

Knowing Christ

A Study of Ephesians

The Duty of the Church

Lesson 4

Ephesians 4

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

January 26, 2020

Ephesians

- ▶ Theme: The Church of Jesus Christ
 - The truth which is the foundation of our faith (1-3)
 - The result of this truth upon the life of the believer (4-6)
- ▶ Two new revelations given in the fullness of the times (Galatians 4:3-5)
 - The “mystery of Christ” revealed – summing up all things in Christ (1:9; 3:4)
 - An administration suitable to the fullness of the times – the Church (1:10)
- ▶ One people of God in Christ (2:19; 4:25)
- ▶ The abolishment of the Law of Moses (2:15)

A Firm Foundation

- ▶ The blessed God who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places (Ephesians 1)
 - The work of the Triune God from eternity to eternity
 - Planned – Accomplished – Guaranteed
 - Summing up of all things in Christ
- ▶ A workmanship created in Christ by grace (Ephesians 2)
 - Dead in trespasses and sins; dominated by the devil and the lusts of the flesh; children of wrath
 - Made alive in Christ by the love and grace of God – the gift of salvation through faith
 - The household of God – Jews and Gentiles growing into a holy temple in the Lord
- ▶ The eternal purpose of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ephesians 3)
 - The mystery of Christ revealed – one people in Christ
 - A revelation of the administration of the mystery – the Church of Jesus Christ
- ▶ The prayers of Paul (1:15-23; 3:14-21)
 - A full understanding of the hope of His calling and the riches of the glory of our inheritance
 - A full realization of our union with Christ and the power of the Spirit and the fullness of God

Ephesians 4

- ▶ A worthy calling (4:1-3)
- ▶ A new administration (4:4-16)
- ▶ A new self (4:17-24)
- ▶ A worthy life (4:25-32)
 - General (4:25-5:21)
 - Specific (5:21-6:9)

A Worthy Calling (4:1-3)

- ▶ The prisoner of the Lord – seen v. unseen – temporal v. eternal (2 Cor 4:18)
- ▶ A walk worthy of our calling – *axios* (Greek): of equal weight
- ▶ Humility, gentleness, longsuffering, tolerance for one another
- ▶ Preserving the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
- ▶ Glory in the Church (3:21)

A New Administration (4:4-16)

- ▶ The unity of the Godhead (4:4-6)
 - One Holy Spirit – One body and one hope
 - One Lord – One faith and one baptism
 - One God – One Father of all
- ▶ Grace is given to each one of us (4:7-10)
 - According to the measure of Christ's gift – not our worth or usefulness
 - A lesson from Psalm 68
 - His incarnation – descended to defeat sin and ascended to receive the glory of heaven
 - Led captive a host of captives – to glory
- ▶ Gave gifts to men – to enable us to walk worthy of the calling of Him who fills all things

A New Administration (4:4-16)

- ▶ The gifts (4:11)
 - Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers
 - Ministers in the Church – the new administration
 - 1 Corinthians 12:5-6 reveals “varieties of gifts” for “varieties of ministries”
 - Paul described himself also as a “minister” – servant or deacon (3:7)
- ▶ The purpose of the gifts (4:10-16)
 - Equip the saints for the work of ministry
 - To build up the body of Christ
 - To attain the unity of the faith
 - To attain the knowledge of the Son of God
 - To be mature – the stature of Christ
 - To discern truth – be no longer babies and subject to the deception of men
 - To grow up in all aspects into Christ
 - To promote the growth of the Body of Christ in love

A New Self (4:17-24)

- ▶ The old self
 - Walking in the futility of the mind
 - Darkened understanding
 - Absent the life of God
 - Ignorance because of a hard heart
 - Practicing every kind of impurity with greediness (Micah 7:3)
- ▶ The new self
 - Has been created like God in righteousness and holiness of the truth
- ▶ The bridge: to learn Christ; to learn the truth in Jesus
- ▶ Lay aside the old self and put on the new self
- ▶ Enabled by the “work of service” to “walk worthy” of your calling

A Worthy Life (4:25-32)

- ▶ Laying aside falsehood – speak truth
- ▶ Be angry and yet do not sin
- ▶ Do not give the devil and opportunity
- ▶ Do not steal but earn by working in order to give to the needy
- ▶ No unwholesome word from your mouth
 - Only edifying words
 - Only words that impart grace
- ▶ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit – a life contrary to His work of the Holy Spirit for which He is a pledge
- ▶ No bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, all malice
- ▶ Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving each other (1 Thessalonians 2:7)

Blessed with Every Spiritual Blessing

- ▶ A worthy calling (4:1-3) – “alive together with Christ”
- ▶ A new administration (4:4-16) – “suitable to the fullness of the times”
- ▶ A new self (4:17-24) – “created in the likeness of God”
- ▶ A worthy life (4:25-32) – “members of one another” and “tender-hearted”