

EPHESIANS

EBC 2005

What an appropriate time to study Ephesians – last year we took up Romans and found LIVING men on the earth. We did an MRI in Chapter 3 and found his condition was terminal - nothing good could be said about man. But this man was RESPONSIBLE just the same. He was found to be a SINNER and was declared GUILTY before God! He was declared to be worthy of DEATH. But then we saw that through the death of Christ man is JUSTIFIED, he has PEACE WITH GOD and is no longer under CONDEMNATION.

How different is the Book of EPHESIANS!! I don't find _____ MEN in this book but I find men that are _____ IN TRESPASSES AND SINS! I am going to learn that God has worked in my life to bring me to and through the Roman experience. I came IN through the door of need in Romans but in Ephesians I will find that God was working all along to bring us into this place of blessing. Romans ends where EPHESIANS begins!!

CHAPTER I

1. Instead of being introduced to a man in his need – who am I introduced to? Discuss the two-fold introduction. What is the tense? What kind of blessings are these and where where are they enjoyed? In Ephesians I am not _____ to heaven but I am _____ in heaven!! Hence I read nothing of the _____ nor do I ever hear a word about a man being JUSTIFIED. The first thing I learn about our Lord Jesus in this verse is that HE is already “in the heavenlies” and I am “in Him”.
2. And I learn now that I was _____ in Him – but when was this choice made and by whom? Discuss the impact of this? This is God's desire for us – to be:” _____ and _____ before him in love.
3. What a wonderful thing to find that God the Father has a will!! HE has “Marked us out beforehand for adoption” to be His SONS through Jesus Christ! And he is the one who will do this – this is not about what we are doing but all about what he done.
4. And now we learn about this wonderful acceptance - WHO is the basis of our acceptance? Discuss “he hath made us.” .”To the praise of His glory is what tense?
5. When I read of “redemption” – I am immediately pointed to “His Blood” and when “Forgiveness of sins” is mentioned – it is according to the “riches of His grace” who “abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence”.
6. Not only has God the Father blessed us, chosen us, marked us out as sons for adoption,

provided redemption & forgiveness of sins, but he will now share with you and me his plans as to what the future will be. Where is the Lord Jesus today? Who is sharing the throne with Him today?

7. What actually is the “two part” mystery.
Part A It is actually that time when the Lord Jesus will no longer “share a throne” but God has willed something far greater for this glorious Man! All things will be arranged according to God’s mind – All that has happened in this world before this was preparatory to this great day when our Lord Jesus Christ will be set as “the head of all things” - all things shall be under the Headship of this glorious man, Christ Jesus..
8. Part B - Now this verse shows that you and I have part in this inheritance! But while we are included in this, it is broader than the Church, for all created things – both in heaven and on earth are to be included. And WHO has willed it to be so? God the Father has been working down through the ages with this glorious world in view
9. This in particular refers to Jews and “to the praise of his glory” is future as it refers to those Jews living on earth who have believed on Christ prior to His second coming.
10. You and I are seen in verse 13 and are given the wonderful “seal” of the Holy Spirit. This seal is a mark of _____, it is _____ to live here in the day of His absence as we look forward to the day of His glory. And it is the _____ or the downpayment of the inheritance. Discuss “Until the redemption” Discuss “the purchased possession.”
11. Discuss the two things the apostle has heard about.
12. In this prayer, the Lord Jesus is seen as a _____ and the prayer is to the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ. He desires that we might know the _____ of His calling. (Not our calling.) The _____ of the GLORY of this inheritance and something of the greatness of the _____ that has brought this all about. Where was this power first displayed? Most of us think of the _____ of our Lord Jesus but verse 21 goes far beyond this.

CHAPTER 2

1. Now I see in this chapter that a _____ man is quickened. Discuss
2. I also learn that this dead man _____ in time past. I also learn that this world has a _____ and a _____. Discuss
3. What principle ruled in this world. _____. What are the two areas in particular that this prince works through in unsaved men and women?
4. Discuss the two great attributes of God seen in verse 4.
5. Discuss three things seen in verses 5 & 6 that God has done for us in Christ.
6. Other Epistles put the Rapture before us as our great hope. What is before us in Verse 7? Discuss
7. Discuss – “Grace . . . it is the gift of God”.
8. What part do “works” have in our salvation? How about after we are saved? Discuss the phrase – “We are His workmanship.”

9. We are apt to forget many things – Discuss verses 11 – 13. What does God not want us to forget and why? What two words in vs. 13 describe the condition of the Gentiles before we were saved?
10. Sometimes people speak of “making our peace with God”. What does verse 14 say about our peace? Who is the “US” in verse 14?
11. What was God’s purpose as seen in verses 16 and 17. What stands out as the great means by which this was accomplished?
12. Vs 19 - We who had a “PAST” – now have a wonderful “PRESENT”. We are told what we are “NOT” as well as what we “PRESENTLY ARE”. There is that which is PROGRESSIVE as seen in verse 21 and that which is a PRESENT REALITY in verse 21. Discuss.

CHAPTER 3

1. How was the “Mystery of Christ” made known to Paul? For us to “understand his knowledge of the mystery of Christ”, what must we do?
2. What did the saints from *other dispensations* know about this mystery?
3. *Who* is active in giving us an understanding of this mystery?
4. What *exactly is* this mystery?
5. Discuss Paul’s feelings about himself.
6. Paul speaks of the principalities and powers in heavenly places being taught the “manifold wisdom of God”. How do they learn this? Discuss.
7. Discuss – “The Eternal purpose of God”.
8. The prayer of Chapter one was to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. This prayer is to whom? The Lord Jesus was seen as a blessed man in the prayer of Chapter 1. How is this prayer different in Chapter 3?
9. What is the “inner man” and how is he strengthened?
10. The ultimate goal of the prayer is what – verses 18 & 19. Discuss
11. Discuss the limitations of verse 20.
Him ... *that is able* ... to do ... *exceeding* ... *abundantly* ... *above* ... *all that we ask* ... *or think* ... according to the power that worketh in us.

CHAPTER 4

1. Discuss the ways a believer in Christ should be seen by others in this world.
2. We are told “*to keep the unity of the Spirit*” in verse 2 – who keeps the unity of the body?
3. There are three spheres or circles seen in verses 4 – 5 & 6. Discuss.
4. Who received grace in verse 7 – and by what measure? Discuss.
5. *When* did Christ give these gifts?
6. What did (or do) these men do?
 - a. Apostles
 - b. Prophets
 - c. Evangelists
 - d. Pastors
 - e. Teachers
7. Discuss the three fold results that come when men faithfully exercise their gifts.
8. The person of verse 13 is a “*full grown*” man – not a *perfect* man as we generally think.
9. Verses 14 and 15 show two results seen in man – one is internal and the other appears to be external or directed towards others. Discuss

10. What believers appear to be *left out* in verse 16. (*Every joint – Every part*)
11. Discuss the characteristics of the men and women of this world – vs 17 – 18 – 19.
12. Discuss – “ye have put off the old man” and “ye have put on the new man”. Discuss the *characteristics* of this “*new man*”
13. Look at the practical results seen in verses 25 to 29
 - a. Lying - Speaking truth
 - b. Anger - Matters settled before sun goes down
 - c. Stealing - Giving to his neighbor
 - d. Corrupt communication - edifying communication.
14. Vs 30 – 32 Discuss the *measure* of our forgiveness in these verses.

CHAPTER 5

1. Who is the believer *really* to be following?
2. What *governs* our walk and what was the measure of this as seen in our Lord Jesus Christ? Discuss the two offerings mentioned in verse 2.
3. Certain things are “*not to be once named among you . . as becometh saints*”. Discuss
4. To be characterized by the behavior seen in verses 3 – 4 & 5 is to be a “partaker with them.” Discuss
5. To what extent can we have fellowship with these works in vs 11. Can we be neutral?
6. How about a discussion of these things? Vs 12
7. What does light do?
8. How do we “redeem the time?”
9. Why is “the will of the Lord” such a mystery to so many people?
10. Should being “filled with the Spirit” be an occasional thing or experience. Discuss
11. Vs 19 & 20 - Does this not appear to be the “natural” result of being filled. Discuss
12. Discuss the place “thanksgiving” should have in the life of a believer.
13. The “*old man*” would like for others to submit to him – Discuss vs 21 where the “*new man*” submits to others and the motive behind this submission.
14. How is the Church sanctified and cleansed today?
15. What is the “*future*” for the Assembly of the Living God?

CHAPTER 6

1. Why are children told to “*obey*” and not to “*submit*?”
2. Discuss vs 2 & 3 - *Honour – Promise - That it may be well with thee.*
3. Discuss the “*balance*” of verse 3.
4. Discuss the relationship between “*servants*” and “*masters*”.. How is this applicable today?
4. If I am to be *strong* – where will this strength come from?
5. What part of the “*armor of God*” is most important?
6. What are the “*wiles of the devil*?”
7. What is this *battle* for which we need armor really about?
8. Discuss the various parts of the body that are open for attack and the protection provided.