Ephesians 1

Background to the book of Ephesians

- Who is the author of this letter? Paul – Eph. 1.1, 3.1
- Any clue to his circumstances? He was in prison - Read Ephesians 3.1, 4.1, 6.20
- Probably in prison in Rome (see last 2 chapters of Acts)
- One of the four letters written from prison: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon
- 1-2 Timothy were also probably written in 62 AD
- To whom was the letter addressed? The church at Ephesus (1.1)
- Where was Ephesus located? Asia Minor on coast of Mediterranean in what is today Turkey
- It was the capital city for the Roman province of Asia
- What pagan temple was located at Ephesus? Diana (Artemis) - remember the riot there in Acts 19 – The statue makers were losing money
- Church at Ephesus - It was started by Aquila and Priscilla on the Second Missionary Journey (Acts 18.18-19), and Paul stayed there several years on his Third Missionary Journey
- Acts 20.17-38 – A famous message to the elders at Ephesus from Apostle Paul - Paul said he would see them no more
- He warned them to beware of false teachers in their midst
- Timothy later worked at Ephesus - 1 Timothy 1.3
- A letter from Jesus to Ephesus - Revelation 2.1-7 (they had drifted away from their first love)

Theme of the Letter:
1. The value of the church
2. Doctrinal matters (especially Eph. 2 and 5)
3. Walking in the Christian life
   - Read 2.1-2, 2.10, 4.1-3, 4.17, 5.2, 5.8, 5.15-16
- One interesting point: there are no personal greetings in Ephesians
- Why? Paul probably meant to have this letter circulated among other congregations in Asia Minor - See Colossians 4.16

Ephesians 1.1-14

V.1 – Paul’s normal way of identifying himself
- Common opening in First Century letters: person writing the letter, people to whom letter was written, some kind of greeting
- How did “the will of God” make him an apostle? On road to Damascus (not laying on of hands, etc.)
- To whom was the letter addressed? Saints at Ephesus
- So all faithful Christians are saints
- Denominational churches which "canonize" certain individuals as “saints” are badly mistaken in that practice
- The word saint comes from sanctified, which means to be set apart for a special service (as in serving God)
- Any characteristic of the saints at Ephesus? Faithful
**V.2** – Grace (for Greek speaking members) and peace (shalom) for Jewish Christians

**V.3** – In Greek New Testament, v 3-14 make up one sentence!
- Paul’s mind goes on and on about the glories of God’s gift of salvation to us
- **Why should God be blessed?** The father of the Lord Jesus Christ has given us every spiritual blessing
- **How do we receive every spiritual blessing?** Through Jesus Christ
- “Heavenly places” – probably reference to the church (in the world, but not of the world)

**V.4** – What happened before the foundation of the world? God chose us to be saved
- **Who are the “us”?** Faithful Christians
- **How are we “blameless” if we commit sins?** 1 John 1.7 – If we walk in the Light, the blood of Jesus constantly cleanses us of our sins

**V.5** – Many evangelical groups today are going back into Calvinism and predestination
- It is a very depressing theory – it is also arrogant
- Similar to "scientific determinism" = that our environment controls all our choices
- But it is not that a certain individual is predestined to be saved, but any person who obeys the gospel becomes predestined to be saved (see v 13-14 also)
- **When we accept the gospel, what is our new relationship with God?** We are adopted – we are now his children

**V.6** – God’s grace was freely given to us
- **Is grace withheld from anyone?** No – therefore, there is no predestination by name
- **What name does Jesus receive here?** Beloved

**V.7** – What is another value of being a Christian? We have redemption and the forgiveness of sins
- Redemption = to be bought by a ransom
- Think of pawn shops in big cities – we leave an object, and the pawnbroker will try to sell it
- But we can "redeem" it (buy it back) if we have the money
- **What “redeemed” us?** The blood of Jesus

**V.8** – Notice these terms in v 6 - “freely bestowed on us
- V.7 - “riches of his grace”
- V.8 - “he lavished upon us”
- Think about a man who is restoring an antique car – no expense is spared, whatever it takes, etc.
- Many times we will visit the house of some famous person (example: Mark Twain's house in Hartford, Conn.) – people lavish time and attention on the house (reproducing the original wallpaper, etc.) and restore it
- God lavished His grace on us also; no cost was spared

**V.9** – The mystery = the gospel, the plan of God to save us

**V.10** – “Fullness of time” = the first century – all was ready
- **Read Galatians 4.4** – Roman Empire had prepared the way for the coming of the Messiah
- **How?** Peace in the world, an excellent road system, a good legal system, etc.
- **What summarized all the plans of God?** Jesus Christ
V 11 – What is the inheritance we have obtained? Salvation (at present and in hope)
- Paul again used “predestined”

V 12 – Which people were the first to hope in Christ? The Jews
- In other words, the Jews were also first to praise God’s glory

V 13-14 – Very important – the answer to predestination
- What do we do to be predestined to be saved? Listen to the message of truth and believe it
- Other Scriptures: John 1.11-12, 2 Thessalonian 2.13-14, Hebrews 5.8-9
- What is given to us as a promise of our salvation? The indwelling of the Holy Spirit (like a lay-a-way plan at stores)
- Some people will remember that dollar bills used to be called "silver certificates" (printed right on the dollar bill)
- That piece of paper could be redeemed for silver, if you desired it
- So the Holy Spirit is a sign of the promise that we have

Ephesians 1.15-23

V 15 – Paul had probably not been to Ephesus for 4-5 years
- What had he heard of about the church at Ephesus? Their faith and their love for each other
- Wouldn’t that be a great compliment for any congregation?
- Our goal today should be the same: sound doctrine, internal love, and unity

V 16 – What did Paul do because he heard of their faith and love? Gave thanks in prayers for them

V 17 – Such a beautiful verse
- What did Paul request in his prayers? That God would give them wisdom and a revelation in the knowledge of God
- James 1.5 - we are told to pray for wisdom

V 18-19 – For what else did Paul pray? Their enlightenment in…
1. The hope of his calling
2. The riches of his glory
3. And the surpassing greatness of his power
- Most people do not fully appreciate these things
- For some people church is just a place where you go and take kids, so they don’t turn out to be absolute hoodlums
- We often miss the awesome depths of the Christian faith

V 20 – What did God do for his Son? Raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand

V 21 – How much authority was given to Jesus? Matthew 28.18-20 - All authority
- His name is superior - now and in the age to come

V 22-23 – One of the most tremendous thoughts in the Bible: Christ is head over all things and has
given all things to the church
-The church is the fullness of Christ
-Some people say, "Jesus yes - the church no"
-In other words, “I like the teaching of Jesus, but I don’t want to be restricted by a church”
-But that is impossible - we cannot take Jesus without also taking his church

**Lessons from Ephesians 1:**
-Intensely optimistic – we see the glory of God’s grace to us and the glory of Christ’s church
-These concepts lay the foundation for *Ephesians 2-6*

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Ephesians 2

Ephesians 2.1-10
- Paul talks about the salvation of the Ephesian Christians - He gives 5 characteristics of the Ephesians before they obeyed the gospel.

V 1 – 1. They were dead in their trespasses and sin
- How is Paul using the word “dead” here? Spiritual death (separation from God)

V 2 – 2. They formerly walked according to the course of the world – in other words, they pursued the life that everyone else pursued – they "kept up with the Jones"
- 3. They walked according to prince of the power of the air
- The world has a god = the devil
- Paul: Satan is now working among people and produces disobedience

V 3 – 4. They formerly lived in the lusts of their flesh (fulfilling the desires of the flesh)
Too bad - lust has a high price
- Notice prices on windows of any local liquor store
- 5. They were children of wrath
- Sin produces hatred, anger, and bitterness
- That is why church get-togethers are so much fun – the attitudes of hatred and wrath are gone
- Those Ephesus Christians must have been pretty bad before they were converted, don’t you imagine? But we all have experienced these things

V 4 – “Being rich in mercy” – God is more than willing for us to be saved!
- Why did he extend so much mercy to us? Because he loved us so much as his children
- He is not stingy with his mercy
- Remember that the apostle Paul referred to himself as the chief of sinners, yet he received forgiveness (1 Timothy 1.15)

V 5 – Just as Jesus was resurrected from the dead, we too are raised up from deadness to sin and are made alive together with Christ
- We are saved by the grace of God (maybe given to show the Jewish converts that they should not glory in works of flesh)

V 6 – We are in "heavenly places" – Any ideas? Paul seems to be referring the fact that we are represented before the throne of God by our savior Jesus Christ
- The church is a special kingdom, and in Christ we are given opportunity to be in church

V 7 – Why did God put us in heavenly places? So future generations would know of his love for us
- Notice "the surpassing riches" – the extravagance of God's love

V 8 – How are we saved? We are saved by grace through our faith
-We cannot save ourselves
-Why? We cannot be perfect
-Salvation is a gift
-Are we saved only by grace? No.
-There might be a sign out on road: "Free kittens" – but we must accept the offer; we have to go to the house and get a kitten
-We must also accept God's offer
-Some groups today are saying that we are saved by grace only, but that is just not true
-The truth: Salvation = grace + a working faith (*James 2.17*)
-We have to make a response to the offer of grace from God
-In other words, we must do something to receive grace
-Example: 1 Peter 3.21 – We are saved by being baptized

**V 9** – If we build a hospital for children, can we boast of that? No
-Why? It is not good enough to save us

**V 10** – What a summary of the Christian life!
-What reasons do we have for living good and faithful lives? We are his workmanship and were created for good works – God wants us to walk in his ways
-To those who say we are saved wholly by grace, Paul added v 10 – we also are expected to live the Christian life
-We are covered by grace, but we cannot just do what we want and expect to be forgiven

**Ephesians 2.11-16**
-Paul continues to lay the foundation for Christian living

**V 11** – What group in the church at Ephesus does he address? Gentiles (not circumcised)

**V 12** – What problems did they have before being converted?
1. Separated from Christ
2. Not in commonwealth of Israel
3. Strangers to the covenant of promise
4. No hope
5. Without God in the world
-They faced a hopeless future
-This explains the great despair of modern writers and movie makers and poets, etc.
-They have no hope

**V 13** – Interesting verse – Read John 10.16
-Mormons say this is a reference to Jesus visiting North America in the First Century, but Paul was referring to the Gentiles
-Paul: Live the Christian life in gratitude at being given salvation

**V 14** – What did Christ do for Gentiles and Jews? Made peace between them!
-Do we have problems like this today? Race problems, Armenians and Turks, Greeks and
Turks, Jews and Palestinians, Chinese and Japanese, etc.
- The answer is for them to have Christianity in their hearts

**V 15** – **How did Christ make peace between Jews and Gentiles?** Abolished the Law of commandments.
- So Ten Commandments are not binding on us today
- The Old Law was nailed to the cross (the ordinances also)
- **Read Colossians 2.14** – The Old Law was nailed to the cross and died when Jesus died on the cross
- **Peace?** No more special privileges for the Jews

**V 16** – Are Jews and Gentiles able to worship together? Yes

**Ephesians 2.17-22**

**V 17** – Again a reference to the Gentiles

**V 18** – There is one Spirit – all may approach God through that one Spirit

**V 19** – Explain "you": Gentiles (they now have the same rights as Jews)

**V 20** – **Upon whom was the church built?** Apostles and prophets (they had had divine revelations)
- The cornerstone was Christ
- **Where do the teachings of humans come in?** No-where

**V 21** – **Read 1 Peter 2.5** – We are also stones in that building
- Eating in the church building is a human problem, not a problem for God
- **Why?** Because the temple is spiritual in nature (the people, not the building)

**V 22** – The church is where God dwells

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Ephesians 3

Ephesians 3.1-7

V 1 – How could it be said that Paul was a prisoner for sake of the Gentiles? In Acts 21:26 he was accused of taking a Gentile into temple
-Also, Paul said he was the apostle to the Gentiles
-So Paul is reminding them that he is suffering on their behalf and that he was often persecuted for preaching to the Gentiles

V 2 – Acts 9.15 – He was called to preach to the Gentiles
-Did Paul feel that this was a burden? No, it was a part of God’s grace to him

V 3 – Galatians 1.15-17 – He spent 3 years in Arabia
-A special revelation to Paul
-Or possibly a reference back to Ephesians 1.9-10, 2.19-20

V 4 – He is going to explain more about this “mystery”

V 5 – The mystery was not known for many generations, but was revealed to the apostles and prophets

V 6 – What is the mystery Paul is speaking of? That all people can come to salvation
-They are fellow-heirs, fellow members, and fellow partakers of the gospel of Christ

V 7 – Paul is a minister – Was that a burden? No, it was a gift from God
-He was thankful (even in prison) for being a minister

Ephesians 3.8-13

V 8 – Why did he feel especially grateful? Least of all the saints, but he was given the assignment to preach to the Gentiles
-Unfathomable? Like a bottomless pit

V 9 – Administration goal? To bring to light this mystery

V 10 – What is the source of all the benefits from God? Through the church “rulers and authorities in heavenly places” (maybe even the angels learned the truth through the church)

V 11 – All was planned according to purpose of God

V 12 – What do we have boldness now to do? To come to God as his children
-Also to preach the gospel with courage
V 13 – Paul’s request? Not to get discouraged because he was in prison
   - Rather to be proud of his suffering

**Ephesians 3.14-19**
V 14 – For what reason? Based on the grace give to Paul (even as chief of sinners)
   - “Bow my knees” – What does this signify? Paul’s attitude of thanksgiving to God
   - Notice the use of the term “Father” for God

V 15 – All people must trace their origin back to God the Father

V 16 – Does God have a shortage of glory? No, rather “ riches”
   - For what does Paul pray? That the Ephesians might be strengthened

V 17 – What else did Paul include in his prayer? That Christ might dwell in their hearts through faith
   - “Rooted and grounded” = To put roots down, not to have a “thin” faith

V 18-19 – What else is included in the prayer? That they might know the love of Jesus
   - How does Paul describe this love? It surpasses all knowledge

**Ephesians 3.20-21**
V 20 – How does Paul describe God? He can do “far more abundantly” more than we can ask or think
   - In other words, God can do more for us than we can even dream of

V 21 – Where is the glory of God to found? In the church
   - So much hatred in the world, with wars, strife, race against race, nation against nation,
   - But we get a glimpse of God by looking at the church

V 20-21 – A “doxology” – a deep and profound blessing pronounced on the Ephesians by Paul

Summary of Ephesians 1-3:
- How we were blessed in being saved
- How the grace of God was extended to us
- How the love of God culminated in the church

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Ephesians 4

Ephesians 4.1-6

V 1 – Why would Paul remind them again that he is a prisoner? A sobering message to get them to think about the cost of being a faithful Christian

- **How should we walk?** In a way that is consistent with our “calling”
- When people become citizens of the United States, they have certain obligations placed on them
- It is the same with a person who becomes a Christian
- **Problem?** People want to be known as Christians, but they don’t want to walk in the proper manner

V 2 – What are four ways that should characterize our walking?

1. Humility
2. Gentleness
3. With patience
4. Showing forbearance to one another in love

- So in our dealings with one another, we are to show patience and love and to be longsuffering, not vengeful

- **Have you ever seen a large dog and a little tiny poodle?** The poodle will snap and bark at the large dog, run around him, and irritate him
- The large dog could bite his head off with one snap, but he is forbearing and patient

V 3 – What should be our goal as members of the church? To keep the church united

- **At all costs?** No, we cannot allow false doctrine to be taught
- But if not it is not a doctrinal matter, our goal is to do nothing that would upset the church
- Sometimes we upset people without realizing it; we might learn of it months or even years later
- It is so hard to know what upsets people
- But caution is the watchword
- We are to be diligent – it takes great effort to keep a church at peace and doctrinally sound

V 4 – Paul here lists the seven **ones** of the Christian faith, emphasizing the unity of Christ

1. One body – **Which body is that?** The body of Christ
2. Today, we have thousands of religious groups
3. They cannot all teach contradictory things and still be the body of Christ
4. When a congregation is teaching and practicing error, it can no longer be the body of Christ
5. Paul: Gentiles and Jesus cannot have their own churches - The church must be united
6. One Spirit – emphasizing unity again – There is only one Holy Spirit
7. One hope – **What is our hope?** Home in heaven (not purgatory and heaven both)

V 5 – 4. One Lord – no idols or other false lords; only one is allowed
5. One faith – not **“Of what faith are you?”**
- We don’t have a choice of faiths
-6. One baptism – **Do we have a choice of baptisms today?** No - Remember Paul had to re-baptize twelve members at Ephesus – only one baptism was proper: Christian baptism
-Contrary to what some are teaching, we do not have both Holy Spirit baptism and baptism in water for the forgiveness of our sins – that would be two baptisms
-Also, we do not have sprinkling, pouring, and immersion – there is only one baptism, and that is immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins

**V 6** – 7. One God and one Father
- Paul: Everything is united in the Christian faith
- So the different religions in the world cannot all be right

**Ephesians 4.7-10**

**V 7** – We do not all have the same talents, but we are given the talents that we can handle

**V 8** – *Psalm 68.18* – Jesus has us as his captives (we were once captives of Satan), but Christ freed us from Satan
- But there is a big difference between being a captive of Satan and a captive of Christ
- **What is that difference?** Christ has given wonderful gifts to his "captives"
- **What kind of gifts has he given to his captives?** The promise of eternal salvation, the joy of being a part of the church here on earth, the peace of mind that we have, the encouragement we receive from our brothers and sisters in Christ (many other answers to this question)
- **Do captives normally receive gifts?** No

**V 9-10** – **What sort of a parenthetical statement do we have on Christ’s ascension?** Christ first descended into earth and died for us, and he has now has ascended to heaven

**Ephesians 4.11-16**

**V 11** – Notice the assignments given in First Century church based on talents and spiritual gifts:
- **Apostles** – one of the twelve (we don't have apostles today)
- **Prophets** – they had gift of prophecy (again, we don't have this gift today)
- **Evangelists** – preachers of the gospel
- **Pastors** (literally shepherds) – the elders over the congregation
- Notice that evangelists and pastors are two separate jobs – it is wrong to call a preacher "pastor" unless he has been appointed as an elder of the church
- **Is it possible for a preacher to also serve as an elder?** Absolutely – See 1 Tim. 5.17 and 1 Peter 5.1-2 – Peter was both a preacher and elder (and an apostle)
- Also, see 2 John 1 – John was an elder and a preacher
- **Where are "pastors" mentioned in the New Testament?** See Acts 20.28
- The elders at Ephesus were to "shepherd" the flock of God (the Greek word for "shepherd" is where we get our English word "pastor")
- **Teachers** – Every congregation needs many good teachers
**V 12** - What was the purpose of these five categories? For equipping the saints and for building up the body of Christ
- This should be the goal of every person in the church today

**V 13** - The ultimate goal? Unity of faith and a mature congregation
- Also the spiritual gifts would continue until the full knowledge of Jesus came with the completion of the New Testament Scriptures (1 Corinthians 13.10)

**V 14** - “Children”? Indicates childishness
- In what sense are we no longer to be like children? Not to believe all we are told, not to be tossed about by all kinds of doctrines
- All kinds of doctrines accepted – premillennialism, faith healing, speaking in tongues, women preachers, setting dates for end of world, etc.
- Whatever false doctrine comes down the road, some people will believe it
- Cause of false doctrines? The trickery of men and their craftiness and deceitful scheming
- Remember story of older prophet in 1 Kings 13 - Read 1 Kings 13.18 – People don’t consider the possibility that somebody might be lying to them
- Paul is urging them to hold to sound doctrine

**V 15** – Our philosophy: "speaking the truth in love"
- Is it enough to speak the truth? No, but we are to have a loving attitude when we present the gospel

**V 16** – The whole church is to work together as a unit with the proper working of each individual part
- We all have jobs to do in the church

**Ephesians 4.17-19** – further details on “walking” (not "sitting")

**V 17** – What does Paul urge the Ephesians to do? Stop waking as the unsaved Gentiles walk
- How do the unconverted look at life? Futile
- We see the depravity of modern rock groups and artists and philosophers
- They believe in the futility of life, that life is not worth living

**V 18** – What do they miss by not obeying the gospel? A life in God
- Why are they not converted? Ignorance and the hardness of their hearts (not predestination)

**V 19** – What happens to those who pursue a sinful life? They get calloused
- That is an accurate description of many people
**Ephesians 4.20-24**

**V 20** – Do we learn Christ by pursuing sensuality? No
- We do not discover Christ by testing out all the various sins of this life

**V 21** – How do we find out about Christ? We hear of him and we learn of him

**V 22** – What is required of us when we are converted? We must lay aside the old self
- Why? It becomes more and more corrupted

**V 23** – We are to be renewed in mind

**V 24** – We put on the new self
- What is the new self like? In the likeness of God, righteous and holy
- So a change is required when a person becomes a Christian
- If a person doesn’t want to change, there is no reason to baptize him

**Ephesians 4.25-28** – Living “the Christian life”

**V 25** – Paul discusses four prominent sins –
- 1. Not telling the truth
  - Why should we tell the truth? We are members of one body
  - Imagine one part of the body lying to another part – example: nerve endings in the hand telling the brain that the stove is cool, when it is burning hot

**V 26** – 2. The second sin we should avoid? Sinful anger
- Is it ever right to be angry? Yes, we must practice the kind that is not sinful
- Examples of righteous anger? Jesus cleansing the temple – *Mark 3.5, John 2.13-17*
  - We must make sure that our anger is from the right motives, not pride or selfishness

**V 27** – What is Paul’s advice about anger? Don’t go to bed angry, and don’t give the devil an opportunity to cause us to sin
- How can the devil use anger as a way to get us to sin? Use evil words, physical abuse, etc.
  - We can say and do things in anger that we would never do in calmer circumstances

**V 28** – 3. Sin to be careful about? Stealing
- Paul wants to make sure that all of the Ephesians' bad habits have ended
- Instead of stealing, how are we to support ourselves? Working with our own hands
- What activities would this eliminate? Gambling, pyramid schemes, a Ponzi scheme, etc.
  - The purpose of our having decent jobs: to be able to share with those not as fortunate as we are

**V 29** – 4. Sin involving bad words coming out of our mouth
- Negative command: stop bad words
-What is the positive command? Speak words of encouragement, and give grace to others

**V.30** – Our sinning grieves the Holy Spirit (just as children sometimes grieve their parents)

**V.31** – Paul ends the chapter with a list of things that must go from our lives, once we make a decision to be Christians

-Six things:
- bitterness
- wrath
- anger
- clamor
- slander
- malice

**V.32** – Instead, we are to be kind to each other

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Ephesians 5

Ephesians 5.1-7 – Walking in love

V 1 – We imitate the God that we worship
-Do children imitate their fathers? Yes, when they love their fathers
-We will develop righteousness when we practice it
-We are not converted if our lives are not changed

V 2 – “Walk in love”
-What example do we have to follow in the area of love? Jesus gave his life for us

V 3 – More sins to avoid? Immorality (fornication), impurity, greed
-V 3 – We should not have even the idea of these things
-Not “named” among you, must less be practiced – we are not to dabble in these things

V 4 – ”Filthiness” – Explain? Nothing dirty or obscene
-Silly talk, as with person who is drunk, “coarse jesting” (jokes that are borderline, words with two meanings used to be funny, the "double entendre")
-What should characterize our speech instead? The giving of thanks

V 5 – Which people will have no inheritance? The immoral and covetous
-Why is covetousness called idolatry? It is the worship of material things

V 6 – Don’t be deceived with empty words

V 7 – Don’t be partakers with these things

Ephesians 5.8-14

V 8 – The point? We as Christians cannot remain neutral in the world – either we are darkness or we are light (no room for shade or partly cloudy)
-How should we be walking? As children of light

V 9 – How will people know we are children of light? They will see goodness, righteousness, and truth in us

V 10 – Our goal? To be pleasing to the Lord

V 11 – What should our attitude be toward the deeds of the world? Not to participate in them, but to expose them

V 12 – Very interesting – Some sins are so awful that it is not easy to talk about them (example: abortion, homosexuality, etc.)
V 13 – What will be the effect of Christians on a society? They will gradually purify it

V 14 – Meaning of v 14? The light of Christ will raise us from the old life of deadness
-This seems to be several Scriptures put together (not from any one passage)
-Many commentators believe that is probably a First Century church hymn – everyone knew it (like Rock of Ages or Just As I am today)

Ephesians 5.15-21
V 15 – Exhortation to walking properly, to walk according to wisdom

V 16 – What does it mean to “make the most of your time”? Don’t waste time
-Why would wasting time be dangerous? The days are evil, and it is easy to get into trouble

V 17 – Study the will of God

V 18 – Warning about getting drunk
-Rather than filling up on wine, what should we fill up with? The Holy Spirit instead
(with his message in the completed Scriptures)

V 19 – This is one of about 13 vv. in the New Testament which tell us to sing to one another
-Is there any room in v 19 for mechanical instruments of music? No – speaking, singing, making melody in our hearts
-Psalms – Psalms set to music
-Hymns – regular hymns of the church
-Songs – songs which cultivate a deeply emotional and spiritual feeling (such as "My God and I")
-Why would it be unwise to add instruments of music to worship? It would be the first of many additions, it stifles singing, and there is no authority for it

V 20 – More emphasis on giving thanks

V 21 – Putting needs of each other first

Ephesians 5.22-33 – Husband and wife = Christ and the church
V 22 – Not a very popular verse in many circles today
-Many unhappy people in world today think that happiness comes from total, unbridled freedom
-Freedom to kill unborn children, to leave a marriage partner at will, to buy whatever people want to buy, etc.
-But when we enter into marriage, the man must assume the leadership in the family
-Does this mean that women are inferior to men? No, in some ways women are superior,
but they have different skills and abilities
-But someone has to assume leadership, and God has designated that role to the husband
-The wife must not let the husband make her violate her principles of righteousness
-Most unhappy of all families are where the wife is the head of the family
-In that situation, the wife and the husband are both unhappy
-The wife is unhappy that she has a husband who has given up his role as the head of the family
-The husband is also miserable, because he knows that he should be the leader in the family
-She would respect and love husband more if he had more of a backbone

V 23 – Does the husband get off with no responsibility? No, look at the implications of v 23
-What is the relationship of Christ and the church? He is the savior of the church (not a tyrant or dictator)
-This same relationship should exist between husband and wife
-Remember that Eve was taken from the rib of Adam, not his head or his foot

V 24 – How far back in the Bible does this principle of the wife being subject to her husband go? Genesis 3.16 – Eve sinned first, and this was part of the punishment

V 25 – Notice Paul had to command the husbands to love their wives
-For some this must have presented a problem
-Some, apparently, were not loving their wives
-Christ loved the church enough to give his life for it
-Christ was willing to make any sacrifice for the church
-Husbands are to have a sacrificial love for their wives
-So marriage is not a case of each partner demanding his or her rights
-But rather the wife is to allow her husband be the head of the family, and the husband is to love his wife and sacrifice for her

V 26 – This is a reference to baptism
-In other words, the church is not perfect
-Therefore we must allow for imperfections in the husband and the wife

V 27 – Jesus sanctified the church and made it pure

V 28 – How much then should husbands love their wives? As much as they love themselves
-Great message: before we mistreat our wife, we must ask ourselves: "Would I do this to myself?"

V 29 – We don’t mistreat ourselves

V 30 – Jesus doesn’t mistreat us, because we are members of his body

V 31 – Where is this quote from? Genesis 2.24 and Matthew 19.5
-Any great messages (or principles) of marriage are given here? A man and a woman
must leave their parents
-Sexual relations are legitimate in marriage

V.32 – What kind of mystery is Paul talking about here? The beauty and love that we find in marriage
-Marriage is a great and beautiful mystery
-How two people can devote their lives to each other
-How they can bring children into the world
-How they can live together in peace for 20-30-40-even 50 years (until death separates them)
-Have you ever noticed how a husband and wife begin looking like each other over the years?
-If possible, see this article: National Geographic Magazine, Jan. 1984, p. 84 (older couple from Alaska)
-Of course, the ultimate message of this passage is referring to the relationship of Christ and the church (but marriage is his illustration)
-So what is the theme of this passage? Christ and church

V.33 – The summary on this subject
-Two great principles? The husband is to love his wife, and the wife is to respect her husband
-If v 33 were practiced by all married people, divorces would come to an end!

Illustrations for this chapter:
1. There was an accountant who reluctantly agreed to babysit the children while his wife went on a shopping trip one Saturday. When she returned, he handed her a note which read:
-Dried tears – 9 times
-Tied shoes – 13 times
-Toy balloons purchased – 3 per child
-Average life of balloons – 13 seconds
-Cautioned children not to cross street – 21 times
-Children crossed street – 21 times
-Number of times I will do this again – 0

2. Questions for husbands to answer:
1. Is your appearance and dress as neat, nice, and attractive as it was when you were dating your wife?
2. Do you take your wife out to eat as often as you did when you were dating?
3. Do you bring your wife gifts as often as you did when you were dating, and remember special days?
4. Do you speak and act as kindly to your wife now as you did when you were dating?
5. Do you call your wife on the telephone as frequently now as you did when you were dating?
6. Do you sit with your wife now as then?
7. Do you walk with your wife in the same manner as when you were dating?
8. Do you open the car door for her as you did when you were dating?
There is a need for these courtesies in the marriage relationship. "The bonds of matrimony are a better investment when the interest is kept up."

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Ephesians 6

Ephesians 6.1-4 – The role of fathers in the family (relation of parents and children)

V 1 – The First Century view of children was very bad
- See William Barclay’s commentary on Ephesians, p. 175 – a letter from First Century
  Roman soldier to his wife
- He told her if their expected child was a boy, let him live, but if a girl, she was to cast her
  out into wilderness and let her starve
- A Roman father had the right to sell his children into slavery and even to put them to death
- **What view did Jesus have of children?** Of great value – See Matthew 19.14, where he
called the little children to himself
- Paul then was walking in the footsteps of Jesus
- **What is the difference between “obey” and “submit”?** Submit = to resent it, under
  coercion or force
- In other words, children are to willingly obey their parents
- The phrase “in the Lord” has been given a lot of discussion down through the years
- The message: When older children obey the gospel, they in effect become brothers and
  sisters of their parents in a spiritual sense, but they still have to obey their parents
- Another idea: “in the Lord” = as long as it is Scriptural
- **Why are children to obey their parents?** Because it is right - what a powerful way to put it
- Children always want to know why they have to do something, and here is a good answer for them: Because it is right. Period.
- Sometimes we can’t explain to children what they cannot understand – they keep asking why
- So in obeying our parents, we are also obeying God – it is the right thing (normally) to do
- Children are also to obey their instructions at school, “in loco parentis” – schools stand in place of parents
- But parents stand in the place of God (in the eyes of children), and children have a great responsibility them

V 2 – **What does “honor” include?** Respect and even taking care of them in old age (see 1
  Tim. 5)

V 3 – **What is the promise of this commandment?**
- Two-fold:
  1. It may be well with us and that our days will be long on earth
  - Kids who don’t obey parents and who don’t follow instructions are more likely to get killed in traffic accidents, etc.
  2. That our society might exist a long time
  - In Exodus 20.12 and Deuteronomy 5.16, Moses meant that the Israelite society would last a long time if children obeyed their parents
- **Why would obedience to parents cause a society to last a long time?** A society would have more order and safety in it, and God will bless it
V.4 – Two responsibilities of fathers?
1. Provoke not children to anger – in other words, don’t cause anguish for them
   -How do we provoke children to anger?
     -Not having consistent polices and rules
     -Showing favoritism
     -Not spending enough time with them
     -Forgetting to encourage them
     -Being too strict
   -Children need an even-handed approach
2. Instruct them in the way of the Lord
   -Does instruction in the Bible fall primarily on the father or on the mother? Father
   Read Proverbs 1.8-9
   -It is sad that so many fathers in our society have failed to be spiritual leaders in their families

Ephesians 6.5-9 – Slaves and masters
V.5 – Slavery was in force in many parts of the world at the time Paul was writing
   -Why didn’t Paul tell slaves to run away? Why not take up arms against slavery?
   -Book of Philemon: The way to end slavery is in changing the hearts of people
     -Violence is not the answer; it only is a temporary solution.
V.6 – What commandment did Paul give the slaves? Obey your masters with fear and trembling, as to Christ
   -In other words, it is not a case of just trying to look busy
   -What would be their motivation for them to work as slaves? As if they are serving Christ
V.7 – They are told to render good service to their master
V.8 – What promise came with Paul’s commandment? God would repay them
V.9 – A sobering thought
   -Message to slave-owners? Treat slaves right
   -Explain "no partiality with God"? All will answer to God on the Day of Judgment

Ephesians 6.10-20 – The Armor of the Christian
V.10 – In what way should we be strong? In the Lord
   -Our strength is to be “in the Lord”
   -Special message – We are not to become obsessed with physical exercise, but with spiritual exercise
V.11 – What kind of armor are we to put on? God’s armor
   -Recall Paul’s circumstance: a prisoner
- **Read Acts 28.16** – Paul was with a soldier at all times, so he had an opportunity to observe Roman armor up close
- **What will God’s armor help us do?** Withstand the schemes of the devil
- **“Schemes”?** Not straightforward attacks from Satan, but rather tricks, etc.

**V 12** – **What type of warfare is the Christian to be engaged in?** Spiritual, not fleshly and in human blood (see 2 Cor. 10.3-5)
- What powerful spiritual enemies are described in vs. 12!
- **Are our enemies the Russians or the Chinese or the Arabs?** No, it is Satan and his forces
- We are waging spiritual warfare and attacking Satan

**V 13** – Notice – we are to **“stand firm”** – what every congregation needs: more who will stand firm in the faith

**V 14** – Notice that this armor is described in the order that a person would put it on
- First, the defensive parts of the armor
- **What goes around our mid-section?** Truth
- We get the heart of the matter
- The belt or girdle kept the Roman robe from flapping in the wind and getting in the way
- We don’t have to grope and guess when we have the truth
- **Across the chest?** Breastplate of righteousness (like a bullet proof vest)
- People cannot spear us if we have on righteous clothing

**V 15** – **What goes on our feet?** Preparation of the gospel of peace
- Roman soldier had cleats in his sandals so that he could stand firm and not lose footing

**V 16** – Paul is describing a huge, oblong shield made out of wood
- One of most dangerous weapons in First Century was a spear or dart with the tip dipped in tar and ignited
- Only a large wooden shield would stop these darts and extinguish them
- **What is our shield?** Our faith

**V 17** – Helmet (maybe reference to our thoughts)
- **What is our helmet?** Salvation = the knowledge that we are saved
- **What is our only offensive weapon?** The Word of God
- The only weapon we can use against the world is the Bible, not physical weapons

**V 18-19** – In addition to wearing the armor of God, what else did Paul urge the Ephesians to do? Pray
- **What was to characterize their prayers?** Alertness and perseverance
- **For what were they to pray?** All the saints and (v 19) and for the Apostle Paul
- **For what did Paul want them to pray?** For more boldness in his preaching
- **Did he want them to pray for his release?** No, and he didn’t ask for more comfortable cell
- Maybe we need to follow his example and pray that sick person may be better able to hold up under the sickness, instead of always praying that person may be healed
V 20 – How did Paul describe himself? Ambassador in chains
   -He wanted more help in being a bold preacher for Christ

Ephesians 6.21-24 – Farewell comments
V 21 – Who would be delivering the letter? Tychicus, beloved brother and faithful minister
   -He is mentioned in Acts 20.4 with Paul on last part of his Third Missionary Journey
   -Colossians 4.7-9 – carried the letter to the church at Colossae
   -2 Timothy 4.12, Titus 3.12 – a good helper for Paul
   -What else would Tychicus do? Answer their questions about Paul’s condition

V 22 – Tychicus would comfort their hearts

V 23 – A final word of peace
   -He mentions peace, faith, grace

V 24 – An incorruptible love

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