

27 GEMS – A Survey of Ephesians (PT 2)

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,

- [Here Paul begins the PRACTICAL section of his book](#) - the WALK of the Christian, and now begins to apply all that he has covered in the first 3 chapters. He begins to answer the question: "If this is **WHO** I am in Jesus, then **HOW** should it affect me? If this is my **WEALTH** in Jesus, then what should be my **WALK** with Christ?"
- Paul begins by telling us that we need to "walk worthy" of who we are in Christ. He says that our **POSITION** should show itself lived out in our **PRACTICE**. Now he will tell us what a "worthy" life looks like in our daily living...

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. ...

- **WALKING in Unity** - Paul says that since we are adopted children, who are holy, chosen, and sealed by the Spirit (1:4-14), we need to have an attitude like Jesus towards those around us. We need to live in humility, relating to people in gentleness and being patient with them during challenging circumstances - all through the power of God's love. Through all of it we need to be working hard to guard Christian unity and peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- [The NLT translation is helpful here:](#) "*Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with 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-- ...

- **WALKING in Ministry** - Since we know who we are Christ, and the wealth that we have in Him, we need to discover our spiritual gifts and use them to serve the Christians around us. This will result in all of us growing up and maturing in our Christian walks, and no longer being immature spiritual children who are easily deceived and led astray.

- In particular, Paul mentions here 4 special New Testament ministry gifts: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, and Teaching Pastors. These are NT ministry offices, but are actually gifts to the local church - gifted men equipped by Christ to bless His church.

"Apostles" is the word *"apostolos"* and is an ambassador, sent with credentials and authority. These men **GOVERN** the NT church.

"Prophets" is the word *"prophetas"* and is a proclaimer of God's direct/special word to the assembly. These men **GUIDE** the NT church.

"Evangelists" is the word *"euangelistas"* and is an announcer of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the unbeliever. These men **GROW** the NT church.

"Teaching Pastors" are the words *"poimenas didaskalous"* and is an instructor of the doctrines and truths of God's Word. These men **GROUND** the NT church.

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.

- **WALKING in Newness** - Paul addresses our ACTIONS towards our Old Man. In light of who we are in Christ, we should be "putting off" the tendencies and appetites of our old life before Christ and "putting on" the character of Jesus, which is the New Man.
- **"Put off"** is the Greek word *"apothesthai"* that means to lay aside; take off; throw away completely. Paul gave this same "put off" exhortation to the Colossians as well in Col 3:5-11.
- **"Put on"** is the Greek word *"enduo"* and means to be clothed with something; to choose to put on a certain behavior and attitude. Paul also encouraged the Colossians to do this in Col 3:12-17.

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.

- **WALKING in Purity of Speech** - One major area that we as believers in Christ need to "put off" and throw out of our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit is in the area of "sins of the mouth". Here, Paul addresses lying to others, wrathful speech, corrupt communications, and evil speaking that we engage in. All of these grieve and sadden the Holy Spirit, and need to be removed from our lives, since we are the chosen, adopted, and holy children of God.

[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]. ...

- **WALKING in Purity of Body** - Next Paul states that sins such as fornication, covetousness, uncleanness, and idolatry should must be permanently discarded by believers. These "sins of the body" can have no place in the life of a genuine Christian.
- **Paul says that people are wrongly deceived** that such people who are habitually, unrepentantly, openly practicing these types of sinful lifestyles, are actually not believers at all. These types of sinful lifestyles prove that the individual has not been regenerated by the Spirit, and so practices the same wicked sins as before.

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.

- **WALKING in Wisdom** - Here, Paul tells us that in this area of living, since we understand who we truly are in Christ, we should walk carefully and wisely through the world; we should seize any opportunity we have to serve Christ; we should be continually filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, which will result in a life of praise and thanks to the Lord, and in submission to one another in love.

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.

- **WALKING in Submission** - Here Paul begins to tell us how we should walk in the Christian family, understanding our true identity in Christ. Our family relationships will be radically different if we allow our **POSITION** in Christ, to be lived out in our **PRACTICE**.
- First, he tells us that **the Wife** is to submit to husband as to the Lord. This is a Greek word "**hupotasso**" as is a military word used to describe a soldier staying in the proper formation and rank. She is to recognize and respect his God-given "rank" as the leader and head of the Christian home, following him out of worship to the Lord's authority structure. This is how a Christian wife is to demonstrate her new identity in Christ. (Read Col 3:18, 1 Pet 3:1-6)
- Second, Paul instructs **the Husbands** on how to submit to the Lord in regards to caring for their wives. He says they are to sacrificially love their wives as Jesus did towards the Church, even giving up His life for it. The word for love is the Greek word "**agape**" which is the highest form of love to the Greeks. It speaks of a sacrificial and giving love, which has no concern for what it will receive in return. Agape love is not based upon feelings or emotions, but rather upon a choice and a commitment. This is how a Christian husband is to demonstrate his new identity in Christ. (1 Pt 3:7; Col 3:19)

[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.

- Lastly, Paul describes how the rest of the Christian family relationships should be radically transformed by living out our NEW Christian

identity in Jesus, and walking in submission to His commands for them:

Children, should obey their parents in all things.

Fathers, should train their children and not discourage them.

Servants, should sincerely obey and work hard for their bosses.

Masters, should treat their employees with respect and fairness.

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.

- Now Paul speaks of the **WARFARE** of the believer. Once we understand who we truly are in Christ, and we then begin to live out this new Identity in our daily living, we will inevitably encounter WARFARE from Satan and his demons. Any Christian who seeks to aggressively expand God's Kingdom, will be actively opposed by the enemy and leader of the forces of darkness.
- **These spirits are the fallen angels**, which rebelled with Lucifer, and are now called "demons" or "devils" in Scripture. We know that 1/3 of the angels sided with Lucifer in his defection, but the majority of the angels remain loyal to Christ, their Great King. (Read Isa 14; Eze 28; Rev 12; 2 Kin 6)
- Notice that he says to stand strong in **the Power of God**, and with the Armor He has provided for us...not in our own power, strength, or authority. Many Christians make the mistake of thinking they can take on Satan under their own power, even though the great Arch-Angel Michael never did! (Read Jude 8,9)

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.

- Lastly, Paul speaks of the infamous "**Armor of God**" and details for us the weapons of our spiritual warfare. This is the most in-depth and specific description of this armor in all of the Bible and a very well known text, though greatly misunderstood by many.
- Notice how Paul uses the metaphor of a Roman soldier's armor, and describes 7 defensive and offensive tools we have: a soldier's **Belt**; a body-armor **Breastplate**; war **Sandals**; a battle **Shield**; a war **Helmet**; a close combat **Sword**; and battlefield **Communications**. Most bible teachers believe that since Paul found himself in prison at the time of this epistle, he was using the imagery of a Roman Legionnaire that was most likely guarding him in his house/cell.
- Note that some of the articles of armor **were constantly worn** by the Roman soldier (belt and sandals), and others only in a time of combat (breastplate; shield; helmet, sword, comms).
- Note that the first **3 articles have been "put on"** in our past as Christians (Truth, Righteousness, Gospel), while others need to be used as necessary in future combat (Faith, hope of Salvation, Word of God, Prayer)
- Finally, ALL of these articles of Armor and Weaponry are **Bible DOCTRINES and Bible TRUTHS**. Essentially, the weapons and defensive tools that the Lord has given to keep us safe and strong...are the truths of Scripture!
 - When we rightly understand the **Truth** of Scripture as a whole, it binds our life together like a belt;
 - The doctrine of **Righteousness** can function as Body-Armor;
 - The **Gospel** understood properly can make you an effective and mobile soldier;
 - The Christian **Faith** in it's entirety can be a shield against enemy attacks;
 - The doctrine of our ultimate **Salvation** can protect your mind as a battle helmet;
 - Specific portions of **God's Word** can be used like a sword to fight the enemy back;
 - Effective and fervent **Prayer** can make you very effective in this spiritual warzone!