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 worthy life (4:25-32) – “members of one another” and “tender-hearted”