

# EASTERN BIBLE CONFERENCE YOUNG PEOPLES 2014

## The Epistle to the Ephesians

### CHAPTER 1

### *“The Depth of the Father’s Love”*

So often our thoughts of the Father relate to our needs! We think along the lines of Romans – we were in deep need – the Father sent His only begotten Son – we have been saved. We relate to Him on the basis of what we needed – not on the basis of who He is – but - what He has done to meet our needs! No doubt this view is very necessary and is the door by which we enter into blessing – but don’t stop here! Our Father says – I want to show you WHO I am and not merely show you what I have done to meet your needs. We must see our Father acting on the basis of who he is – entirely irrespective of what we are or what we have done! If I asked you to tell me about your father (earthly) and the only thing you could say is that he pays the bills – provides food and clothing – and a house for you to live in, I would probably assume that you don’t have much of a relationship with your earthly father. This Epistle – in Chapter 1 – is going to tell us about our Father and the relationship He wants us to enjoy with Himself.

1. The reason for the writing of Galatians was legalism. Colossians was written due to the entrance of philosophy, mysticism and legality. Why was the Epistle to the Ephesians written? Discuss
2. What does the spiritual state of the believer have to do with the truth God gives in an epistle? Discuss the difference between Ephesians, Colossians and Galatians.
3. Our God introduces us to Himself in two ways in reference to our Lord Jesus Christ in verse 3. Discuss
4. Discuss the phrase - “hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”.
5. Verse 4 Who chose who and when? Discuss
6. Discuss our calling in verse 4 – “that we may be holy and without blame before Him in love” Is this for heaven or for the earth?
7. Verse 4 has to do with our God looked at as “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ” – verse 5 has to do with Him as “the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”. What is special about being a Son? How did our WALK enter into this?
8. Verse 6 tells us about our acceptance – Discuss
9. Verse 7 is the only verse in Chapter 1 that speaks of “what we were”  
Discuss “Redemption” - and how accomplished.  
Discuss “Forgiveness of sins” and how accomplished.
10. Having set our minds at ease as to our “sins”, He says to us – “I want you to understand “MY PURPOSES concerning my Son”. To the world, this is a mystery – but just as Abraham entered into God’s purposes about Sodom, we enter into God’s purposes about the Lord Jesus. We are not servants but bear the character of His friends.
11. The first Adam failed – but the Second Man – our Lord Jesus Christ will have the entire \_\_\_\_\_ under His headship. Discuss

12. Verse 11 – Why is it that we take part in this inheritance? Discuss
13. The word “according” appears in the following verses:  
 Verse 5 – “According to the good pleasure of His will”  
 Verse 6 – “According to the riches of His grace”  
 Verse 9 – “According to His good pleasure which He has purposed in Himself”  
 Verse 11-“According to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will”.  
 Discuss what part you and I have responsibly in any of this.
14. In verse 13, the Spirit of God seals. Is this before – according to this verse – or after a person believes the Gospel of his salvation? Put simply, God seals what \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. We are sealed as \_\_\_\_\_ in our Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit is a mark of \_\_\_\_\_. We are His \_\_\_\_\_. As a seal, the Holy Spirit is the witness of our having been \_\_\_\_\_ from our sins by His precious blood.
15. Verse 14 shows us something else that the Holy Spirit is in the believer He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our inheritance. As to the possession, we are already \_\_\_\_\_ but we are waiting along with our Lord Jesus Christ for Him to \_\_\_\_\_ His inheritance. What throne is He now sitting on?
16. We now come to the prayer of the Apostle Paul in verse 15. Faith must have an object and this object is \_\_\_\_\_ but love must also have an object and that is \_\_\_\_\_. Is this still true today?
17. Something in particular characterized the prayer life of Paul. \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Verses 17 – 18 and 19 refer to something that Paul desired for the saints in Ephesus . Why did He not just teach this to them instead of praying for it? This he desired: (Discuss)  
 a) They might know the hope of His calling. (Verse 4)  
 b) What the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.  
 c) The exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe.
19. Discuss that power and what it has done? Who is it available to now?
20. Discuss the steps of His exaltation in verses 20 to 23.

## Chapter 2

## “God Acting for His Own Glory” WK

After reading about the wonderful place of blessing the individuals of Chapter 1 have been brought into, we might have thought these people were really special. Well Chapter 2 exposes the terrible condition of Adams race – Jew and Gentile alike! They are not treated as men and women – alive in this world – and walking in sin as Romans depicts them to us. In Romans man had to be proven guilty! Here there is no need for any such proof. Apart from God acting, the condition of this man is hopeless. There is no life in them - they are spiritually dead. Everything depends upon God!

1. Verse 1 - introduces us to our Saviour doing what man could never do. He imparts life where death had been! The dead man has life imparted to him.
2. Verse 2 gives us the history of this man – including the previous master in his life. He is termed by God as a “son of disobedience” Discuss
3. In Verse 3, we find that this is not Gentiles only! Discuss man’s condition as seen in this verse.

4. If there is a change made, who must make the change? “But God, who is rich in mercy”. Discuss When did He quicken us?
5. In most of the New Testament, salvation is looked as at the end of our time here. In Hebrews we are being saved by our great high priest. But it is different in Ephesians! In this book – WE ARE SAVED – not going to be saved. We are seen as in heaven already. Hence in this book there is no talk about the \_\_\_\_\_. Discuss
6. In Verse 5 – it reads “By grace are ye saved” The words “Through faith” are added in verse 8. Discuss Who gives us the “faith” to believe?
7. Look at what our God has in mind in verse 7! Discuss
8. Verse 10 is not about what we shall be in the future but what we are now in this scene. Discuss
9. Verses 11 & 12 remind us that we – Gentiles – never had any claims upon God. There were many promises about Gentiles being brought into blessing but no promises to Gentiles. Discuss
10. Discuss the “But now” of verse 13.
11. What was “the middle wall of partition”? Who set it up and when? Who had the power and the authority to take it down? “Our peace” is a person! Discuss
12. Discuss the “new man” of verse 15.
13. Discuss “reconciliation” and “the cross” in verse 16.
14. Verse 19 shows us both our “past” – “strangers and pilgrims” – and our present – “fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God.” Discuss
15. Discuss “what” we are built upon.
16. Discuss “the household of God” and the “hold temple of the Lord”

### Chapter 3                      “The Mystery of Christ”

A mystery in scripture is quite different from what is termed a mystery in the world we live in. In this world men attempt to solve mysteries. In the Word of God, a mystery remains a mystery until our God reveals the meaning of it. It is this mystery concerning Jews and Gentiles being “of the same body and partakers of his promise in Christ by the Gospel” that caused the Apostle to be sought by the authorities and for which he spent much of his life in a Roman prison. This Chapter is sort of a parenthesis coming between the end of the doctrine of Chapters 1 & 2 and the practical working out of this truth in Chapters 3 and 4.

Let’s attempt to try and understand why this chapter is needed by putting ourselves in the position of a Jewish believer. All of our lives here on earth we have been avoiding any fellowship with Gentiles and doing so because of the Old Testament scriptures. They were dogs – the uncircumcision – “aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in this world.” This Paul comes telling us there is no longer this wall of partition – Jews and Gentiles are now in one body – and the enmity between us and them is gone! How can this be we would say? And that is precisely why this chapter is needed!

These were legitimate questions for those who were once Jews but now believers to ask and to have answers to.

1. Paul – who was a Jew by nationality – was where now? Why was he there?
2. How were these truths made known to him? Discuss
3. How is it that we come to an understanding of this?
4. Verse 5 gives us the great change and who reveals this unto the apostles and prophets. Discuss
5. The Mystery is not about Christ or about the Church but is about Christ and the Church! The Church will share in His universal headship over all things!  
Discuss
  - a) Fellowheirs
  - b) Of the same body
  - c) Partakers of his promise in Christ by the Gospel.
6. Verse 8 – Discuss the practical effect this had on the apostle Paul.
7. Discuss Paul's mission as given in verses 8 thru 10
  - a) Preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.
  - b) Make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery.
  - c) Discuss what is revealed unto the principalities and powers and by whom?
  - d) Is this a future thing or is it to be taking place now?
8. In light of all that we have learned earlier in Chapter 3, the Spirit of God can now encourage us to "faint not at my tribulations for you" Discuss
9. We now have the second prayer of this Epistle. We will remember that we saw the Lord Jesus in two (2) relationships to our God in Chapter 1. The first was that of a Man and we saw all that was to be put under Him as a Man. Here we are on higher ground as we see Him in relation to his God as a Son of the Father. It is in this relationship that He has specific desires for you and I
  - a) To be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man.
  - b) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith
  - c) That ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height.
  - d) To know the love of Christ that ye may be filled withal the fullness of God.
10. We would perhaps say – this is too high! This could never be – but then we close this chapter with verses 20 and 21. "Now unto His that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us. Unto Him be Glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end."

## Chapter 4

The doctrine has been laid down in the first three chapters of this book. Now in Chapter 4 we find that this doctrine is very practical – it forms the very foundation for our walk and practices as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. Verses 1 through 6 deal with the unity of the Spirit.

1. What exactly is this vocation that we are to walk worthy of? If I don't know what it is – I can't walk worthy of it. It consists of two parts in particular.
  - a) All saints compose one body in Christ - we call this the Body of Christ. We like to hear of this as it involves our privileges or blessings in Christ.
  - b) We – all who believe in Jesus – are the habitation of God through the Spirit. This involves our responsibility.

2. A walk worthy of this vocation will include the following:
  - a) *Lowliness*
  - b) *Meekness*
  - c) *Longsuffering*
  - d) *Forbearing one another – in love.*
  - e) *Endeavoring to keep – the unity of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace. Discuss*
3. Let's discuss these unities
  - First Unity – Only reality in this unity
    - a) *One body* – not many - body made up of Jews and Gentiles
    - b) *One Spirit* – one power
    - c) *One hope* of your calling – the glory
  - Second Unity Profession included in this unity
    - d) *One Lord* – the only authority
    - e) *One faith* - the Christian faith
    - f) *One baptism* – water
    - g) *One God and Father* of all who is above all and through all and in you all (the Ephesian Christians) We own no other God at all!
4. We now enter into the area where Christ – the Head of the Church – gives gifts to the Assembly. The view here is corporate – the gifts are the men themselves. This covers the period of time between the two advents of Christ – from Pentacost to the rapture. The Holy Spirit is prominent in the local setting in the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians but Christ as Head is prominent in Ephesians.
5. Discuss the work of these men:
  - a) Apostles
  - b) Prophets
  - c) Evangelists
  - d) Pastors & teachers
6. Discuss WHY they are given:
  - a) The perfecting of the saints
  - b) The work of the ministry
  - c) The edifying of the body of Christ
7. If these men are functioning according to His design – where do they bring the Assembly? Here in verse 13 they help that which is positive toward the saints. Discuss
8. Verse 14 shows us the practical results of these gifts functioning under the direction and authority of Christ. Discuss
9. We sometimes think that “speaking the truth” is all that Christ requires of us. Discuss this in accord with verse 15.
10. Verse 16 has the whole body in view. Who is Christ using in this verse for the up-building and edification of the body? Discuss

We learned in Chapter 4 – verse 1 of the “walk” of the believer and the features of Christ that should be seen in us. We move on now to that which should not be seen in the believer’s life. This is not just about appearance but what our lives should and should not reflect.

1. Verses 17 – 19 give us the source or root of the problems in the world we are world we are passing through. Discuss these features of the old man.
2. What does the “the truth as in Jesus” refer to? Discuss
3. Verse 22 is in “the aorist tense” What does this mean? Discuss
4. What is the moral character of this “old man” and how was it changed after our conversion to Christ? Discuss
5. Discuss the practical effect of verse 23. (Change “be” to “being renewed”.)
6. Discuss the characteristics of this “new” man as seen in vs 24. Discuss the meaning of “new” as seen in Ephesians – (Never anything like it before)
7. Let’s look at the changes in you and I as seen 25 – thru – vs 29.
  - a) Not characterized by anger
  - b) Does not give place to the devil
  - c) No longer steals – but works and gives!
  - d) No corrupt communication – but edifying!
8. How do we “grieve” the Spirit of God? Why does it not say “grieve not away”. Discuss the fact that we are sealed unto the day of redemption.”
9. “Bitterness, wrath and anger” are properly speaking \_\_\_\_\_. They cannot in themselves be seen but the results of them can be seen as shown in clamour and evil speaking. Discuss
10. Verse 32 tells us we should forgive as we have been forgiven – how have we been forgiven? Discuss

## Chapter 5

1. Is it possible to be (marginal reading) an imitator of God?
2. This is the third “walk” that we have to do with in Ephesians. Discuss the offerings as seen in verse 2. Discuss Christ as our example in this.
3. Verses 3 thru 7 give us the characteristics of the children of disobedience. Discuss What does it mean to be a “partaker with them”?
4. Verse 8 does not say we were in darkness but were darkness - Discuss  
We have again here a reference to our fourth “walk” – “walk as children of light” Discuss
5. There are many principles that can be seen in the life of one who is walking as a “child of light.” Some of them are as follows:
  - a) Vs 10 - Proving what is “acceptable unto the Lord.”
  - b) Vs 11 – Having no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them!
  - c) Vs 12 - Not even speaking of things done of them in secret
6. We now come to the fifth “walk” – vs 15 - “Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.”
7. How does a believer “redeem the time” as indicated in verse 17?
8. One who is not wise - vs 17 – gives little heed to the will of the Lord but for us “we are to understand what the will of the Lord is.” Discuss

9. Discuss vs 18. Being filled with the Spirit is a great \_\_\_\_\_ of the believer. Discuss
  10. Could the person described in verses 19 & 20 be you and I? How would you like to have a neighbor like this or work with some one of this character? Discuss Vs 21 actually goes with this section.
- We now come to a portion that involves the relationship we all are in or want to be in as guided by the Lord. This section deals BOTH with this relationship and shows it to be a MODEL of Christ and His Church.
11. Verse 21 – The wife is call to “submit” is she not naturally likely to do so to one she has married? Discuss
  12. Verse 22 involves the husband or more properly “the man”. Does this verse say that he is or he is to be “head of the wife”? What is involved in headship?
    - a) \_\_\_\_\_
    - b) \_\_\_\_\_
    - c) \_\_\_\_\_
  13. As the husband is – so is Christ to the Assembly? Discuss
  14. When is the Assembly not subject unto Christ? Discuss How does this relate to the wife and her husband ? What is the balance the scripture put in when it comes to the husband and the wife?
  15. Why does a husband have to be exhorted to love his wife in vs 25? What is the measure of Christ’s love for the Assembly? Discuss
  16. What is Christ doing for the Assembly on a regular basis and how as seen in vs 26 Discuss
  17. What is going to happen in verse 27? Discuss the condition the Assembly will be seen in then? Who does this depend upon?

## CHAPTER 6

There is no part of the believer’s home that is not affected by these chapters and exhortations in Ephesians. It deals with all in the home and all members of the family, extending even to servants and masters.

1. The first verse is a particularly encouraging verse to children. Obedience to parents is not an option – but it brings promises of very great blessings! \_\_\_\_\_ generally is called upon while our children are in home and under the authority of the parents. Verse 2 shows us that which is for a \_\_\_\_\_ and carries two (2) very distinctive blessings with it. Discuss
  - a) “That it may be well with thee” – Discuss
  - b) “That thou mayest live long on the earth” Discuss
2. Servants were actually to see themselves as servants of \_\_\_\_\_. Discuss

3. Their service as not to Christ as such but “as to the Lord and not to men”  
Discuss the balance between the instructions for the servant and for the master.

As we end this Epistle there is one thing we can be sure of. We will be tested! If we desire to follow the principles in this book, God assures us that we will not be able to stand in and of ourselves. We will need His strength, his power and his armour. You may remember the tense given in the discussion of the old man and the new man. The aorist tense means that it is a thing to be done once. This is the same with the “Armour of God” – it is never to be taken off.

4. Discuss “the whole armour of God”.
5. What are the “wiles” of the devil?
6. Discuss – “We wrestle not against flesh and blood”
7. Discuss – “Against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”.
8. Discuss – “standing and withstanding in the evil day”.
9. Discuss the following parts of His armour:
  - a) *Truth*
  - b) *The breastplate of righteousness*
  - c) *Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.*
  - d) *The shield of faith*
  - e) *The helmet of salvation*
  - f) *The Sword of the Spirit*
  - g) *Praying always*



