Ephesians Review

**Author** – Paul the Apostle.

**Purpose and Theme**
Ephesians was not written primarily to correct some doctrinal error or heresy, but rather to reveal many great *truths concerning salvation* and God’s eternal purpose for the church. Many profound and spiritual realities are spoken of with clarity and conviction.

**Position and Practice**
The first half of the book, chapters 1-3 is doctrinal in nature, dealing with positional reality. The second half of the book, chapters 4-6 is primarily instructional, dealing with the practice of the faith. Chapters 1-3 teach us of our riches in Christ. Chapters 4-6 teach us how to use them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters 1-3</th>
<th>Chapters 4-6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Position</strong></td>
<td><strong>Practice</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Doctrine</strong></td>
<td><strong>Duty</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Riches</strong></td>
<td><strong>Responsibilities</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Themes present in Ephesians:**

- **RICHES OF GRACE** – 1:7, 1:18, 2:7, 3:8, 3:16
- **IN CHRIST or IN HIM** –
  - 1:1, 2:1, 3:1, 9, 1:12, 13, 1:20, 2:6, 2:10, 2:13, 3:6, 3:11, 3:21, 4:32
- **MYSTERY** – 1:9, 3:3, 3:4, 3:6, 3:9, 5:32, 6:19

The book reveals profound mysteries concerning Christ and the church. The terms “in Christ” or “in Him” are used 21 times in this book, to describe our tremendous and glorious position in all that Christ has accomplished. In speaking of the realities of what the Father has granted us in Christ, *the supernatural world is opened and revealed to our understanding* as we are presented with one glorious blessing after another that we have already received. We are further enlightened to the angelic conflict and how it interrelates to God’s purpose in the church.

The book also gives clear and *precise instruction on practical Christianity*. Who we are in Christ, how we are to live, act, think, and speak as Christians is given in simple instruction. The marriage, family, children, and servants relationships are addressed. It further gives a revealing look at spiritual warfare and how it is played out in daily Christian life.
Chapter 1 - God and His Work

- v-3 - He blessed us with every blessing
- v-4 – He chose us
- v-5 – He predestined us and adopted us
- v-6 – He freely bestowed His grace on us
- v-7 – He redeemed us and forgave us
- v-8 – He lavished His grace on us
- v-9 – He made known the mystery of His will to us
- v-10 – He summed up all things in Christ
- v-11 – He gives us an inheritance and works everything after the counsel of His own will
- v-13 – He sealed us with the Holy Spirit
- v-15 thru v-19 – Paul’s prayer for revelation for the church to understand the great riches and power she possesses
- v – 20-23 – speaks of Christ’s exaltation and sovereignty

Chapter 2 – Salvation

Individual Salvation

- v-1-3 – Our former state
- v – 4-10 – Saved by grace and seated in heavenly places

Corporate Salvation

- v-11-18 – Jew and Gentile One in Christ
- v – 19-22 – The church is God’s dwelling place

Chapter 3 – The Mystery Revealed

- v – 1-13 – Paul and his calling to preach the revealed mystery
- v – 14-21 – Paul’s prayer for the church to grasp and know the love of God

Chapter 4 – Unity and Maturity of the Church

- v – 1-6 – The unity of the church
- v – 7-11 – God’s gifts to individual and corporate body
- v – 12-16 – The maturity of the body

Old Self and New Self

- v – 17-19 – Put off the old nature
- v – 20-24 – Put on the new nature
- v – 25-32 – Contrasts of the old behavior and new behavior
Ephesians 5:1-2 - 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in
love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice
to God as a fragrant aroma. NASB
A. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love – Here is the
heavenward call of the Christian, to be an imitator of God! This also is equivalent to the
words of Christ, “be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect!” (Matt 5:48) We are
always and continually striving to live as an imitator of God, always seeking to clothe
ourselves with His holy virtue. Being His beloved children, we have taken on His nature
and are therefore to live a life of love which is an expression of that divine nature which
is in us.

2 Peter 1:4 - 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order
that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption
that is in the world by lust. NASB
B. just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to
God as a fragrant aroma – Here the standard of Christ’s love is portrayed to us by His act
of personal sacrifice on the cross. “He gave Himself up for us,” thus displaying His
divine love for us! The strength of His love for us was so intense that He gave Himself up
to death on our account. Our life now is to be CHARACTERIZED by this love of God in
Christ! Here another contrast, this time between the “grieving of the Spirit” and a
“fragrant aroma” in the nostrils of God. Our obedience is a pleasing and sweet smelling
aroma to God as an obedient child is to us!

1 John 3:16-18 - 16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay
down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world’s goods, and beholds his brother
in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little
children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. NASB

Ephesians 5:3-4 - 3 But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named
among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or
course jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. NASB
A. do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper
among saints – More acts of destructive behavior which are to be put to death. But here
notice that these are not “even to be named among us!” These he says are “not proper”
for saints, holy ones! Shall God’s holy temple be profaned with devil’s deeds? Shall
God’s chosen people be adorned with wickedness and evil? These should not be present
in any form in the assembly of the righteous and should be purged(actively removed)
from among us!

immorality – fornication, including any sex outside of marriage, adultery, incest,
homosexuality, gk. 4202. porneia from 4203; harlotry (including adultery and
incest); figuratively, idolatry:--fornication.
impurity – uncleanness, moral filth. gk. - akatharsia, from 169; impurity (the
quality), physically or morally:--uncleanness.
greed – covetousness, unbridled lust, gk. - pleonexia from 4123; avarice, i.e. (by
implication) fraudulency, extortion:--covetous(-ness) practices, greediness.

It should be mentioned that this is yet another CONTRAST being drawn by Paul. Here it is
BETWEEN being “imitators of God and walking in love” which is “pleasing to the Lord,”
AND being immoral greedy and impure which is “improper for saints.”
Colossians 3:5-7 - 5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. NASB

2 Corinthians 12:21 - 21 I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced. NASB

In this day of visual images and powerful audio/video media, Christians should be warned to put away even the very appearance of immoral and impure temptations. Christian men should never engage in viewing pornographic material as a fixed gaze on a naked or scantily clad woman is surely a sin against the Lord and poison for your soul (Matt 5:28). A Christian man or woman should not engage in viewing television shows or reading magazines/books which present unwholesome and filthy immoral stories and thoughts or ideas and comments about sinful, impure and immoral behavior which the wicked perpetrate against the Lord in the darkness. It is SHAMEFUL TO EVEN MENTION what the disobedient do in secret.

Matthew 5:28 - 28 but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart. NASB