

EPHESIANS WORKBOOK

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION

Instructions:

I am glad you have chosen to join my study of Ephesians. I hope you obtain a wealth of knowledge from this study. But not just what I have learned and now gladly pass on to you, but as Holy Spirit opens greater understanding, you will develop faith and love to walk in these powerful truths.

I encourage you will use a paper Bible along with your internet searches. Digital Bibles are becoming suspected of being altered from original meaning. Also, as you study, your Bible becomes your roadmap. Mark in it, make notes in it, let it become a cherished item that you will love for a lifetime.

We are going to be looking for key words as we study. Mark each word is a special color or marking. This will help you easily identify each key word and its significance in it's text.

Key words to mark in this book study are grace, love, riches, walk, heavenlies (heavenly) high places, access, in Christ (in Him, In Whom).

We will be bringing text from other Bible passages to deepen our understanding. I often use a Hebraic form of study that has taught me to look deeper and ask more questions.

This type of study uses the *law of first mention* that finds the first time the word is ever used in the Bible. Look at the use of the word, its purpose in the first text. This sets a precedence for its use throughout scripture. Sometimes it is obvious and sometimes it is obscure.

Let us ask Holy Spirit to lead us to find deeper levels of understanding with each reading. Here are the 4 levels of understanding.

1. Simple or obvious and literal
2. Hint, comparing to other texts to find hidden or symbolic meaning
3. Inquiring or digging deeper comparing to other texts and extracting moral lessons
4. Hidden or secret things. Allowing Holy Spirit to open the treasure of the Word in a new and living way

I will be including the entire text of each chapter in the New King James version at the beginning of each chapter study. Feel free to use other versions for comparison or ease of understanding.

EPHESIANS 1

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. 15 ¶ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (NKJV)

GOD REVEALS GREAT MYSTERIES

CHAPTER 1

“Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself.”

Ephesians 1:9

Many books have been written about this letter to the Ephesians. Most highlight information about the wealth, the walk, and the warfare of the Christian. We will also be following that outline.

Paul wrote this to enable these new believers to be able to stand strong and walk holy. He is giving them what they need to build a firm foundation. His desire was for them to access the riches and goodness of God. He wanted them to be able to stand against every attack the devil might bring their way. We all face difficult life-changing situations. Our faith is put to the test. This study will help us be equipped for the days ahead.

We are given everything that we need to make it to heaven, but not everyone will make it to heaven. Paul's teaching will help us to live victorious to the end.

FAITH AND LOVE

It is often beneficial to understand why Paul wrote the letters that became our epistles of our New Testament. When Paul wrote this powerful letter to the church at Ephesus, he brought them teaching that is exclusive to this letter. He wrote this because of the things that he heard about their faith and love.

Faith and love are power twins. If we are going to carry the nature of God and respond to life according to the grace of God, it will require this dynamic combination.

This powerful combination is mentioned sixteen times in the New Testament. This tells me if I overlook love, my faith might be lacking. We are always encouraged to increase our faith but if we do not at the same time increase our love our efforts might be in vain. Kenneth Hagin, the great teacher of faith, said if his faith seemed to be failing, he first checked his love walk.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love...¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:6,¹⁴

Does this explain why our prayers might go unanswered if our hearts are not right with God and our fellow man. If I want to be a powerhouse of faith I must also submit to the perfect

law of love. The Bible says now abides faith, hope and love, and of these three, love is the greatest. It should also be our priority and the driving force of our faith.

HEAVENLY PLACES

There are teachings about the heavenlies in this book of the Bible that are not written in the other books. They are hinted at, but Paul makes it clear in this writing. There are things going on in the unseen realm that have powerful effects on our life in the seen realm.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3

This tells me that the “riches” that Paul tells us about in these passages are held for us in a secure place. My blessings are in the heavenlies in Jesus. So, I need to learn how to access these blessings. Our access in prayer. Simple prayer. James wrote that we “have not because we ask not. (James 4:2)

The word “riches” is used twice in this first chapter. This is part of the spiritual blessings that are waiting for me to tap into. It is also the reason that we must learn to fight the good fight of faith that Paul told Timothy to fight. Paul’s teaching will equip us for this faith fight in chapter six.

The heavenlies are also where the full work of acquiring our salvation is brought to its great conclusion in Christ. Note how Paul explains how the same Holy Spirit that fills us today worked to bring Jesus out of the grave. And then seated Him in His powerful position. He also seated us in our position as we will see in the next chapter.

“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.” Ephesian 1:19,20

This is so far greater than our imagination can comprehend. We must have Holy Spirit to teach us these truths. That is why Paul said in verse 16, I do not cease to pray for you to be filled with wisdom, revelation, and understanding.

This is one of the reasons it is so important to be filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. He is here to help us to know, learn, experience and grow in grace in measures we cannot obtain without Him. He brings us wisdom and revelation to know what we can never comprehend in our natural mind. "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." John 16:13

SALVATION

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.” Ephsians 1:13

- What did Paul say about being “saved?”

Paul wrote this letter to them because he heard of their faith. Now he wanted to equip them to be able to stand in the evil day.

People refer to salvation in different terms. Got religion, saved, converted, believed, born again, redeemed. All these are good, but what does it mean?

What is salvation?

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.” Ephesians 1:7,13

Here are the elements of salvation from this text.

1. Heard word of truth
2. Trusted
3. Believed
4. Forgiveness of sins
5. Sealed by God

What is the word of truth that leads to salvation?

It is the message of a loving God sending His son to pay for my sins. It is John 3:16.

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”
1 John 5:13

I remember the day I found out that my salvation wasn't dependent on my own efforts or great works. I was amazed that I could “KNOW!” that I was saved. Salvation is an experience that is intended to last a lifetime.

I have often thought about two different types of faith. Lion faith vs monkey faith. I am not a baby monkey trying to cling through all the jungle travels and hoping I don't fall off. I am the child of the lion of the tribe of Judah. He's got me in this. His salvation holds me secure.

My Lion roars for me and all the enemies in this jungle tremble.

What

type of faith do you have?



GRACE

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the

Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." Ephesians 1:2,6,7

Grace, grace, and more grace! The work of grace is a powerful force. I have often prayed verse two as I ministered to people in an altar setting. At the mention of grace and peace the power of God often begins to release them from the grip of pain and moves them into His divine presence. Oh, how we overlook the simplicity of prayer.

Grace is not permission to sin as many suppose, but it is the power to live above sin. Grace is the work of salvation that makes us fully accepted in the beloved. Fully accepted! Why is condemnation still a harassing voice? The Holy Spirit also prompted Paul to write Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." How could Paul say that? Because of the perfect working of Holy Spirit in our lives. We must often remind ourselves; *I am fully accepted in the Beloved!* Condemnation is an echo from the past.

If we dig deeper into what this grace is we find great treasures, it is:

Newness of life: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation." Galatians 6:15

Unearned favor: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8

According to the original Hebrew word for grace, it is spelled with two letters. Chet, which means a protected place or a fenced place. Num, which is life.

So, from this it is an explanation of John 10:10. This is abundant life, fenced in with Jesus by God. Newness of life where my prayers access heavens richest blessings.

There is so much more in this first chapter. You may have found treasures I did not mention. If you did, please write them down in your study notebook. I hope we all have one.

Before you start the chapter two study, it would be good to watch this video by Brennan Manning” God loves you as you are, not as you should be.

UNCEASING PRAYER

“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places” Ephesians 1:17-20

Paul prayed for this church and for us to have a spirit of wisdom and revelation. There are greater depths than we have reached. Only Holy Spirit can open our understanding of things that are so far past finding out. He prayed that Holy Spirit would give them this great knowledge of who He is. The prophet Isaiah said it was line upon line and precept upon precept. (Isaiah 28:10) In other words, no matter how much revelation we have gained, there is always more. It is revealed as we are able and willing to apply new truth.

Eyes of understanding are a gift of God. The seeing eye and the hearing ear are both from God. (Proverbs 20:12) Paul longs for them to know three things from this revelation knowledge.

1. The hope of His calling
2. The riches of the glory inheritance
3. Exceeding greatness of His power

Then the greatest revelation, that Christ is risen far above every enemy that we will face. This victory was not for a moment but for eternity. The Holy Spirit raised Jesus up out of the grave and seated Him in the heavenly places at God’s own right hand.

Jesus is the head and put all things under His feet. We are His body.

<https://youtu.be/notoc1FWl4k?si=G3AeITmaOgOV4BiM>

CHAPTER 1 SELF TEST

What is the power twin mentioned in Ephesians 1:15?

Comparing our Christian walk to the church at Ephesus, would the reputation of our walk be the same as this church?

According to Galatians 5:6 what is the working force of faith?

Explain "...Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

How do I access this wealth?

1Timothy 6:12 Fight the good _____ lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to _____ which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Where is Christ now seated?

Who raised Jesus from the dead?

What type of power would this require?

Following Paul's prayer for the Holy Spirit to give special ability to understand this great mystery, write your own prayer for wisdom, revelation knowledge and understanding.

What is salvation?

What are the 5 elements of salvation Paul taught in this first chapter?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Do you remember who shared the word of truth with you?

What is grace?

How is grace a power or powerful force?

Who helps us attain greater revelation of the knowledge of God?

What are some of the things you have learned from this chapter?

Please continue to look for the key words in the text of this study.

EPHESIANS 2

Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 ¶ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. 11 ¶ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 ¶ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (NKJV)

CHAPTER 2

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10

Paul’s writing of chapter one ended with a prayer for our understanding. He knew without the manifold wisdom of Holy Spirit we could not comprehend what had been revealed in the first part of this letter. But also, the truths revealed in the rest of this letter would require continuing revelation from Holy Spirit.

This book is so rich in hidden and revealed mysteries that you could read it hundreds of times and still unearth greater truths. “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.” Isaiah 28:10 This tells us that there is always more to be understood as God reveals things to us one layer at a time. Each layer takes us deeper into the thoughts, will, and purpose of the Almighty God.

Let us pray that God will open the eyes of our understanding, asking for wisdom and revelation knowledge as we study the deep things of God.

HIS GREAT LOVE

I choose to start with this great verse in our study of chapter two because it is the reason for it all. We live in a world where rejection becomes a strong tool of the enemy. We even reject ourselves in varying degrees. We will often feel that God also has rejected us and fear His reprisal. But Paul admonishes us that the great love of God was demonstrated to us through His riches of mercy.

In chapter one Paul spoke of salvation, forgiveness of sin through the riches of grace, and being made fully accepted in the Beloved. If we get this in our spirit, we will realize how much we are loved. He not only loves us but demonstrates it by making us alive. His perfect love in us casts out all fear of rejection by Him. (1John 4:17,18)

His love was not because of our own holiness. Notice it said He first love us “even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive...” Ephesians 2:5 How foolish we are when we sin and then feel like God has rejected us, when He made every provision for us to stay in constant fellowship with Him.

Consider these scriptures about the love of God for us:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” 1John 4:10

“We love him, because he first loved us.” 1John 4:19

I pray that as you read this, it will dissolve any condemnation that tries to separate you from the love of God. God will not be moved off this point. He has loved you with an undying love. You are precious to Him. He loves you and you can’t do anything about it.

We do well to remind ourselves often. I am loved and highly favored. Because of His perfect love for me I do not fear. 1John 4:18

MADE ALIVE

“Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)” Ephesians 2:5

Our salvation was first secured in the plan of God before the world was ever formed. This is an amazing idea for me. Before the first ray of sunshine, He knew that He would bring the Savior so that I could be saved. Then He sent a man named Bill to witness to me. And by the faith and grace that God instilled in my heart, I became alive from the dead!

Paul begins by explaining twice that we all had the same affliction. We were all children of wrath, just like the others. Why did he emphasize this so much? Perhaps they had begun to self-exalt in how spiritual they were. We often need to be brought back to the level playing field. I would be nothing except by the abundance of grace and frequent trips back to the cleansing blood of forgiveness. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

In my studies of Deuteronomy 33:12, I was meditating on what it means to dwell between His shoulders, in my search for more, I ran across the teaching that the shoulders are never above the head. To dwell there, of course, is a picture of intimacy. But a reminder to stay in our place of humble remembrance. A wise man once said he felt like a turtle on a fence. He didn’t get here by his own efforts.

Made alive is the work often translated “*quicken together with.*” The same power that raised Jesus from the dead quickens us. He made us alive first legally when He accepted the blood of the spotless lamb of God on the altar in heaven and then in a completed work when we accepted the gospel of salvation.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” John 1:12 The word here is more accurately translated authority, power, ability to become. We have more than the right to change, we have the power that brings life from the dead.

I wanted to be a child of God, but it was not until His faith and grace super-infused me and I became what I had never been before. I was made alive.

If you have never experienced what this is talking about, stop right now and pray this simple prayer.

Dear Jesus, I read where You died and rose from the dead that I might have eternal life. I am like all the others born on this earth; I need a savior because of my sins. Please forgive my sins and make me alive with You. I ask this knowing it is Your good pleasure and Your will to save me. I thank You now for doing this for me. Thank You that my name is written in heaven and I am forgiven now in the mighty Name of Jesus.

RAISED UP/ ACCESS

Our study now reveals the mighty working of God to bring us to a position to be able to receive the incredible, life changing power of a new life. Death had controlled us and made our mind unable to comprehend this great miracle. But God did what no man can do. He made the dead come alive.

“Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ... 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” Ephesians 2:5,6 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. V.18

This is so powerful because of what is made available to us. In the mind of Father God, we are there with Christ. We now have access.

Access is one of the greatest gifts that we are given upon salvation. Let me explain. Before the cross, only the high priest could approach the mercy seat where the presence of God dwelled and only once a year. But when Jesus died, He tore open the dividing wall between God and man. Now, daily I have access to the presence of the Father. I come in by the blood. He welcomes me with open arms.

Jesus explained this in His story of the good shepherd. This would be a good time to read it again. John 10: 6-14. Pay special attention to verses 9 and 10.

I was asked once why I loved to pray; my answer was that heaven is listening. I am heard because I am not just here on earth hoping that my prayers make it. I know many feel like their prayers go no higher than the ceiling, but it is because they do not realize their

position in Christ. We are seated together with Christ. We approach the throne of grace (which is in heaven) and find mercy and grace to help in a time of need.

I challenge you to use your sanctified imagination and see yourself seated with Christ in the heavenlies. Approach the throne of grace with bold prayers. Ephesians 3:12 challenges us to enter boldly, because in Christ, we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Is this possibly the secret place of Psalms 91?

EXCEEDING RICHES

Why are we so reluctant to ask God? There is a scripture that the acronym is A.S.K. This is no mistake. God wanted to make it easy for us to remember. His storehouse is full and open for His children.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Matthew 7:7

Our God is generous, loving, and kind. Mercy and grace are His power twins. They are always at work in us and for us.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us... That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:4,7

The exceeding riches of God are the unlimited mercy and grace that has been applied to our account. "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

There is a difference in mercy and grace. Mercy is what we ask for when we miss the mark. It is recognizing our failure to attain any holiness that deserves His answer. Yet, He answers. It is what is poured on us lavishly when we come according to 1John 1:9. If we confess our sins, He always forgives our sins and cleanses us.

He is rich in mercy. Daily, He gives us a fresh supply. "Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22,23

Going back to chapter 2:8 we have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

David wrote so many of the Psalms to glorify the goodness and mercies of God. One of our all-time favorites of course is the twenty third Psalms. It is more than a poetic picture. It is a detailed image of the power of God to supply our needs and protect us. No lack. Read this again in the light of the rich mercy and the exceeding riches of His grace.

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.” Psalms 23:5,6

I have included a portion from The Passion Translation because of its simple expression of His love for us.

“You anoint me with the fragrance of your Holy Spirit; you give me all I can drink of you until my cup overflows. 6 *So why would I fear the future?* Only goodness and tender love pursue me all the days of my life. Then afterward, when my life is through, I’ll return to your glorious presence to be forever with you!” (TPT) Psalms 23:5,6

One more scripture for you to meditate on. Meditation brings multiplication. “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32

JEW AND GENTILE

Antisemitism, hatred of the Jews, has raised its ugly head higher than it has been since Hitler killed millions of men, women, and children. Just this week, the Netherlands made it a crime to bring any import into their land from Israel. Even in a traveler’s suitcase. It can bring the offender a six-year prison sentence. Hatred for the Jews, God’s chosen people.

Many Christians hate Jews. They have a replacement theology that is contrary to scripture. God created the Jews for a very specific and grand reason. They are the apple of His eye. They are the hands on His prophetic clock. He chose them to be a small window through which we can see the majestic, wonderworking power of an incredibly faithful awesome God. If we ever stop to see God through the eyes of the Jews, we would be humbled.

Throughout the Bible, there is a pattern that we would be wise to follow. *Jews first, then the Gentiles*. Here are references to this pattern if you would like to learn more. Romans 2:9,10, & 16.

What is a Gentile? A Gentile is anyone who is not born a Jew. That would be almost all of us since Jews make up only 0.2% of the world population. But the Bible teaches us that by the blood of Jesus we become a part of the spiritual the covenant family the same as those who are born Jewish.

We often wish Jews would become Christian. A Jew who accepts Jesus as the Messiah become a completed Jew. Salvation is of the Jews (Joh 4:22)

But the truth is we are grafted branches and the natural branch is of the Jews. If this is a new idea to you, it can be overwhelming. But the main thing to remember, God is making of the two, Jew and Gentile, one new man. "And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, 18 do not boast against the branches." Ro 11:17,18

Paul describes the situation of the Gentiles without Christ. "Therefore, remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world." Ephesians 2:1,12

Apart from the covenant of grace, we have nothing. But now in Christ, the division is removed. "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation... For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;...that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby." Ephesians 2:14,16, 18

If you have been guilty of being hard hearted to the plight of the Jews, repentance is in order. Their rejection has been to our salvation. If you have never prayed for them, God says that we are one with them in Christ and those that bless them He will bless. Those who curse them will not be guiltless. We should pray for their peace and safety. We should stand in allegiance with them always.

God said concerning the seed of Abraham, "I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:3 Let us find ourselves on the blessing side of God.

NEW CITIZENSHIP

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:19

There is a song we sang years ago that said, "this world is not my home, I'm just passing through." We have forgotten that we are only here for a short time and we are ambassadors of the heavenly motherland.

We must remember to hold the earthly things we love loosely. They are only temporary. There is another place that has our name recorded. It is eternal.

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”
Philippians 3:20

SELF TEST CHAPTER 2

Why do we need to pray for understanding?

Why start this study of chapter 2 with verse 4?

How was God's great love manifested to us?

When did God first love us? V.5

Write a summary of the love of God from these verses. John 3:16, Romans 5:8 1John 4:10,19

When were we made alive?

Why did Paul emphasize that all were children of wrath?

John 1:12 What does it mean to receive power to become?

After we are made alive from the dead, what becomes our new position?

Why is access so important?

How often is mercy renewed? Lamentations 3:22,23

Why would this be important to you?

What is antisemitism? And what is God's opinion of it according to Genesis 12:3?

What is "one new man?"

Please continue to look for the key words in the text of this study.

CHAPTER 3

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles-- 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. 8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. 13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. 14 ¶ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

(NKJV)

CHAPTER 3

*“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that works in us.”*

Ephesians 3:20

At the beginning of the New Testament era, after Christ had risen, all believers in Christ were Jewish. The central question was whether Gentiles could also be saved. God answered that question by sending Simon Peter to the house of Cornelius, as recorded in Acts 10.

But it was not until years later that the revelation of what God was doing began to be explained by Paul. He called this the mystery of God. The Jews and the Gentiles as one. This is a fulfillment of the prophecy of Amos. "On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins And rebuild it as in the days of old; 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name," Says the LORD who does this thing." Amos 9:11,12

Paul begins to share greater details of what he started in the first part of this letter. He opens to the readers the depth of revelation given to him. He reveals that his ministry is of a new dispensation of grace. He speaks of a power that is now being revealed. And he prays for us to know the love.

THE WORKING OF CHRIST

Paul mentions that everything that is fulfilled has been the working of Christ. He is our creator. V.9 He accomplished God's eternal purpose of salvation to the Jews first then the Gentiles. V.11 His promises are given to us through the gospel. V.6 The whole family in heaven and earth are named in Christ Jesus. There are unsearchable riches still to be obtained through Christ. V.8 Christ will dwell in your hearts by faith. V.17 His love to us surpasses knowledge. And He can do more through us than our minds can perceive. V.20

We should never forget the incredible Redeemer. He did it all for us.

REVELATION KNOWLEDGE

Several times in this chapter, Paul mentioned revelation and mystery. He was given mysteries that God had previously hidden but now was ready to reveal. One of those mysteries was the dispensation of grace. His grace was open to whosoever will come and drink the living water freely. (Revelations 22:17) This truth was no longer for the Jews only but for the Jews and the Gentiles.

Every believer has the capacity to receive revelation knowledge. But just as Paul's knowledge was confirmation of what had been written in the law and the prophets, we must also remember that all new revelations must be compared to scripture and confirmed by at least two scriptures. Many people fall into error because they do not know the scripture or the power of God. "Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God." Matthew 22:29

Paul received this by spending extended time in the presence of Father God. He was well versed in Old Testament. He had been taught scriptures by the best teacher of his day. But it was the time alone with God that was the seed bed of this revelation. "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood. Galatians 1:15,16

Now that Paul has released this powerful revelation to us, let us seek the Lord to give us understanding. It is becoming very apparent why Paul prayed for us all at the beginning of this letter. "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know..." Ephesians 1:17,18

POWER IN US

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." Ephesians 3:20

We all live far beneath the extreme provisions that are available to us and through us. In our text three Greek words are translated power. Every aspect of His power is given to us as believers.

These are the words translated from Greek to the English word power.

- Used in verses 1:19, 3:7, 3:20: **Dunamis**: force, specially, miraculous power, ability, abundance, might (worker of) miracle(-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.
- Used in verses 1:19, 6:10: **Kratov**: vigor dominion, might(-ily), power, strength.
- Used in verses 1:21, 2:2: **Exousia**: (ability); privilege, force, capacity, mastery, magistrate, superhuman, delegated influence: authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

It is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. It is the same power that carried Him into the heavenlies and seated Jesus at the right hand. It is the same power that now works in us to quicken us. It is the same power that baptizes us with power from on high.

HIS PRAYER FOR US

No wonder Paul prays again for those of us who read this letter. “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 3:14

These are the things he prayed that we would receive from Ephesians 3:16-21

- Strengthened with might through His Spirit
- Christ dwell in our hearts by faith.
- We will be rooted and grounded in love
- To know the width, depth, length and height of that love
- To know the love and be filled with the fulness

According to this chapter there are several things that are overwhelming in their abundance.

- Promises in Christ
- Unsearchable riches
- Eternal purposes accomplished in Christ
- Boldness and access
- Riches of His glory
- Love that passes knowledge
- Fulness of God
- Exceeding abundant working of God
- The power that works in us

In twenty-one short verses, Paul unzips more wisdom and revelations than our natural minds can contain. I pray this is just the beginning of your search into these unsearchable riches.

SELF TEST

What is the mystery of God mention in verse six?

What are the things Paul says are fulfilled in Christ?

Why do we need to compare new revelations to other scriptures?

What was the seed bed of Paul's ability to receive revelation from God?

What are the Greek words translated as power and what do they mean?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What are the five main points of Paul's prayer in verses 14-21?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Name some of the abundant things found in this chapter.

CHAPTER 4

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 ¶ with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended" --what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. 17 ¶ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all

malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. (NKJV)

Chapter 4

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called.”

Ephesians 4:1

Paul’s letter now moves from the focus of the wealth of blessings that are ours in this dispensation of grace into the walk of the new man created in Christ.

In the previous chapter Paul prayed that we would be rooted and grounded in love and that we will know the love of Christ. Jesus is our example of walking the love walk. Jesus loved us even at our worst. Now we must learn to be His expression of love to the lost world, the church and our family. He also gives us much needed instructions in living as Christ with our family and workforce. It is a love walk.

What does this walk of love look like? Love will bear the burdens of others. Love will endeavor to keep unity and peace. V.3 Love will speak the truth with the right attitude. Love will enable us to grow up and not act childish. V.15 Love builds up and edifies the body of Christ. V.16

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Eph 4:11,12,13

When Jesus rose from the dead He gave us the great gift of grace according to the limitless measure of Christ. He gave us apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors, and teachers. These were given to us for our spiritual growth. They are to equip us to reach a lost and dying world. These are gifts for the building up and perfecting of the new man in Christ. They are given to bring us into unity of faith and knowledge, to become perfect in Christ and grow us up into the full measure of Christ.

Note again how long we are to seek to learn from these ministries:

- Unity of faith
- The knowledge of Jesus
- To the perfect man

- To the fulness of Christ

We cannot forsake the ministries we find in the local body of believers. Church attendance is vital. Sermons are anointed to build us up and grow us up. Bible studies bring us to understand true doctrines so we will not be easily deceived in this last day confusion. “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24,25

The whole body is created to work together to edify itself in love. Paul talks about each joint being joined and knitted together to bring what it supplies. We all have our part to play. No one is exempt. We should provoke each other to good works and cause growth by our example of full co-operation with the Spirit of God to make the body of Christ function as a well-oiled machine. Not every joint supply is a lovely ministry, some is, by necessity, dirty and most often ignored.

I have been a pastor, Sunday school teacher, ministered to other countries, cleaned church, mowed the church yard, and looked for more to do. I am not an overachiever. I just know ministry takes all forms. When asked by an up-and-coming minister what to do to help them grow in ministry my answer was, “volunteer to clean the toilets.”

This is explained also in 1Corinthians 12:15 if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called. 17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk.” Ephesians 4:1, 17

This part of the letter is about putting away the old and being renewed in our mind to be able to walk in the newness of Christ. We are not to be childish, continuing to walk as we did as sinners. Put off the old put on the new. This is a very deliberate decision to walk in our new creation life.

“If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the

new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”
Ephesians 4:21-24

Here we have a clear list of don'ts and dos in verses 25-32.

- Do not lie -do speak the truth (in love). V.25
- Do not let the sun go down on your wrath – be angry but sin not.v.26.
- Do not give place to the devil. V.27
- Do not steal – work to meet your needs and have enough to share. V.28
- Do not speak corrupt harsh words – let your words impart grace. V. 29
- Do not give into bitterness, wrath, anger, uproar, and evil speaking. V.31
- Do be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, even as God for Christ forgave you.

Over the years of struggling to live as I am supposed to, I have often retreated to my prayer closet with these scriptures in my hand. I would pray that I would be able to put away all wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking. That I would be bold enough to speak the truth in love. I prayed to be kind, tender hearted, loving and forgiving. This prayer has seen me through time after time.

Life is hard. The enemy will try to pull us back into our old patterns of life. We must stay focused and keep our face turned towards the one that we have learned through this new life in Christ.

SELF TEST 4

Continue to be aware of the key words of this study.

Who is our greatest example of how to walk in love?

What is the measure of the grace given to us by Jesus Christ?

Name the five ministry gifts given to the church body.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What is their purpose?

What does it mean for every joint to bring its supply?

Have you recognized what your part is in the body? If not, are you willing to volunteer for the things that are often overlooked until you recognize your part?

Ephesians 4:21-24 What are we to “put off”?

“Put on”?

From the list of dos and don'ts at the end of this chapter, are there areas that you need to focus on?

EPHESIAN 5

Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. 3 ¶ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 ¶ submitting to one another in the fear of God. 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

EPHESIAN 5

“Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Ephesians 5:1,2

I love sweet smelling fragrances. When someone passes me with a gentle sweet perfume, it catches my attention. I read that we are the very fragrance of Christ. (2 Corinthians 2:15) Jesus smells sweet to me. His Word spoken to me from the holy text carries its own fragrance to me. This might sound odd.



But even more odd is the smell of the sacrifice of Jesus to God the Father. It was a sweet-smelling fragrance. If we look at what is pleasing in the nostrils of God, we must look at the *law of first mention*. Genesis 8:21

Noah had just ridden out the first torrential rainstorm that ever happened on the earth lasting 40 days and nights. He was a faithful servant. He preached to rebellious people and built the ark for 120 years. After the floods were completely gone, over a year later, the first thing he did when he exited the ark with his family and all the animals, was to build an altar of sacrifice.

The animals he offered would have smelled like burning hair and flesh to us. Not a good smell. But to God, it smelled like atonement, cleansing, a place of forgiveness and dedication. He did not smell the natural odor. He smelled the sweet smell of reunification. In His joy at this offering, God gave us the promise that was sealed with the sign of the rainbow.

Why did Paul bring this into the text? This seems oddly out of place. Yet, how appropriate for us to see that all that Jesus did to redeem us smelled good in heaven. Now, we are presented with the challenge to bring our flesh to the altar of devotion. It stinks to us when our flesh is scorched by the fire of God's word. But it produces in us the very fragrance of Christ in heaven as we learn to imitate Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. This is the love walk.

This chapter draws a sharp contrast between righteous and unrighteous. We are admonished to walk as children of the light. We are told to not let it ever be named among us that we are partakers of the evil deeds of the wicked.

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” v.6 Today, we often accept an “easy grace” where

sin is overlooked. People are living together without marriage, abortion has shown up in the church, we overlook it too much. Sin must be repented of and not once named among us. There is always room for repentance, but when God's wrath comes down, if sin is in your camp, wrath could land on you.

In her book, *Holy Provocation*, Lydia Marrow said what plagues our churches. "I am concerned about Western Christianity, because in so many ways, it has stopped loving the truth."

This thriving church in Ephesus allowed worldliness to become accepted when holiness is required. They were given a stern warning of being cut off from the kingdom of God. Wisdom would tell us to regard this message as if it were written directly to us.

How do we find what is acceptable v.10? There are many instructions in this short chapter to get us on the right road. Here are a few of the things that will help us finding the will of God for us to live in goodness, righteousness and truth.

- V4 Giving of thanks
- V.11 Expose unfruitful works of darkness (James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another)
- V. 15 Walk like the new man in wisdom
- V. 19 Speaking encouraging words and singing spiritual songs
- V. 21 Submitting to one another in fear of the Lord, not always having to be right or have my way.

Living like Christ in the home is the next topic of discussion. Submission is a hot topic. Even Christian women bristle at the idea of submitting to the husband. This does not mean that we are subordinate to them. The church is the example as it is submitted to Jesus as the head.

There is proper order. Our homelife should be the picture of how the life of Christ is lived through the church family. If a wife feels that she is loved and safe, submission is not a problem. The husband, as the head, establishes the rule of love. As Christ loved the church and gave His life, now the husband loves his wife and gives his life to bring love, peace, and divine order. This text says the husband loves, nourishes, and cherishes his wife. This creates an atmosphere of security in the home for children to grow up feeling safe.

Let us meditate on this final verse because meditation will lead us to understanding that brings a successful life. (Joshua 1:8) “Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” Ephesians 5:33

SELF TEST 5

Why would Jesus’ sacrifice be called a sweet aroma?

What are some of the things Paul instructed us to put away to be acceptable? v.3,4,5

What does it mean to be deceived by empty words? What are some of the lies our society has accepted as normal living?

What are some of the things that are given for us to walk circumspectly finding the will of God?

Explain what it is to live a submitted life in the home.

What does verse 33 mean to you?

This chapter is a stark reminder that what was once holy can become corrupt. Spend time on self-examination. If sin has crept in, repent and make the necessary adjustments.