

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the *New Kings James Version* of the Bible.

SEATED IN CHRIST - "A Study of the book of Ephesians"
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Tuesday, January 8, 2019:
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TUESDAY NIGHT: Ephesians

This book speaks particularly of the church and unveils the church in its seven aspects as:

1. The Body of Christ, the fullness, the expression of the One who fills all in all (23; 4:13).
2. The new man (2:15), a corporate man, having not only life of Christ but also His person.
3. The kingdom of God (2:19), with the saints as citizens possessing its rights and bearing its responsibilities.
4. The household of God (2:19), a family full of life and enjoyment.
5. The dwelling place of God in which He may live (2:21-22).
6. The bride, the wife of Christ (5:24-25) for Christ's rest and satisfaction.
7. The warrior (6:11-12), a corporate fighter, who deals with and defeats God's enemy to accomplish God's eternal purpose.

This book speaks characteristically from the viewpoint of God's eternal purpose, from eternity and from the heavenlies.

God measures everything, from start to finish, by the perfections of His Son. The scriptures clearly affirm that it God's good pleasure "to sum up all things in Christ, in whom also we were made a heritage" (Eph. 1:9-11).

The book of Ephesians is the most complete message describing the Church, its position, its blessings and the expectations of God as a result of those blessings.

He first invites you to sit, listen and be amazed at His grace towards you.

This epistle falls naturally into two sections: a doctrinal and a practical.

The doctrinal section (chapters 1-3) is concerned mainly with the great truths of redemption which God has wrought for us in Christ.

The practical section (chapters 4-6) then goes on to present us with God's expectations (demands), in terms of Christian conduct that God is making upon us in the light of that redemption.

The message in the second section of Ephesians is similar to Paul's letter to the Romans in chapter 12:1-2; ***"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"***; where Believers were urged to present themselves in a particular way as a result of the "mercies" of God they have received.

Then, further, the second and more obviously practical half of the letter may again be subdivided according to its subject matter into a first long section from verses 4:1 to 6:9 and a second, much shorter section from verse 6:10 to the end.

The first part of the second half of Ephesians deals with our life in the world; the second with our conflict with the devil.

Thus in all, we have three divisions of the epistle to the Ephesians namely: setting forth the believer's position in Christ (1:1-3:21); his life in the world (4:1-6:9) and his attitude to the enemy (6:10-24).

This can be summarized as follows:

EPHESIANS

A. Doctrinal (Chapters 1-3)

1. Our position in Christ.

B. Practical (Chapters 4-6)

1. 2. Our life in the World (4:1-6:9)
2. Our attitude to the enemy (6:10-24).

Of all Paul's epistles, it is in Ephesians that we find the highest spiritual truths concerning the Christian life.

The first half of the letter reveals our life in Christ to be one of union with Him in the highest heavens.

The second half shows us in very practical terms how such a heavenly life is to be lived by us down here on earth.

Key words in each of the three sections become the clue to the intended message in each of the sections.

In the first section we note the word “sit” (2:6), which is the key to that section and the secret of a true Christian experience.

God has made us to sit with Christ in the heavenly places and every Christian must begin his spiritual life from the place of rest. We shall talk more about this in the following lessons.

In the second part, we focus on the word “walk” (4:1) as expressive of our life in the world, which is its message.

We are challenged there to display in our Christian walk conduct that is in keeping with our high calling.

And finally, in the third part we find the key to our attitude towards the enemy contained in the word “stand” (6:11), indicative of our place of triumph at the end.

Again to summarize: Key words in Ephesians:

1. Our position in Christ - SIT (2:6)
2. Our life in the World - WALK (4:1)
3. Our attitude to the enemy - STAND (6:11)

The rest of this teaching outline will now be based on these three key words (Sit, Walk, and Stand).

The Apostle Paul didn't want his readers to skip lightly over these things that God has done for us “in Christ”, so he pauses and prays for them in verses 15-23 so that they could comprehend these things. Here is what he prays:

- That God would grant us a spirit of wisdom and revelation (to truly know Him).
- That our eyes would be enlightened so that we would see the following things: this prayer had a personal meaning for Paul.

- Elisha's servant couldn't perceive God's provision because he needed his eyes to be opened (2 Kin. 6:17).

- Acts 9:1-9 - Paul was a bright scholar of the law and he went to Damascus on the strength of the law to arrest "Followers of the Way", he was acting based on the natural light he had.

- But Jesus knocked him off his horse and the light of God blinded him (swallowed up his natural light). He wouldn't be able to perceive spiritual things with natural light. He went through a kind of death to the law (3 days of blindness) and when his sight was restored the veil had been removed.

- He prayed:

1. The hope we have through His calling of us (vs.18).
2. The riches of God's own inheritance - which is us (vs.18).
3. The surpassing greatness of His power to us who believe (vs.19).

But the Apostle Paul hasn't finished talking about what God has done - Oh no....he's just warming up...there's more!