

# **Knowing Christ**

*A Study of Ephesians*

**The Duty of the Church: Love and Wisdom**

**Lesson 5**

**Ephesians 5:1-6:9**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*

*February 2, 2020*

# Ephesians

- ▶ Theme: The Church of Jesus Christ
- ▶ A mystery revealed (1:9-10)
  - All things are summed up in Christ
  - A suitable administration for this New Covenant ministry
- ▶ The eternal purpose of God now clearly revealed
  - Christ redeemed us with His blood (1:7)
  - Believers are “in Christ” – partakers of the divine nature (2:6; 2 Peter 1:4)
  - All believers (Jews and Gentiles) are in the household of God (2:19-22)
  - Believers are adopted as sons of God (1:5; Gal 4:5)
  - The Holy Spirit is a pledge of our inheritance (1:14; 3:6; Rom 8:17)

# Ephesians Outline

- ▶ Ephesians 1
  - Introduction (1:1-2)
  - Blessed with all spiritual blessings by the Triune God (1:3-14)
  - Prayer that we will see and know this “new” revelation, the Church (1:15-23)
- ▶ Ephesians 2
  - Salvation by grace through faith, created in Christ Jesus (2:1-10)
  - The unification of the people of God, Jews and Gentiles, in the household of God (2:11-22)
- ▶ Ephesians 3
  - The ministry of eternal purpose of God carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord (3:1-13)
  - Prayer that we will experience the fullness of God in this salvation (3:14-21)

# Ephesians Outline

- ▶ Ephesians 4:1-24
  - An admonition to walk worthy of our calling (4:1-3)
  - The ministry of the Church (4:4-16)
  - The new self in the likeness of God – righteousness and holiness of the truth (4:17-24)
- ▶ Ephesians 4:25-6:9
  - Four universal characteristics of the worthy walk (4:25-5:21)
    - Members of one another (4:25-32)
    - Imitators of God as beloved children (5:1-6)
    - Children of Light (5:7-14)
    - Wise – understanding the will of the Lord (5:15-21)
  - Five illustrations of the worthy walk (5:22-6:9)
    - Wives (5:22-24)
    - Husbands (5:25-33)
    - Children (6:1-4)
    - Servants (6:5-8)
    - Masters (6:9)

# Members of One Another (4:25-32)

- ▶ Lay aside falsehood and each one speak truth with his neighbor
- ▶ We are members of one another
- ▶ Be angry and do not sin
- ▶ Give no opportunity for the devil
- ▶ Work to help one in need
- ▶ Speak for edification and grace
- ▶ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God – our common possession
- ▶ Put away bitterness, wrath, malice, anger, clamor, slander
- ▶ Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving to one another, like God in Christ has forgiven you

# Imitators of God (5:1-6)

- ▶ Beloved children – the family of God
- ▶ The standard is the love of the Son of God for us
- ▶ No imorality, impurity, greediness, filthy or silly talk, coarse jesting, coveting (4:19)
  - Equal to idolatry (Col 3:5)
  - Not proper for the saints
  - No place in the kingdom of Christ and God
- ▶ Giving of thanks to our heavenly Father
- ▶ Not deceived by empty words (futility of the mind) – but the truth in Jesus (4:20-21)

# Children of Light (5:7-14)

- ▶ Our former state: darkened understanding; works of darkness
- ▶ Light in the Lord: goodness, righteousness and truth
- ▶ Learning what is pleasing to the Lord
- ▶ Avoid participation in the unfruitful deeds of darkness
- ▶ The Light of Christ reveals sin
- ▶ Do not be partakers with works that bring God's wrath

# Wise (5:15-21)

- ▶ The will of the Lord v. foolishness
- ▶ Redeeming the time – purchasing the season – make the most of (Col 4:5)
- ▶ Be filled with the Spirit v. dullness of drunkenness – sober minded
- ▶ Praise on your lips and in your heart – collective and personal
- ▶ Giving thanks – recognizing the goodness of God in our lives
- ▶ Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ
- ▶ Proverbs 9:10 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom”

# The Worthy Walk – Wives (5:22-24)

- ▶ Be to their own husbands as to the Lord – as the Church is to Christ
  - Primarily a spiritual emphasis
  - Not a servant-master context
- ▶ The example of the excellent wife in Proverbs 31
  - The heart of her husband trusts in her
  - She does him good and not evil all the days of her life
  - “in everything” – as the church is to Christ
- ▶ Final word (5:33)
  - The husband love his wife as himself
  - The wife must respect her husband
- ▶ The call to submit in everything is a call to walk by faith – trusting Christ

# The Worthy Walk – Husbands (5:25-33)

- ▶ Love your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave His life for her
- ▶ The purpose of Christ's love for the Church – sanctification of the Church
- ▶ The mystery of the union of man and woman in marriage – the Christ and the Church
- ▶ Husband must love his wife as he loves himself – this defines his authority

# The Worthy Walk – Children (6:1-4)

- ▶ Obey your parents in the Lord because it is right
- ▶ Honor your father and mother – the manner of obedience
- ▶ The reward – a long life on the earth – the fruit of true righteousness
- ▶ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger but discipline and instruct in the Lord
  - Honoring the father may not be easy because of his failures
  - A child should learn to be thankful for “discipline and instruction in the Lord”
- ▶ The beginning of a life of faith

# The Worthy Walk – Servants (6:5-8)

- ▶ Obey with fear and trembling and sincerity of the heart
- ▶ Obey with good will – “render service to the Lord” for His approval
- ▶ A life of – entrusting ourselves our Father in heaven

# The Worthy Walk – Masters (6:9)

- ▶ Treat your servant the same way – doing the will of God from the heart
- ▶ The Master of servant and master is impartial – no preference for rank
- ▶ A life of faith

# The Worthy Life

- ▶ “Created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them” (2:10)
  - A life that exists for the spiritual benefit of our fellow believers
  - A life that is in imitation of our heavenly Father as revealed in Christ
  - A life that is in the Light - doing what is pleasing to the Lord
  - A life that is wise – understanding of the will of the Lord
  - It is a life of faith – trusting the Lord to work His life in us
  - The worthy walk is a life of faith – entrusting ourselves to God, despite our station in life