

## The Book of Ephesians

### I. THE CHURCH IS LIKENED TO A BODY (EPHESIANS 1).

"Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (1:23).

- A. The creation of this body (1:1-14).
  - 1. It was wrought and planned by the Father (1:1-6).

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ" (1:2, 3).

- a. He elected us.
  - (1) The time involved. "Before the foundation of the world" (1:4).
  - (2) The purpose involved. "That we should be holy and without blame before him" (1:4).
- b. He predestinated us,
  - (1) The method. Through Jesus Christ
  - (2) The basis. "According to the good pleasure of his will" (1:5).
  - (3) The reason.

"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved" (1:6).

- 2. It was bought and purchased by the Son (1:7-12).
  - a. Redeemed by his blood.

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (1:7).

- b. Gathered in his name.

"That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him" (1:10).

- c. Predestinated for his glory.

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: that we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ" (1:11, 12),

- 3. It was taught and protected by the Spirit (1:13, 14).
  - a. The what of the matter.

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise" (1:13).

- b. The why of the matter.

"Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory" (1:14),

- B. The consecration of this body (1:15-23).
  - 1. Paul prays that the church may know the God of glory.

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him" (1:17).

- 2. Paul prays that the church may know the glory of God.
  - a. As it is seen in his saints (1:18, 19).
  - b. As it is seen in his Son (1:20, 21).
  - c. As it is seen in his church (1:22, 23),

### II. THE CHURCH IS LIKENED TO A TEMPLE (ch. 2).

"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord" (2:21).

- A. What we once were (2:1-3, 11, 12).
  - 1. Death in sin (2:1).
  - 2. Influenced by Satan (2:2),
  - 3. Controlled by lust (2:3).
  - 4. Separated from Christ (2:12).
  - 5. Excluded from the promises (2:12).
  - 6. Hopeless in the world (2:12).
- B. What God did (2:4-6).

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (2:4-6).

- C. Why God did it (2:7).

"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (2:7).

- D. How God did it (2:8, 9, 13).
  - 1. By the grace of God,

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (2:8, 9).

- 2. By the blood of Christ.

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (2:13).

- E. What we now are (2:10, 14-22).
  - 1. We are products of God's workmanship (2:10).
  - 2. We are partners with Israel in God's Son (2:14-18).
  - 3. We are parts of God's temple (2:19-22).

### III. THE CHURCH IS LIKENED TO A MYSTERY (ch. 3).

"Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (3:4).

- A. The time element of this mystery.
  - 1. Not known in the Old Testament.

"Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men..," (3:5).

- 2. Made known in the New Testament.

"As it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit" (3:5)

- B. The nature of this mystery

"That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel" (3:6).

- C. The revealer of this mystery (3:1-4, 7-9).

"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ" (3:9),

- D. The basis of this mystery.

"According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (3:11).

- E. The reasons for this mystery (3:10).
  - 1. That God's wisdom might be experienced by the church (3:10).
  - 2. That God's wisdom might be illustrated to the angels (3:10).
- F. The results of this mystery.

1. Believers have access to the throne of God (3:12).
2. Believers are strengthened by the Spirit of God (3:16).
3. Believers can know the love of God (3:17-19).
4. Believers can request the power of God (3:20).
5. Believers can display the glory of God (3:21).

#### IV. THE CHURCH IS LIKENED TO A NEW MAN (ch. 4).

##### A. The position of the new man.

1. The unity of his new position--seven great stabilizers (4:4-6).
  - a. One body.
  - b. One Spirit.
  - c. One hope.
  - d. One Lord.
  - e. One faith.
  - f. One baptism.
  - g. One God and Father.
2. The unifier of his new position--one great Savior (4:7-16).
  - a. His gathering (4:8-10).
  - b. His gifts (4:7, 11).
  - c. His goal (4:12-16).
    - (1) That we be equipped.
    - (2) That we be unified.
    - (3) That we be settled.

##### B. The disposition of the new man.

1. His walk (4:1-3, 17-19).
  - a. Adopt the spiritual walk (4:1-3).
  - b. Avoid the sensual walk (4:17-19).
2. His words (4:15, 25, 29, 31).
3. His works (4:22, 26-28, 30).
  - a. Put off the old man (4:22).
    - (1) Don't lose your temper (4:26).
    - (2) Don't give place to the devil (4:27).
    - (3) Don't steal (4:28).
    - (4) Don't grieve the Holy Spirit (4:30).
  - b. Put on the new man (4:23-25, 29, 31).

#### V. THE CHURCH IS LIKENED TO A BRIDE (ch. 5).

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body" (5:23).

##### A. The bride: Her duties as the church (5:1-23).

1. To be separated (5:1-13).
  - a. To the Lord (5:1, 2, 8, 9, 10).
  - b. From the world (5:3-7, 11-13).
2. To be circumspect (5:15, 16)
3. To be Spirit-filled (5:17, 18),
4. To be singing (5:19).
  5. To be singleminded (5:20).
  6. To be submissive (5:21, 22).
- B. The Bridegroom: His devotion to the church (5:23-33).
  1. This devotion, as illustrated by a marriage (5:23, 24, 28-33)~
  2. This devotion, as demonstrated on the cross (5:25),
  3. This devotion, as consummated at the rapture (5:26, 27).
    - a. A bride without spot--no worldly imperfections.
    - b. A bride without blemish--no fleshly imperfections,

#### VI. THE CHURCH IS LIKENED TO A SOLDIER (ch. 6).

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (6:11).

##### A. Boot camp training (6:1-9).

1. Example of children and parents (6:1-4).

- a. As a soldier, the child is to honor and obey his parents.
    - b. As a commander, the parent is to discipline and instruct his children.
  - 2. Example of servants and masters (6:5-9).
    - a. The servant is to serve his master as he would serve Christ.
    - b. The master is to treat his servant as he would treat Christ.
- B. Front line fighting (6:10-24).
  - 1. Our enemy--the devil!
    - a. His cohorts.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (6:12).

- b. His cunning.

"The wiles [schemes] of the devil" (6:11 ).

- c. His cruel tactics.

"The fiery darts [flaming missiles] of the wicked" (6:16).

- 2. Our endeavors--the game plan!
    - a. We are to obey (6:10)
    - b. We are to stand (6:11, 14).
    - c. We are to pray (6:18).
    - d. We are to watch (6:18).
    - e. We are to persevere (6:18).
  - 3. Our equipment--the armor of God (6:11).
    - a. The girdle of truth (6:14).
    - b. The breastplate of righteousness (6:14).
    - c. The sandals of the gospel (6:15).
    - d. The shield of faith (6:16).
    - e. The helmet of salvation (6:17).
    - f. The sword of the Spirit (6:17).
  - 4. Our example--Paul and Tychicus (6:19-24).
    - a. Paul, the chained ambassador (6:19, 20).
    - b. Tychicus, the coming ambassador (6:21,22).