as our Lord, our spirit comes to life. This is why we say we are born-again or re-generated.
- What will He show us in ages to come?
- How are we saved? By what? Through what?
- Does the faith come from within ourselves? How do we obtain faith?
- If works don't save us, what is the purpose of works? When did God decide which works He created us for?

Verses 11-22

- As Gentiles (non-Jews), what four things were we according to verse 12?
- What did the blood of Christ do to remedy this?
- What did God do with the barrier between the Jew and the Gentile?
- What did he cause the Jew and Gentile to become? How?
- Who would be the ones who were near? The ones who were far away?
- What position do Gentile believers have now?
- What was the foundation? Who is the cornerstone? Do you know a building would fall without a good foundation? Do you know a building would crumble without a cornerstone?

Ephesians 3

Verses 1-13

- What was the mystery? (The answer is found after the words, *to be specific*)
- How did Paul feel about his ministry to the Gentiles? This answer is not spelled out, but what information can you glean from the way he speaks about it?
- In what way was Paul's tribulation on their behalf? Think about it, who brought charges against him and why?

Verses 14-19

- For what reason?
- Where does Paul wish them to be strengthened and why?
- As believers, in what are we rooted and grounded?
- What does Paul wish the Gentile believers would be able to comprehend?

Verses 20-21

- What can God do far more abundantly?

Ephesians 4

Verses 1-5

- Paul is imprisoned while writing this letter. Could super-natural God get him out? How does Paul describe himself in verse one?
- What does a worthy walk look like?
- How do believers live in unity? (The answer is by agreeing on the seven “there is one”s in this passage. It is okay to differ in opinion on other matters, but on these seven we must agree.) Make a list.

Verses 7-8

- What is given to each believer?

Verses 9-16

- Do you remember when He descended? He descended as a victor carrying with Him the keys to eternal life.
- Regarding the gifts, which five are listed here and what is their purpose? Until when?
- What are we no longer to be? What three things will a child not do?
- But what will a mature believer speak? How? Why?

Verses 17-24

- How do unbelieving Gentiles walk? Why do they do this?
- What has been laid aside and what has been put on? Again, the beautiful picture of the exchanging of the robes. This is not something we work for; this is made available for us at salvation through the Spirit. We choose whether or not to employ it.

Verses 25-32

- What kind of speech should a believer lay aside?
- Is anger sin? Check our verse 26. Some will teach anger is a sin, but there would be something wrong with us if we weren't angry now and then about atrocities in society. Jesus was angry, yet He was sinless.
- Not letting the sun go down on your anger does not mean working it out with another person right away, necessarily. Sometimes this is not possible. Instead, we can lay aside our anger, the emotion that is within ourselves.
- Remember, Paul has been contrasting the walk of the Gentile prior to salvation and their walk after salvation. What does he say here about stealing and working?
- What kind of words should believers not say? What kind of words should believers speak? How will this minister to others?
- Why does he throw in grieving the Holy Spirit here? Keep context.

- What should we put away (take off) and what should we put on? Is this works or is this employing the Spirit within us?

Ephesians 5

Verses 1-2

- In what way can we be imitators of God?
- Do you remember the fragrant aromas from the Old Testament sacrifices?

Verses 3-5

- This is one of those patterns of life passages. What things should not be named among us and if they are, it is an indication we do not truly have God's Spirit within us?
- The silly talk and coarse jesting here may concern you, but the definitions of these aren't just about having a sense of humor. Silly talk comes from the Greek word by which we get our word moron. It's ignorant and goes along with the sin it speaks of. Coarse jesting is a picture of an ape who moves around quickly, acting a fool.

Verses 6-14

- What kind of words deceive us?
- What is contrasted by the "but" here?
- What is the fruit of the Light?
- What are deeds of darkness and what are we to do with them?
- In a practical sense, we expose darkness by shining what on it?

Verses 15-21

- Why should we care how we walk? What does it prove based on other Scriptures we've observed?
- Why do we need to make the most of our time?
- With what should we be filled rather than wine?
- When we are filled with the Spirit what will we be doing?

Verses 22-24

- Are wives to be subject to every husband?
- How is a wife to be subject to her husband?

Verses 25-33

- What is the responsibility of the husband? Would this encourage submission or subjection in the wife? Remember, this is not about the husband bossing the wife, they are a team and work together, but God has given the husband headship as protector; therefore, the wife is to respect him.
- How are believers cleansed?
- What does Paul say he is using this picture of oneness to explain?
- According to verse 33, what do wives need? What do husbands need?
- I've said it a million times because I had to learn it myself, but if a wife is still bossing, nagging, and berating her husband, she is still living in Genesis chapter three. Think about this. How would a mature believing wife act?

Ephesians 6

Verses 1-3

- What is the responsibility of children?

Verse 4

- Do the parents have any responsibility or is this obedience one-sided?
- How would a parent provoke a child to anger?

Verses 5-8

- We saw similar wording in Colossians. Slavery was everywhere under Roman rule. Paul was not promoting slavery he was promoting Christianity. How would giving good service to a master practice Christian faith? What about between employees and their employer?
- How should we not do our work? What is eye-service? Looking busy? What is man-pleasing? Kissing up? Flattery?
- How should we do our work?

Verse 9

- Does the master/employer have a responsibility?

Verses 10-17

- What does "finally" lead us to believe?
- This passage is about the armor of God. Why do we need to put it on?
- Is our struggle with other people?
- How much of the armor do we need?
- Observe the parts of the armor. Think about what they protect.
- What is the sword of the Spirit? This is the only offensive piece. All the others were defensive, so how important is knowing the word of God?

Verses 18-20

- How often do we need to pray? How?
- What was Paul's specific request?
- For what was Paul an ambassador? In what way was he in chains for this?
- He's in jail; how does he wish to speak?

Verses 21-22

- Who delivered this letter to Ephesus? Have we seen him before?

Verses 23-24

- How does Paul wrap up his letter to the Ephesian believers?

Did you learn anything? If you are having an identity crisis, how would chapter one help? If you are in a spiritual battle, how would chapter six help?

See you tomorrow.