

Teaching Through Ephesians

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Topic and Chapter</u>
1	The Christian's Abundant Blessing in Christ (1:1-14)
2	The Believer's Potential Perception in Christ (1:15-23)
3	The Believer's Condition with Christ (2:1-10)
4	The Gentile Believers' Relationships in Christ (2:11-22)
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Lesson 1: The Christian's Abundant Blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:1-14)

Key Verse: "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." (Eph. 1:7)

Introduction: The Apostle Paul listed some of the blessings in Christ Jesus. These include election, predestination, adoption, redemption, oneness, an inheritance, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit.

Salutation: Greetings to the faithful saints in Ephesus (Eph. 1:1-2)

1. Paul was the author (1)
2. He was an apostle by God's will (1)
3. The recipients were faithful saints (1) (in Ephesus, in Christ)
4. He sent grace and peace from the Father and the Son (2)

I. God Has Blessed Us with Abundant Blessings (Eph. 1:3-6)

- A. God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings (1:3)
(In heavenly places, in Christ)
- B. God has elected us to be holy (1:4)
 1. He chose us before the foundation of the world
 2. He chose us in Christ
 3. He chose us to be holy and blameless
 - a. This holiness should be before God
 - b. This holiness should be in love
- C. God has predestined us to the adoption of sons (1:5-6)
 1. The adoption is by Jesus Christ (5)
 2. The adoption is to God Himself (5)
 3. The predestination is according to God's will (5)
 4. The predestination is for the praise of God's grace (6)
 5. His grace makes us acceptable in the Beloved (6)

II. God Has Given Us Abundant Benefits in Christ (Eph. 1:7-10)

- A. God gave us redemption through Christ's blood (1:7-8)
 1. Redemption is forgiveness of sins (7)
 2. Redemption is according to God's grace (7)
 3. God made His grace to abound (8)
- B. God made us know the mystery of His will (1:9-10)
 1. The revelation was according to God's good purpose (9)
 2. The mystery was the oneness of all things in Christ (10)
 - a. The oneness will occur in the fullness of time
 - b. Then He will gather all things in Christ

III. God Has Given Us Abundant Inheritance in Christ (Eph. 1:11-14)

- A. The inheritance was predestined according to God's will (1:11)
- B. The inheritance was purposed for the praise of God (1:12)
- C. The Holy Spirit seals the believer in Christ (1:13)
- D. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the inheritance (1:14)

Conclusion: Because the Sovereign God has blessed us so abundantly in Christ Jesus, we should submit our wills to His service.

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Lesson 2: The Believer's Potential Perception in Christ (Ephesians 1:15-23)
 (Paul's prayer for believers)

Key Verse: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints." (Eph. 1:18)

Introduction: After reviewing the believer's abundant blessings in Christ, the Apostle Paul recorded the content of his prayers for these believers whom he had never met. He prayed regularly for their spiritual growth.

- I. Paul Prayed for the Ephesian Believers (Eph. 1:15-16)
 - A. He began praying after he heard about them (1:15)
 1. He heard of their faith in the Lord Jesus
 2. He heard of their love for all the saints
 - B. He prayed ceaselessly with thanksgiving (1:16)

- II. Paul Prayed for Their Wisdom and Revelation (Eph. 1:17-18)
 - A. He asked God to give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation (1:17)
 1. He is the God of our Lord Jesus Christ
 2. He is the Father of Glory
 - B. He asked God to enlighten their understanding (1:18)

- III. Paul Prayed for Their Knowledge of Their Relationship with God (Eph. 1:18-23)
 - A. That they would know the hope of His calling (1:18)
 - B. That they would know the riches of His inheritance (1:18)
 - C. That they would know the greatness of His power (1:19-23)
 1. His power is toward believers (19)
 2. His power raised Jesus from the dead (20)
 3. His power seated Jesus at His right hand (20-21)
 - a. His throne is in the heavenlies (20)
 - b. His throne is above all other authorities (21)
 - c. His name is above all other names (21)
 4. His power subjected all things to Jesus (22)
 5. His power made Jesus head of the Church (22-23)
 - a. The Church is His body (23)
 - b. The Church is the fullness of Christ (23)

Conclusion: Paul's prayer is applicable to believers today. It illustrates what is available to believers through prayer.

Lesson 3: The Believer's Condition with Christ (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Key Verse: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9)

Introduction: After praying that the Ephesian believers would have knowledge of their new relationship with God through Jesus Christ, Paul explained the greatness of God's grace in saving them, and God's purpose for them to live holy lives.

I. Our Former Condition Without Christ (Eph. 2:1-3)

- A. We were spiritually dead in trespasses and sins (2:1)
- B. We were subject to Satan (2:2)
 - 1. We walked in trespasses and sins
 - 2. We walked according to the course of this world
 - 3. We walked according to the prince of the power of the air
 - 4. He is the spirit who works in the disobedient
- C. We were subject to the flesh (2:3)
 - 1. We lived in fleshly lusts
 - 2. We fulfilled fleshly desires
 - 3. We fulfilled fleshly imaginations
- D. We were the objects of divine wrath (2:3)

II. Our Present Condition with Christ (Eph. 2:4-6)

- A. We are objects of divine mercy (2:4)
 - 1. God is rich in mercy
 - 2. God loves us with great love
- B. We are made alive together with Christ (2:5)
 - 1. It happened when we were spiritually dead
 - 2. God made us alive together with Christ
 - 3. God saved us because of His grace
- C. We are raised together with Christ (2:6)
- D. We are seated in the heavenlies with Christ (2:6)

III. Our Future Condition with Christ (Eph. 2:7-10)

- A. We shall show the riches of God grace (2:7)
 - 1. This will happen in the ages to come
 - 2. We will show the exceeding riches of His grace
 - 3. He was kind to us in Christ

- B. Because God saved us by His grace (2:8-9)
 - 1. Salvation is by grace through faith (8)
 - 2. Salvation is not through ourselves (8)
 - 3. Salvation is a gift from God (8)
 - 4. Salvation is not by works (9)
 - 5. Saving grace excludes boasting (9)

- C. Because God saved us for the purpose of good works (2:10)
 - 1. We are God's workmanship
 - 2. We are created in Christ for good works
 - 3. God prepared the works beforehand
 - 4. God intended that we walk in those works

Conclusion: God graciously saved us from a doomed and depraved condition, and raised us to a glorious condition with Christ, so that we might eternally praise His grace through the good works He has prepared for us to do.

Lesson 4: The Gentile Believers' Relationships in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22)

Key Verse: "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made high by the blood of Christ." Eph. 2:13)

Introduction: Union with Christ brings Gentile believers into wonderful new relationships with God and His people.

I. Without Christ They Formerly Were Hopelessly Estranged (Eph. 2:11-12)

- A. They were alien from God's people (2:11-12)
 - 1. They were uncircumcised Gentiles (11)
 - 2. They were without a Messiah (12)
 - 3. They were alien from the commonwealth of Israel (12)
- B. They were strangers from God's covenant of promise (2:12)
- C. They were without hope (2:12)
- D. They were estranged from God (1:12)

II. In Christ They Now Are in Happy Union with God (Eph. 2:13-22)

- A. They are united with the people of God (2:13-15)
 - 1. They have been brought near to God (13)
 - a. They were once far off
 - b. They have been brought near to God
 - c. The blood of Christ accomplished this
 - 2. They have peaceful unity with God's people (14-15)
 - a. Christ is their source of peace (14)
 - b. Christ made Jew and Gentile one (14)
 - c. Christ broke down the middle wall of partition (14)
 - d. Christ abolished the source of the hostility (15)
 - (1) The Law is the source
 - (2) He abolished the hostility in His flesh
 - e. Christ made Jew and Gentile into one new man
- B. They are united with the person of God (2:16-22)
 - 1. They were reconciled to God (16)
 - 2. They received the message of peace with God (17)
 - 3. They were granted access to God by the Holy Spirit (18)
 - 4. They are fellow citizens of God's kingdom (19)
 - 5. They are members of God's household (19)
 - 6. They are built into a holy habitation of God (20-22)
 - a. They are built on the foundation of Apostles and Prophets
 - b. The building grows into a holy temple
 - c. Jews and Gentiles are built together for God's habitation

Conclusion: Because of their faith in Christ, Gentile believers acquire a harmonious unity with God's people and a holy union with God Himself.

Lesson 5: God's Mystery Made Known (Ephesians 3:1-12)

Key Verse: "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God." (Eph. 3:10)

Introduction: The role of the Gentiles in God's plan of redemption was a hidden mystery until the dispensation of grace. Then God revealed that they would share equally with the Jews.

- I. God's Mystery Was Revealed to the Apostle Paul (Eph. 3:1-4)
 - A. The mystery was part of God's dispensation of grace (3:1-2)
 - B. The mystery was made known to Paul by revelation (3:3-4)

- II. God's Mystery Was Revealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 3:5)
 - A. The mystery was not known in earlier ages
 - B. The mystery was revealed to the holy apostles and prophets
 - C. The mystery was revealed to them by the Holy Spirit

- III. God's Mystery Concerned the Gentiles (Eph. 3:6)
 - A. The Gentiles would share in the Gospel
 - B. The Gentiles would be fellow-heirs with the Jews
 - C. The Gentiles would be of same body as the Jews
 - D. The Gentiles would be fellow-partakers of God's promise in Christ

- IV. God's Mystery Was Proclaimed to the Gentiles by Paul (Eph. 3:7-9)
 - A. God graciously gave Paul the responsibility (3:7)
 1. Paul was made a minister of the Gospel
 2. The appointment was a gift of God's grace
 - B. Paul was to preach Christ to the Gentiles (3:8)
 1. Paul was the least worthy of the task
 2. Paul was to preach among the Gentiles
 3. Paul's message was about the unsearchable riches of Christ

- V. God's Mystery Will Reveal His Manifold Wisdom (Eph. 3:10-12)
 - A. God intended the church to reveal His wisdom (3:10)
 - B. This is according to God's eternal purpose in Christ (3:11)
 - C. Believers have bold access to God in Christ (3:12)

Conclusion: Gentiles should rejoice in the abundant grace that enabled them to partake of God's redemption.

Lesson 6: A Prayer for the Saints' Spiritual Strength (Ephesians 3:13-21)

Key Verse: "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened by His Spirit in the inner man." (Eph. 3:16)

Introduction: Paul suffered tribulation because of the gospel and the many congregations of believers. So he encouraged them to be courageous, and prayed for them to have inner spiritual strength. This would come about through the inner working of His power by the Holy Spirit. This knowledge caused him to break into a doxology of praise.

I. Paul Prayed for the Saints' Endurance (Eph. 3:13-15)

- A. He asked the saints not to lose heart (3:13)
 - 1. They should not lose heart over his tribulation
 - 2. His tribulation was for their benefit
 - 3. His tribulation was their glory
- B. He prayed to God for their endurance (3:14-15)
 - 1. He bowed the knee to God for that reason (14)
 - 2. God is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ (14)
 - 3. God's whole family is named after Him (15)
 - a. Some of the family is in heaven
 - b. Some of the family is on earth

II. Paul Prayed for the Saints' Endowment (Eph. 3:16-21)

- A. He prayed that they have inner spiritual strength (3:16)
 - 1. This endowment is according to the riches of His glory
 - 2. This endowment is through the agency of the Holy Spirit
 - 3. This endowment strengthens the inner man
- B. He prayed that they be indwelt by Christ (3:17)
 - 1. Christ dwells in their hearts
 - 2. Christ dwells there by faith
- C. He prayed that they comprehend God's love (3:18-19)
 - 1. This comes through being rooted and grounded in love (18)
 - 2. All saints are able to comprehend God's love (18)
 - 3. God's love is without boundaries (18)
 - 4. The boundless love of God may be known (19)
 - 5. Yet His love surpasses knowledge (19)
- D. He prayed that they be filled with the fullness of God (3:19)

III. Paul Praised God for His Great Power (Eph. 3:20-21)

- A. God is able to exceedingly more than we ask or think (3:20)
- B. God's power works within believers (3:20)
- C. God is worthy of praise and glory (3:21)
 - 1. The praise and glory is given in the church
 - 2. The praise and glory is through Jesus Christ
 - 3. The praise and glory is throughout all eternity

Conclusion: Christians may have endurance and inner spiritual strength in answer to prayer.

Lesson 7: The Believer's Walk Has Worthy Ideals and Gifts (Ephesians 4:1-16)

Key Verse: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." (Eph. 4:1)

Introduction: Sound doctrine should result in practical holiness. After Paul expounded on doctrinal truth, he turned to practical instruction in godly living.

I. The Believer's Walk Should Have Worthy Ideals (Eph. 4:1-6)

A. The believer's ideal should be worthy of God's calling (4:1)

B. The believer's ideal should be worthy of God's people (4:2-6)

1. They should forbear one another in love (2)
 - a. It should be with all lowliness and gentleness
 - b. It should be with longsuffering
 - c. It should be with love
2. They should keep the unity of the Spirit (3-6)
 - a. The unity should be in the bond of peace (3)
 - b. The unity has a sevenfold basis (4-6)
 - (1) There is one body (4)
 - (2) There is one Spirit (4)
 - (3) There is one hope of our calling (4)
 - (4) There is one Lord (5)
 - (5) There is one faith (5)
 - (6) There is one baptism (5)
 - (7) There is one God and Father of all (6)

II. The Believer's Walk Has Worthy Gifts (Eph. 4:7-16)

A. The Lord has given them gifts of grace (4:7-10)

1. The gift was given according to the Lord's measure (7)
2. The gift was given at the Lord's victorious resurrection (8-10)

B. The Lord has given them gifted leaders (4:11)

1. He gave some to be apostles
2. He gave some to be prophets
3. He gave some to be evangelists
4. He gave some to be pastors and teachers

C. The gifts have a worthy purpose (4:12-16)

1. The gifts are for equipping the saints (12)
 - a. For the work of the ministry
 - b. For the edifying of the body of Christ
2. The gifts are for maturing the saints (13)
 - a. They should come to the unity of the faith
 - b. They should come to the knowledge of the Son
 - c. They should come to perfection
 - d. They should come to the fullness of Christ
3. The gifts are for stabilizing the saints (14)
4. The gifts are for establishing Christ as head (15-16)

Conclusion: The Lord has given every believer gifts that enable him to grow spiritually and serve Him faithfully.

Lesson 8: Rules for the Believer's Walk (Ephesians 4:17-32)

Key Verse: "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph. 4:24)

- I. Do Not Walk Like the Unbelieving Gentiles (Eph. 4:17-19)
 - A. They walk in the vanity of their mind (4:17)
 - B. They have a darkened understanding (4:18)
 - C. They are alienated from the life of God (4:18)
 1. They are alienated through ignorance
 2. They are ignorant because their heart is blinded
 - D. They are committed to evil (4:19)
 1. They are past feeling
 2. They have given themselves over to licentiousness
 3. They are committed to work uncleanness with greediness

- II. Walk According to the New Man (Eph. 4:20-24)
 - A. Christ has taught this principle (4:20-21)
 1. Christ did not teach believers to walk like Gentiles (20)
 2. Christ taught them the truth (21)
 - B. Believers should put off the old man (4:22)
 1. This refers to their former conduct
 2. The old man grows corrupt
 3. The old man operates according to deceitful lusts
 - C. Believers should put on the new man (4:23-24)
 1. This involves renewal in the spirit of their minds (23)
 2. The new man was created according to God (24)
 3. The new man was created in righteousness and true holiness (24)

- III. Walk According to the Renewing Process (Eph. 4:25-32)
 - A. Put off lying, and put on truthfulness (4:25)
 - B. Put off sinful wrath, and put on forgiveness (4:26-27)
 - C. Put off theft, and put on labor and generosity (4:28)
 - D. Put off vile speech, and put on edifying (4:29)
 - E. Put off grieving the Holy Spirit (4:30)
 - F. Put off hard feelings, and put on kindness and forgiveness (4:31-32)

Conclusion: Christians can experience practical sanctification by willfully choosing God's renewing process in their daily walk.

Lesson 9: The Believer's Walk with Himself and Others (Ephesians 5:1-33)

Key Verse: "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:" (Eph. 5:8)

Introduction: Having put off the old man and put on the new, Christians are encouraged to walk in personal holiness and mutual submission. Such holiness is characterized by love, light, wisdom, and the fullness of the Spirit.

I. The Believer's Walk in Personal Holiness (Eph. 5:1-21)

- A. Walk in love (5:1)
- B. Walk in light (5:2-14)
 - 1. Light rejects evil practices (2-7)
 - 2. Light reproves evil practices (8-14)
- C. Walk in wisdom (5:15-17)
- D. Walk in the Spirit (5:18-21)
 - 1. The Spirit-filled Christian is joyful (19)
 - 2. The Spirit-filled Christian is thankful (20)
 - 3. The Spirit-filled Christian is submissive (21)

II. The Believer's Walk with Others (Eph. 5:22-33)
(The General Principle: Submission vs. 21)

- A. The wife's relationship to her husband (5:21-22, 33)
 - 1. Subjection to her husband's headship (22-24)
 - 2. Reverence for her husband's headship (33)
- B. The husband's relationship to his wife (5:25-33)
 - 1. Sacrificial love (25)
 - 2. Sanctifying love (26-27)
 - 3. Sustaining Love (28-33)
- C. The Divine example: Christ and the Church (5:25-27, 32)

Conclusion: The Spirit-filled life enables a Christian to walk in holiness and harmony with one another.

Lesson 10: The Believer's Walk and Warfare (Ephesians 6:1-24)

Key Verse: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."
(Eph. 6:10)

Introduction: Before bidding farewell to his friends in Ephesus, Paul gave final instructions for harmony among parents and children, masters and servants. He encouraged them to be armed against the attacks of the devil.

I. The Believer's Walk with Others (Eph. 6:1-9)
(General Principle: Submission 5:21)

- A. The walk of the parents and children (6:1-4)
 - 1. The child's relationship to his parents (1-3)
 - a. Obedience to parents (1)
 - b. Honor of parents (2-3)
- B. The walk of masters and servants (6:5-9)
 - 1. The servant's relationship to his master (5-8)
 - a. As obedient to Christ
 - b. As pleasing to Christ
 - c. As rewarded by Christ
 - 2. The master's relationship to his servant (9)
 - a. Without threatening
 - b. As a servant of Christ
 - c. As accountable to Christ

II. The Believer's Walk as a Warrior (Eph. 6:10-20)
(General Principle: Strength and power in Christ)

- A. The believer's enemy (6:10-12)
- B. The believer's weapons (6:13-17)
 - 1. Defensive weapons (14-17)
 - a. The girdle of truth (14)
 - b. The breastplate of righteousness (14)
 - c. The shoes of preparation (15)
 - d. The shield of faith (16)
 - 2. Offensive weapons (17)
The sword of the Spirit: The Word of God
- C. The believer's warfare: prayer (6:18-20)

III. Salvation and Benediction (Eph. 6:21-24)

Conclusion: Mutual submission is the key to harmony in the family and the workplace. Spiritual armor is necessary for protection and victorious living.