



Ephesians Masterclass

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| 5.0 Summary



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Our journey through Ephesians is now complete and yet it has simply marked the beginning of all that God has yet to reveal to us in this supreme letter. For we have only just scratched the surface of all the treasures contained therein. Nevertheless it is hoped that the student will feel a greater familiarity with this part of the WORD of God than before.

Indeed it will serve the student well to have, as a purely mental exercise, committed to memory a rough outline of the letter, be it either the one we looked at in section 2 or perhaps our own. For by use of such memories the Holy Spirit can quicken to us the WORD of God more readily when we need it in life, for ourselves and others.

More importantly however, it is hoped that each student has heard the calling from the throneroom of God, where this letter was written, and journeyed into the Heavens by revelation into our hearts. For it is in the Heavens all our blessings are secured, in the Heavens our King has been crowned, in the Heavens we are raised above this world and seated with Christ - *in Christ*, in the Heavens the wisdom of God is proclaimed through his church and in the Heavens the battle continues as the day draws to a close and the dawn of the Day of the Lord approaches.

In light of this on the earth we must live in hope of our returning King, not as passengers aboard a stricken liner but as ambassadors of a King who has already fought and won the rights to this world's greatest treasures - the very souls of men. In readiness for his return we are called to fulfil the original mandate God gave to the first Adam, to subdue the earth, multiply and fill it with God's own image - not by might, nor by power but by the in-dwelling Holy Spirit of Christ!

We have learned that only when the eyes of our heart dominate the eyes in our head shall we see the fullness of everything God will do on this earth to fill it with his glory. Only with the eyes of our heart can we perceive the extent of Christ's victory on the Cross, and the authority given us by virtue of our union with him and upon our complete submission to his Lordship. Only with the eyes of our heart can we see the true battle being fought for the souls of men. It is into this battle the Apostle beckons us, but only when armed with all the weaponry and armour we need for this fight - for our foe is cunning, deceitful and because he has nothing more to lose will take as many souls as he can with him to the lake of fire.

Lastly, it is hoped that we have glimpsed the essential *eternity* of God, for it is of this eternal nature that we have partaken. Paul urged the Corinthians to see everything in this life in light of eternity and let this order our priorities and our view of everything and everyone we encounter in this life. As we have seen, Ephesians, one of Paul's last great works, tarries much in the Heavens. This is because Paul had an ever-growing revelation of Christ Jesus as he approached eternity. In his letter to the Philippians we find this great man of God crying out that he wanted to know Christ and yet his revelation of him was unrivalled. After a lifetime of fellowship with Christ, he most likely stepped into eternity with those words on his lips "... that I may know him".

It is this ever-increasing revelation of Christ to which the letter to the Ephesians calls us and the divine eternal purpose of God purposed in him: -

"Now the great effect of Paul's discovery concerning the Lord Jesus on the Damascus road was not only to reveal to him the fact of His Sonship... but to lift Christ right out of time and to place him with the Father in the 'before times eternal'. That does not perhaps for the moment appear to be striking, but it is a very big step toward what the Lord wants to say to us. Christ has been lifted out of time. The 'time' Christ, that is, His coming into this world in time, becomes something like a parenthesis; it is not the main thing. It is the main thing if we look at the whole in light of the fall and need for recovery, but not the main thing from the Divine standpoint originally.

I want you to come to grasp this, because it is at this point we come into that greatest of all revelations that has been given to us concerning the Lord Jesus. This effect of his experience on the Damascus road, this lifting of Christ right out of time and placing Him in eternity, came in Paul's conception to be related to eternal purpose, and in eternal purpose there was no fall and no redemption. That is, so to speak, a bend down in the line of God through the ages. God's line was to have gone straight without a bend, without a break, but when it came to a certain point, because of certain contingencies which were never in the purpose, that line had to go down, and then up and on again. The two ends of that line are on the same eternal level. You may, if you like, conceive of a bridge across that bend, and of Christ thus filling the bend, so that what was from eternity is not interrupted at all in Him; it goes on in Him.

The coming to earth and all the work of the Cross is something other, the result of a necessity by reason of these contingencies; but in Christ eternity to eternity the purpose is unbroken, uninterrupted, without a bend. . There is no hiatus in Christ. This came to be related to purpose. That is a great word of Paul's '...according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.'¹; '...called according to his purpose.'²

¹ Ephesians 3¹¹

² Romans 8²⁸



These are eternal conceptions of Christ, and this purpose, and these Divine counsels were related to the universe, and to man in particular. Let us get across that bridge for a moment, leaving the other out; for I want you to notice the course that the Letter to the Ephesians takes. The letter begins with eternity. It says much of things that were before the world was, and it comes back to that point. Just in between it speaks of redemption, and it never speaks of redemption until it has the past eternity in view. Redemption comes in to fill the up that gap and then we go on to eternity again ..."³

³Endnotes

The Stewardship of the Mystery, Volume One – All Things in Christ: Austin-Sparks T. Reprinted, 2002 from the original, unabridged writings of T. Austin-Sparks.