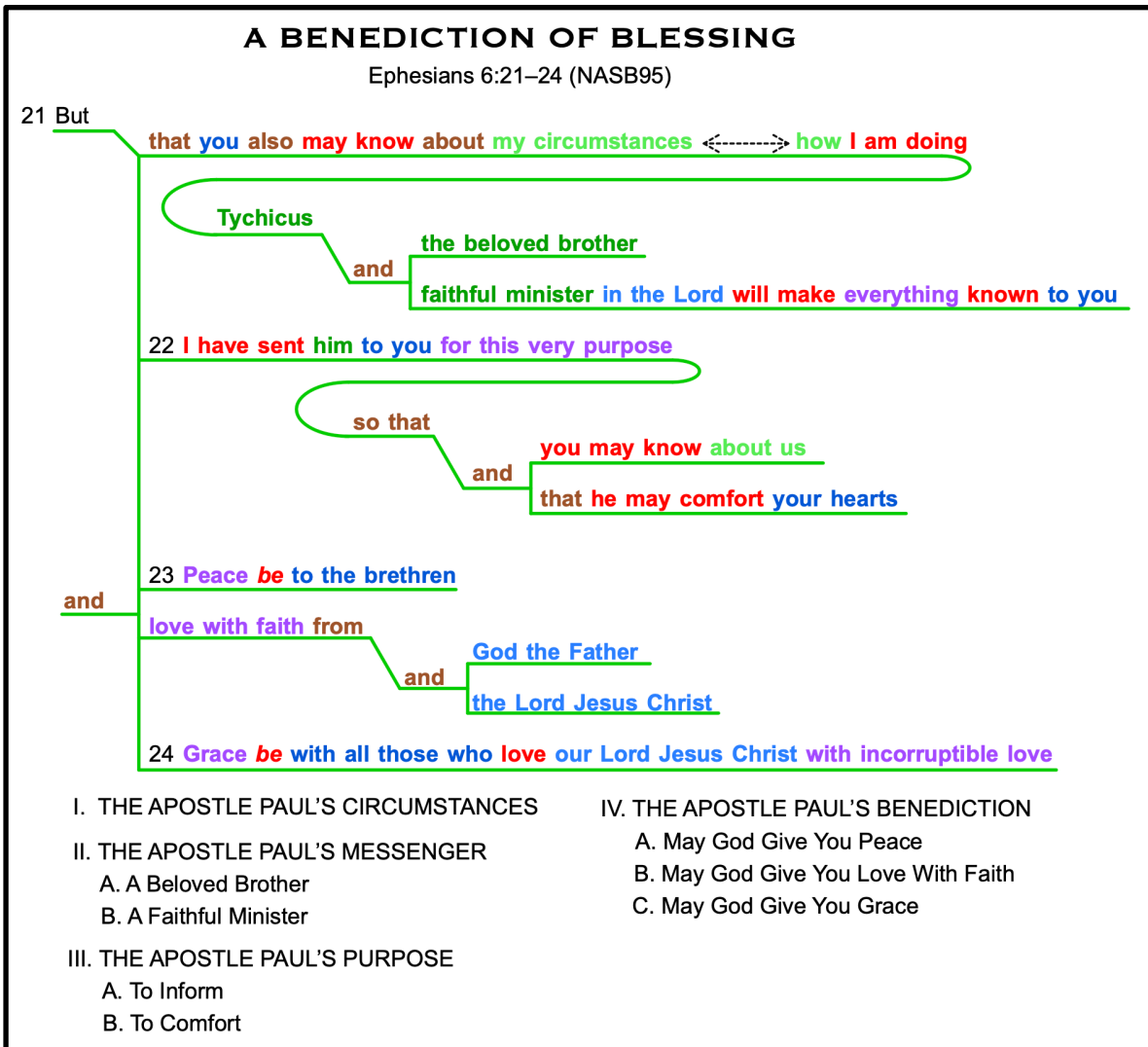


EPHESIANS

Paul Concludes His Letter

Ephesians 6:21-24

As the Apostle Paul concludes his letter to the Ephesians, he reminds us of the spiritual battle we are in (vss. 10-12), the God given resources we must employ to fight that battle (vss. 13-17), and the necessity of prayer during the battle (vss. 18-20). In vss. 21-24 he concludes the letter with some personal details and a benediction.



1. Even though he was in prison, Paul requested prayer for himself in vss. 19-20, so he could preach the gospel with boldness to his captors! He also wanted the Ephesian believers to understand how he was doing (vs. 21).
 - Why did the Apostle Paul want the believers to know about his situation?
 - What practical lessons can we take away for our own lives from Paul wanting the Ephesian believers to know how he was doing in prison?

2. Verse 21 also tells us the Apostle Paul sent Tychicus to verbally give a report to the Ephesian believers about how he was doing in prison.
 - In what two ways is Paul's description of Tychicus' character an example for us to follow vs. 21?
 - What do we learn about Tychicus that isn't specifically stated in the text, but implied, which is also an example for us to follow? (Hint: Read Mt. 25:31-46 and note vss. 36 & 43).

3. Though the Apostle Paul writes from prison and mentions being in prison three times in the book of Ephesians (Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:20), what is missing in this letter which might have been present if the Apostle Paul was more self-focused rather than others-focused? (Hint: Phil. 2:14; Jude 16). What lesson is for us here?

4. There is often a spirit of rugged individualism, self-sufficiency, and pride which keeps some Christians from asking fellow believers for prayer when suffering trial. What can we learn from the Apostle Paul's example in asking for prayer and letting the Ephesian believers know about he was doing?
 - Does letting others know about your trials, without grumbling or complaining, have any edifying purpose? If so, what? (Hint: Gal. 6:2; James 4:6).
 - What stated purpose does the Apostle Paul give for sending Tychicus to the Ephesian believers according to the end of vs. 22? What does that teach us about Paul's character as our example?

5. In vs. 23 the Apostle Paul begins his benediction blessing. What two things does the Apostle Paul ask for and how do they apply to every believer?
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 - From whom do the blessings Paul asks for come from according to the end of vs. 23?

6. In vs. 24 Paul asks for a third blessing for the Ephesian believers.
 - What is it?
 - What does it mean?
 - How is it practically significant in the life of every believer?

7. To whom specifically is Paul's blessing directed to in vs. 24?
- What are the consequences of not loving the Lord (I Cor. 16:22)?
 - How are we to express our love to God? (Hint: Ex. 20:6; Jn. 14:15; I Jn. 2:5).
 - How is the believer's love described at the end of vs. 24? Can or does every believer have this kind of love? If so, how? (Hint: Rom. 5:5; I Jn. 4:19).

Christian, seek not yet repose,
Cast thy dreams of ease away;
Thou art in the midst of foes;
Watch and pray.

Principalities and power,
Mustering their unseen array,
Wait for thy unguarded hours;
Watch and pray.

Watch as if on that alone
Hung the issue of the day,
Pray that help may be sent down;
*Watch and pray.*¹

¹ Charlotte Elliot quoted by John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary on Ephesians*. Chicago: Moody Press.