

27 GEMS – A Survey Through Ephesians

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

The MESSAGE of Ephesians:

Ephesians is the **17th** shortest book in the New Testament with **2,422** Greek words.

Ephesians is one of the "**Prison Letter**" of Paul while in Rome.

Ephesians is very similar to **Colossians**, in over 50% of the letter.

Ephesians contains the **longest continuous sentence** in the Bible in 1:3-14, in Greek.

Ephesians contains the only detailed teaching on the **Spiritual Armor** in the Bible.

Ephesians uses the phrase "**in Christ**" 15 times, and is a main focus of the letter.

Ephesians is commonly called the "**Spiritual Alps**" of the New Testament.

"Ephesians is the Grand Canyon of Scripture." - Ruth Paxson

The MEGA-THEME of Ephesians:

"WALK worthy of WHO you are in Christ!"

or *"Live your Christian IDENTITY, in daily ACTIVITY!"*

The MEGA-STRUCTURE of Ephesians:

Ch. 1:1-3:21 - The Christians' **WEALTH**.

Ch. 4:1-6:9 - The Christians' **WALK**.

Ch. 6:10-24 - The Christians' **WARFARE**.

"Ephesians, carefully, reverently, prayerfully considered, will changer our lives. It's not so much a question of what we will do the this letter, but what it will do with us." - R. Kent Hughes

Ch. 1:1-3:21 - The Christians' WEALTH.

Eph 1:1-3 - "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ,.."

- [Here, we are introduced to the author of the letter, Paul the apostle. He spent more than 3 years in the city of Ephesus, making it his longest](#)

stay in any one city (*Acts 18:19-20:38*). Ephesus was **the largest city** in Asia Minor, and the church was the largest in the first century. Being a **great financial city**, Paul makes use of many financial terms in this letter such as "**inheritance**", "**guarantee**", "**redemption**", and "**purchased possession**".

- Verse 3 tells us the Theme for the letter: Who has made is in Christ Jesus! Here Paul begins his masterful description of the **Identity of the Christian**, the spiritual "wealth" of every believer. He will continue to list these amazing blessing and positions for 50% of the letter - **over 20 spiritual blessings** in all! For this reason, Ephesians is called the "Alps of the New Testament" because it looks higher and more heavenly than any other letter regarding the position of believers.
- We see here, that Christianity is really about **what GOD has done**, not what we can do... **who HE has made us**, not what we think of ourselves. A deep understanding of Christian Identity is sorely needed by many Christians today, due to an "**Eeyore mentality**" or a perspective of "**spiritual poverty**" that is very common.

Eph 1:4 - "...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also [trusted], after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

- Paul begins here to list the tremendous "spiritual riches" that belong to every believer in Christ. It is a huge list of the gracious and amazing Identity that we now have in Christ:

- You are **CHOSEN** - In Christ, you were elected and picked out from eternity past by God. He selected you personally and individually to be on His winning team, and to be saved by Christ. (Lk 6:13; Acts 9:15)
- You are **HOLY** - In Christ, you have received a POSITION of absolute holiness and perfection. Regardless of your failures in daily PRACTICE, your condition in God's eyes is blameless and perfectly clean. (Isa 1:18; Ps.103:12)
- You are **ADOPTED** - In Christ, you have been made into a royal child of God. In the Roman world, by adoption you literally became a new person, and your past crimes and debts were irrelevant. (2 Cor 5:17; Rev 21:5)
- You are **ACCEPTED** - In Christ, you have had God's Grace poured out upon you, and you have now become acceptable to God. You have been transformed by His Grace, now able to enter His presence. (Zech 3:1-5)
- You are **REDEEMED** - In Christ, you have been bought and purchased out of the slave-market of sin. He has paid the ransom money for you, and you are now His purchased servant. (Phil 1:1; 1 Pet 1:18,19)
- You are **FORGIVEN** - In Christ, all of your spiritual debts have been cancelled and released. Through the payment of the blood of Christ, you are debt-free, and also possess infinite righteousness. (Col 2:14; 2 Cor 5:21)
- You are **INFORMED** - In Christ, you have been made to understand that He is the focal point of all of history, and that one day He will reign over the world..with you at His side. (Rev 20:4-6; Isa 11; Matt 25:14-30)
- You are an **HEIR** - In Christ, you are sons/daughters of God and are co-heirs with Jesus the Son of God. As He will inherit all things, you shall also inherit all things, and rule with Him. (Rom 8:17,32; Eph 3:6; Jas 2:5)
- You have the **TRUTH** - In Christ, you have received and learned the Truth - God's Eternal Word. You have learned what Reality is truly like, thru the Gospel and Christ's Word. (Jn 8:31,32; 17:17; 18:36)
- You are **SEALED** - In Christ, the Holy Spirit has come into your heart and sealed you. Just as a purchased good had the seal of the owner placed upon it, God has placed His Spirit upon your heart. (Eze 36:26,27)

Eph 2:5-10 - *"..even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive***

together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might **show the exceeding riches of His grace** in [His] kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For **we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

- 11. **You are made ALIVE** - In Christ, we have been spiritually brought to life through His Spirit. We are now alive spiritually and able to commune and fellowship with our Creator. (Rom 6:11; Col 2:13)
- 12. **You are a GRACE TROPHY** - In Christ, you have been so lavished with His amazing grace that in the future ages of eternity, you will be on display as a trophy of His kindness and grace. (Lk 19:28; Mt 22:30)
- 13. **You are RESCUED** - In Christ, you were rescued from the ravages of sin and the penalty of Hell. You were saved, but even the faith that you exercised was given to you by the Lord. (Rom 11:36; Rom 6:23)
- 14. **You are a MASTERPIECE** - You are the crown of God's creation, a work of art in the making, a spiritual sculpture in the hands of the Master, being fashioned in to a Master-piece. (Rom 9:20,21; Jer 18:1-6; 2 Cor 3:18)
- 15. **You are an AGENT** - In Christ, you have a special, personalized mission that He wants you to accomplish in this world. He has gifted you and is training you to finish a certain work, just for you. (Lk 6:13; Acts 9:15)

2:13 - "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near by the blood of Christ**. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who **has made both one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ..."

- 16. **You are brought CLOSE** - In Christ, you are brought into intimate closeness with the Lord. Through Jesus sacrifice, we are able to have fellowship with a perfect Holy God. (2 Cor 5:21; Jer 31:31-33)
- 17. **You are UNIFIED** - In Christ, you are unified and made one with all believers worldwide, whether Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, young or old. We are united as one in the Body of Christ. (1 Cor 12:12; Gal 3:28; Eph 4:4)

2:18 - "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.."

- 18. You have ACCESS - In Christ, we have bold access into the presence of God. Through the power of His blood, Christ has opened to us a new way into fellowship with the Lord. (Heb 4:14-16; 10:19-20)
- 19. You are CITIZENS - In Christ, we have become citizens of the Kingdom of God. Jesus has enabled us and made us to be acceptable and fit for citizenship in the Heavenly City. (Phil 3:20-21; Heb 11:13-16)
- 20. You are FAMILY - In Christ, we are now a part of the sons and daughters of God. We have received new identities, and are no longer just "creatures" or "servants" but rather His children. (Gal 4:6,7; Rev 21:7)

2:22 - "..in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

- 21. You are A TEMPLE - In Christ, we are collectively being built up to be a spiritual Temple for the Spirit of God. Each Christians is a Temple for the Spirit, but so is the Church collectively. (1 Pet 2:4,5; 1 Cor 3:16,17)

Eph 3:2 - ".. if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you.."

- 22. You stand in GRACE - In Christ, we relate to God through a covenant of Grace, enacted with the broken body and shed blood of Christ. Our relationship with God is based on an unconditional, unbreakable, unchangeable covenant of God's Grace. (Jer 31:31-34; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Heb 8:7-13)

3:8 - "To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ..."

- 23. You are SPIRITUALLY RICH - In Christ, all that He is as the infinite, unlimited God the Son, is accessible to us. Not only now, but in the ages to come, we will eternally be exploring the unsearchable depths and riches of Christ's love, power, knowledge, creativity, and grace! (Col 2:3; Rev 2:26-29; 22:3-5)

Ch. 4:1-6:9 - The Christians' WALK.

[Eph 4:1-3, 7, 11-15, 22-32 NKJV] 1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ...

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ...11 And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- ...

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "[Let] each one [of you] speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with [his] hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

[Eph 5:3-7, 11, 15-22, 25, 28 NKJV] 3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. ...11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose [them]. ...

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord [is]. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ...

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ... 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

[Eph 6:1, 4-5, 9 NKJV] 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ... 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. 5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ... 9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Ch. 6:10-24 - The Christians' [WARFARE](#).

[Eph 6:10-20 NKJV] 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you

may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places]. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.