

# Introduction

Welcome to this Bible study workbook on Ephesians! My goal in this workbook is not to teach you, but to help you learn how to study and understand Scripture for yourself. As the old adage goes, “Give a man a fish and feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime.” I want to equip you to Observe, Interpret, and Apply the Word of God.

For that reason, this workbook is divided up into three kinds of questions: Observation, Interpretation, and Application.

Observation questions are the simplest of the three. With an observation question your whole goal is to simply *observe* what is right there in the text. Often our problem is that we don’t take the time to see what God has said. We gloss over the text as we read it over hurriedly, rather than slowing down and taking the time to see everything that God has said. In this stage, think of yourself as a detective looking for clues. Your job is to notice everything in the text. Seek to identify every connecting word or phrase, repeated word or phrase, verb, time indicator, place indicator, list, cause and effect, purpose, result, and so on. The Observation stage is fun and exciting, especially when you really begin to notice things in the text you have never seen before. Every good Bible interpreter must begin by asking and answering good observation questions.

Interpretation questions are more difficult and thought provoking. You can’t find the answer to these questions by simply reading the text. In the Observation stage we are asking the question, “What does the text *say*?” In the Interpretation stage we are asking the question, “What does the text *mean*?” In order to discover what the text means you will need to compare Scripture with Scripture, get a good sense of the surrounding context, do word studies, and sometimes consult other works, such as Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias. These questions will usually take longer to answer, and more thought and study will be required of you.

Application questions are extremely important because God gave Scripture, not just to answer our curiosity, but to change our lives. In the Application stage, we are asking the question, “How do I apply the text to my life?” Because you may be in an entirely different situation than the original readers the Scripture was written to, you will need to identify the differences between you and them, and the things you both have in common. Then you will need to discover a timeless truth that

applies both to the original readers and to you as well. This is where the “rubber meets the road” as they say. If you only observe and interpret Scripture, but never apply it, you are missing out on the most crucial aspect of bible study. What good does it do if you know what the Bible means, but never do what it says?

At the beginning of every lengthy passage of Scripture, I will print out the Scripture, double-spaced, so that you can mark it up. Of course, you can do this in your Bible, but most Bibles don’t have enough space to allow you to do this, so you may prefer to mark up the text in this workbook. Take advantage of this step. Don’t rush through it. This will be very satisfying for you if you think deeply through this step.

I’m excited for you as you begin this series of studies! “May the God of peace... equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Heb. 13:20).

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# Ephesians Overview

The book of Ephesians has been referred to as “The Queen of the Epistles” and “The Divinest Composition of Man.” Merrill F. Unger in *Unger’s Bible Dictionary* writes this of the book of Ephesians, “Perhaps the sublimest of all the Pauline epistles. No part of New Testament revelation sets forth more clearly or more profoundly the believer’s position “in Christ” and the results which should obtain his practical experience.” This book, if carefully, reverently, and prayerfully considered, will change your life! It is not so much a question of what we will do with this epistle, but what it will do with us.

## **Historical Background to the Book**

Ephesus was the fourth largest city in the Roman Empire. It was the home of the temple of the goddess Artemis (also referred to as “Diana”). Of all the deities in Asia, none was more sought after than Artemis.

By the time of the apostle Paul, Ephesus’ position as a center of trade had been lost because of an unnavigable. Thus, from that point on, the worship of Artemis became the city’s means of economic survival. The city flourished from the tourist and pilgrim trade associated with Artemis, making many of its citizens wealthy. Silversmiths made their living selling images of this goddess and her temple (Acts 19:24-25). The temple of Artemis was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, and worshipers would travel great distances to see it. As a result, innkeepers and restaurant owners grew rich from these tourists and devotees. Even the temple treasury served as a bank, loaning large sums of money to many, including kings. And since Artemis was the patroness of sex, prostitutes openly sold their services in the two-story brothel on Marble Road. While Artemis was the main attraction, Ephesus was also a major hub for magic and sorcery.

Then God sent Paul to live in Ephesus and called out for Himself a church, a light to illumine the immoral and idolatrous darkness of this vast city. (Taken from the *International Inductive Study Bible*, 1992, page 1903.)

Before embarking on a detailed study of this book, take time to gain an overview of its contents. As the saying goes, “Sometimes we miss the forest for the trees.” Let’s take a moment to see the forest.



**Observation:**

1. Before reading or studying the Bible, *always* pray and ask the Lord to open your heart and mind so you can learn of Him and commune with Him.
2. Read the entire book of Ephesians in one sitting.

Notice there is a shift in emphasis between the first three chapters and the last three chapters. How would you describe the difference?

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What are some of the major themes of the book?

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Identify the Main Theme of Each Chapter Below:

Chapter 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 6: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Acts 18:18-21 and 19:1-41.

Did you find anything in those historical sections of Acts that might give us a clue as to why Paul would write about any of the themes that are in this epistle? If so, what are those themes and why might Paul have written about them?

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**Application:**

1. What impressed itself upon you the most as you read through the book of Ephesians and why?

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# Ephesians Overview

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## **Historical Background to the Book**

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By the time of the apostle Paul, Ephesus’ position as a center of trade had been lost because the harbor could no longer be navigated. Thus, from that point on, the worship of Artemis became the city’s means of economic survival. The city flourished from the tourist and pilgrim trade associated with Artemis, with the result that many Ephesians became wealthy. Silversmiths made their living selling images of this goddess and her temple (Acts 19:24-25). The temple of Artemis was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, and worshipers would travel great distances to see it. As a result, innkeepers and restaurant owners grew rich from these tourists and devotees. Even the temple treasury served as a bank, loaning large sums of money to many, including kings. And since Artemis was the patroness of sex, prostitutes sold their bodies without condemnation in the two-story brothel on Marble Road. Although Artemis was the main attraction, Ephesus was also a major hub for magic and sorcery.

Then God sent Paul to live in Ephesus and called out for Himself a church, a light to illumine the immoral and idolatrous darkness of this vast city. (Taken from the International Inductive Study Bible, 1992, page 1903.)

Before embarking on a study of this book in detail, the student should take the time to get an overview of its contents. As the saying goes, “Sometimes we miss the forest for the trees.” Let’s take some time to look at the forest.



**Observation:**

- 4. Before reading or studying the Bible, *always* pray and ask the Lord to open your heart and mind so you can learn of Him and commune with Him.
- 5. Read the entire book of Ephesians in one sitting.

There is a shift in emphasis between the first three chapters and the last three chapters. How would you describe the difference?

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What are some of the major themes of the book?

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Identify the Main Theme of Each Chapter Below:

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Chapter 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chapter 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 6: \_\_\_\_\_

- 6. Read Acts 18:18-21 and 19:1-41.

Did you find anything in those historical sections of Acts that might clue us in to why Paul would write about any of the themes that are present in this epistle? If so, what are those themes and why might Paul have written about them?

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## **Ephesians 1:1-14**

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are 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 would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

**5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

**6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

**7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

**8** which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

**9** He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

**10** with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him



**11** also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

**12** to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

**13** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation - having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

**14** who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.



***Observation:***

1. Mark up this passage, either in your Bible, or in this workbook. Take your time with this and be thorough. It may be helpful to do this on two or three different sessions. Make every observation you can think of. Draw arrows between similar concepts, words, or phrases. Circle or highlight with colored pencils key words or thoughts. Write in the margin. Mark up Ephesians 1:15-23, either in this workbook or in your Bible. Distinctively mark the following (you will not find all of these in every passage):
  - Repeating words or phrases
  - Connecting words (“but,” “and,” “however,” “for,” “therefore,” “so that,” etc.)
  - Comparisons (identify people, things, or ideas that are compared with each other. The words “like” or “as” might be present)
  - Lists of three or more things
  - Cause and effect (be sensitive to the fact that there may be more than one effect from one cause in the text)
  - Figures of speech (look for words or phrases that convey an image; “I am the door”)

- words that indicate Time or Location (“after,” “in three days,” “in Galilee)
- Verbs (note whether a verb is past, present, or future; active or passive; also look for verbs that give a command)
- Pronouns (identify the person that each pronoun refers to)
- Questions and answers
- Dialogue (determine who is speaking and to whom)
- Means (notice if something is done in the sentence *by means of* someone or something else)
- Conditional statements (identify if there is a condition stated by which some action will come about. You may see an “if...then” statement)
- Actions of God and people (identify which actions God is doing and which people are doing)

2. What do you think is the central idea of Ephesians 1:1-14?

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# Ephesians 1:1-2

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:

**2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



## **Observation:**

1. Who is the author of this letter (1:1)?

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2. Why was Paul an apostle (1:1)?

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3. Who are the recipients of this letter (1:1)?

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**Historical Note:** We might rush to the wrong conclusion regarding the recipients of this letter. The majority of the surviving manuscripts contain “in Ephesus,” but three copies do not. These three copies are among the finest and most trustworthy that we possess. Furthermore, Paul ministered in the city of Ephesus for three years (Acts 20:31), the longest period he spent in any one city. It is odd, then, that we find no personal communications in this letter. In his letter to the Colossians, there are many personal messages in the final few paragraphs. Why not here in Ephesians? The majority of scholars now believe that this letter was originally a circular letter, intended for the church at large in Asia. Probably in the original letter it stated, “to the saints who are faithful in Christ Jesus.” This letter would be read in each church, a copy made, and then the original passed on to the next church in Asia. After this letter had made its rounds, it was returned to the archives of the church at Ephesus where “who are at Ephesus” was inserted. Notice that this letter does not address a specific message to a particular congregation concerning a definite problem like the epistles to the Corinthians or Galatians. Rather, it is a synopsis of a revelation given to him as an apostle in which he summarizes the great truths of Christianity.

4. What blessings does Paul pray that God the Father and Jesus Christ would bestow upon them in verse 2? Define them.

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***Application:***

1. What impressed itself upon you the most as you read through the book of Ephesians and why?

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## Ephesians 1:3-6

**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 would be holy and blameless before Him. In love  
**5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,  
**6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.



### *Observation:*

1. The word “Blessed” in verse 3 has the meaning of “praise.” Why does Paul say that we should praise God?  

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2. What spiritual blessings does Paul enumerate in verses 4-14? Go through the passage and write a list of all the spiritual blessings he mentions.  

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3. What is the difference between the blessings of the New Covenant which we read about here, and the blessings of the Old Covenant we read about in Deuteronomy 28:1-14?  

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4. Read through Ephesians 1:3-6 and make as many observations as you can making notes in your Bible or in this workbook. Distinctively mark the following (you will not find all of these in every passage):
  - Repeating words or phrases

- Connecting words (“but,” “and,” “however,” “for,” “therefore,” “so that,” etc.)
- Comparisons (identify people, things, or ideas that are compared to each other. The words “like” or “as” may be present)
- Lists of three or more things
- Cause and effect (be sensitive to the fact that there may be more than one effect from one cause in the text)
- Figures of speech (look for words or phrases that convey an image; “I am the door”)
- words that indicate time or location (“after,” “in three days”; “in Galilee)
- Verbs (note whether a verb is past, present, or future; active or passive; also look for verbs that give a command)
- Pronouns (identify the person to whom each pronoun refers)
- Questions and answers
- Dialogue (determine who is speaking and to whom)
- Means (notice if something is done in the sentence *by means of* someone or something else)
- Conditional statements (identify if there is a condition stated by which some action will come about. You may see an “if...then” statement)
- Actions of God and people (identify which actions God is doing and which actions people are doing)

5. Mark distinctively every reference to God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 1:3-14. You might want to use a different colored pencil, or circle those words and draw lines connecting each one. Whatever method you use, be consistent, so that you use the same method each time for those words. This will help you see many themes in a chapter clearly at a glance. Jot down your method of marking on a 3” x 5” card and keep it in your Bible, so that you remain consistent. Mark pronouns such as “I,” “He,” and “Him” the same way you would mark the proper names to which they refer.

Who is the source of the blessings in verses 4-6?

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Who is the source of the blessings in verses 7-12?

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Who is the source of the blessings in verses 13-14?

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6. Notice the similarity in how Paul concludes each of those three sections (1:4-6; 1:7-12; and 1:13-14). Mark distinctively the phrase he uses in each.

What does that teach you about Paul's purpose in writing 1:3-14? What is he seeking to stir up these Christians to do?

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One of the major themes of the book of Ephesians is the believer's union with Christ. Paul expresses that thought by using the phrases "in Christ," "in Him," "with Christ," "with Him," and "through Him." Read through 1:3-14 and mark all of these phrases in a distinctive way.

7. What did God the Father do for us (1:4)?
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8. When did God do it (1:4)?
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9. What was God's aim in doing it (1:4)?
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10. What did God do for us because of His love (1:5)?
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11. What motivated God to do this for us (1:5)?
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12. What was God's ultimate end in all of this (1:6)? What does that teach you about God?
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**Application:**

How do you think you should respond to the truths you have seen in this passage?

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**Interpretation:**

1. Paul speaks about the spiritual blessings of Election (“He chose us”) and Adoption that God the Father has bestowed on us. Look up a definition of both of these words in their Greek form and in an English dictionary. What did you discover?

**Chose:**

(Greek): \_\_\_\_\_

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(English):

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**Adoption:**

(Greek): \_\_\_\_\_

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(English):

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2. Look up the following Scriptures, and then record what you learn about the doctrine of election:

Acts 13:48 \_\_\_\_\_



John 17:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 9:10-13 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 9:21-23 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thess. 1:4-10 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Thess. 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Tim. 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Using a concordance or search tool, find every reference to adoption in the NT. Record what you discovered about this truth.

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***Application:***

1. What does Ephesians 1:3-6 teach you about God?

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2. What should you do in obedience to His truth in Ephesians 1:3-6?

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## Ephesians 1:7-12

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him

11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.



### *Observation:*

1. Read Ephesians 1:7-12. Identify the spiritual blessings listed here. Note: there is one in verse 7, another in verse 9, and another in verse 11.

1:7 \_\_\_\_\_

1:9 \_\_\_\_\_

1:11 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the price of our redemption?

(1:7) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the effect of our redemption? (1:7)

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does God grant this redemption according to? To what extent does He bestow it on us? (1:7-8)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Christ make known to us? (1:9)

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What does it consist of? (1:10)

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What have we obtained through Christ? (1:11)

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8. God predestined us to obtain this inheritance. What did He predestine us according to? (1:11)

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9. What does God do because of His eternal purpose? (1:11)

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10. What was God's end (goal or aim) in working all things after the counsel of His will? (1:12)

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***Interpretation:***

1. Go to [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org), do a search for Eph 1:7, then hover over the word "Tools" and click on Interlinear. Then scroll down and click on the Strong's number g629. This will give you the Greek word for "redemption" in this verse. Read everything you can about this word. Now share what you discovered about "redemption" below.

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2. Using a Bible search engine, look up all the verses in the New Testament that speak of our inheritance. What did you discover?

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3. Using a Bible search engine, look up all the verses in the New Testament that speak of God's purpose. What did you learn?

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***Application:***

1. How should you respond to the fact that Christ has given you redemption and an inheritance?

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2. How should you respond to the truth of God's absolute sovereignty as seen in Ephesians 1:11?
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## Ephesians 1:13-14

**13** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation -having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

**14** who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.



### *Observation:*

1. Read Ephesians 1:13-14. After you listened to and believed the gospel, what did God do for you? (1:13)

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### *Interpretation:*

1. What should the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian to do for him? (1:14)

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2. Look up the Greek word for “sealed” in Ephesians 1:13 and read about what that word means. What do you think it means in the context of Eph. 1:13?

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3. Ephesians 1:14 mentions that the Holy Spirit is a “pledge” of our inheritance. Other translations may use the word “deposit,” “earnest,” “guarantee,” or “down payment.” Look up the meaning of the Greek word for “pledge” in this verse. What did you discover about the meaning of this word?

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4. Read Romans 8:23-25 and Ephesians 4:30. How do these verses help you understand what Paul means by “redemption” in Eph. 1:14?

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***Application:***

1. How should the truth that you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit affect your Christian life?

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2. How should it affect your relationship with God?

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## **Ephesians 1:15-23**

**15** For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints,

**16** do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

**17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

**18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will 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 surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

**20** which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

**21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

**22** And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

**23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.



### **Observation:**

2. Mark up Ephesians 1:15-23, either in this workbook or in your Bible. Distinctively mark the following (you will not find all of these in every passage):
  - Repeating words or phrases
  - Connecting words (“but,” “and,” “however,” “for,” “therefore,” “so that,” etc.)
  - Comparisons (identify people, things, or ideas that are compared with each other. The words “like” or “as” might be present)
  - Lists of three or more things
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  - Dialogue (determine who is speaking and to whom)
  - Means (notice if something is done in the sentence *by means of* someone or something else)
  - Conditional statements (identify if there is a condition stated by which some action will come about. You may see an “if...then” statement)
  - Actions of God and people (identify which actions God is doing and which people are doing)
  
2. As a result of observing and marking up the text, what would you say is the theme of Ephesians 1:15-23? What is the central idea?

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## Ephesians 1:15-19a

**15** For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints,

**16** do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

**17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

**18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will 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 surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.



### ***Observation:***

1. What was the reason Paul prayed for the Ephesians? (1:15-16)

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2. Why do you think their faith and love were significant to Paul? (1:15)

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3. What did Paul not cease doing for the Ephesians? (1:16)

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4. Who does Paul identify God as in verse 17?

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5. What does Paul pray for them in verse 17?

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6. What does Paul pray for them in verse 18?

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7. What does Paul pray for them in verse 19?

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### ***Interpretation:***

1. What does Paul mean when he prays that God will give them a “spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him”? Is Paul speaking about the Holy Spirit or our human spirit?

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2. What does Paul mean by “hope”? (1:18) Look up other references to “hope” in Paul’s epistles and read them in their context to see what he means by that term.

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3. What does Paul mean by “calling”? (1:18). Look up other NT references in Paul’s epistles to see what he means by that term.

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4. What then, does Paul mean by “hope of His calling”? (1:18)

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5. What does Paul mean by “His inheritance in the saints”? Is he talking about the fact that God will receive the inheritance which is the saints, or is he talking about the inheritance the saints will receive? Who receives the inheritance?

Hint: Look carefully at “His calling” and “His power” in verses 18-19. Is this calling and power what God receives or gives? Your answer should help you answer this question.

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***Application:***

1. Now that you have seen how the apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesians, how should you pray for other believers?

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2. What will you change in your life starting today based on what God has shown you in your study of Ephesians 1:15-19a?

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## Ephesians 1:19b-23

**19** These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might  
**20** which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,  
**21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.  
**22** And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,  
**23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.



### **Observation:**

1. Notice in the 1995 NASB that “*These are*” at the beginning of the new sentence in verse 19 is in italics. This means that these words are not found in the original manuscript but have been supplied by the translators to clarify the meaning. Since they are not in the original manuscripts, read the sentence without those words or the period in the middle of the verse. How does the sentence now read?  

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2. What does this verse now teach you about how a person comes to believe in Christ?  

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3. What does Paul compare the power of God that enables a sinner to believe in Christ with (1:20)?  

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4. How does the believer’s current position relate to what God did for Christ (1:20; 2:6)?  

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5. When God exalted Jesus to His right hand in the heavenly places, who was He seated far above (1:21)?  

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6. What two things did God do for Jesus in 1:22?

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7. How does Paul describe the church in 1:23?

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***Interpretation:***

1. What is the believer’s being raised and seated in heavenly places based on (2:6; 1:20)? Explain how being “in Christ Jesus” grants you this exalted position.

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2. What do the terms “rule,” “authority,” “power,” and “dominion” refer to? Compare Ephesians 6:12.

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3. What does it mean that God the Father put all things in subjection under Christ’s feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church?

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***Application:***

1. Based on your findings concerning how faith takes place in the experience of a sinner, how does this make you feel towards God?

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2. Since Christ has been exalted far above every name, how should this affect how we view Satan and his demons?

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3. Since the church is the “fullness of Him who fills all in all” (1:23), how should this truth affect your daily life?

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## Ephesians 2:1-10

**1** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

**2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

**3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

**4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

**5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

**6** and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

**7** so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in 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 as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.



***Observation:***

1. Distinctively mark up Ephesians 2:1-10. Make every observation you can find. Write down what you believe is the theme of that passage of Scripture. Take your time here and be very thorough. Refer to previous Observation Marking suggestions for help here.
  2. What do you think is the central idea of Ephesians 2:1-10?
-



## Ephesians 2:1-3

**1** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,  
**2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

**3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.



### *Observation:*

1. Mark up the following text as you have done previously. Make every observation of the text you can think of. After you have gone through once, take a break, come back and go over the text again. You will be surprised at how many things you can notice by repeated observations.

1. Who is Paul describing in Ephesians 2:1-3?

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2. What was the Christian's spiritual condition before he was saved (2:1)?

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3. What did the Christian pattern his life after before he was saved (2:2)?

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4. Who was secretly working in him (2:2)?

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5. What did the Christian live in before he was saved (2:3)?

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6. What were we all by nature (2:3)?

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***Interpretation:***

1. What do you think it means to be dead in trespasses and sins? Give reasons for your answer.

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2. What does Paul mean by “this world” in verse 2? Look up other passages in the New Testament that speak about the world to inform your answer. Examples: Rom. 12:2; 1 Jn. 5:19

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3. Who is the “prince of the power of the air”? Look up similar passages to inform your answer and give reasons for it.

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4. What does Paul mean by “nature” in verse 3?

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5. What does Paul mean by “children of wrath” in verse 3?

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***Application:***

1. How would you summarize Paul’s description of you in verses 1-3?

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2. How much spiritual ability, strength or resources did you have before God saved you? Were you able to repent and believe in your unregenerate condition?

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3. Before you were saved, were you basically a good or bad person?

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4. If you were dead in your trespasses and sins, how much were you able to contribute towards your salvation? Give an explanation of your answer.

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5. In light of what you have learned about your pre-conversion state, how does this make you feel about God and the salvation He has granted you?

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6. How does the biblical description of the unregenerate person help you as you share the gospel?

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## Ephesians 2:4-7

**4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,  
**5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved ),  
**6** and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
**7** so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.



### *Observation:*

1. What word does Paul use to start verse 4? What function does that word have in a sentence?

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2. What motivated God to save us (2:4)?

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3. What did God do for us when we were dead in our transgressions (2:5)?

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4. In addition to making us alive together with Christ, what else did God do for us (2:6)?

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5. What was God's purpose in doing all this for us (2:7)?

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**Interpretation:**

1. Monergism refers to one agent acting alone. Synergism refers to two or more agents acting together. Based on what the apostle Paul teaches about God making us alive together with Christ when we were dead in our transgressions, does this teach that our new birth is monergistic or synergistic?

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2. What is the difference between God’s mercy and love? Provide a definition of each.

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3. Paul says in verse 5 that we were “made alive together *with Christ*.” What meaning do the words “with Christ” have? Just how does God make us alive together with Christ? What spiritual truth is he pointing to here?

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4. How can it be true that we were raised up with Him and seated with Him in the heavenly places, since we are living here on earth and not in heaven? In what sense are we currently seated in heavenly places?

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5. What does Paul mean by the word “show” in verse 7? Do a word study of that word by looking up the original Greek term and recording its definition.

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6. What does Paul mean when He speaks of God’s grace in verse 7? Do a word study of that word by looking up the original Greek word and recording the definition of that word.

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***Application:***

1. When you consider what God did for you when you were dead in sins, how does it make you feel?

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2. How are you going to respond to God's rich mercy and great love?

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## Ephesians 2:8-10

**8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

**9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.



### ***Observation:***

1. What are we saved “by,” and what are we saved “through”?

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2. At the end of verse 8, what does Paul tell us our salvation is not based on?

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3. How does a person receive salvation? Is it obtained through our works or God’s gift?

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4. Why did God design salvation to be received through faith (2:9)?

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5. What is the role of good works in the life of a Christian? (2:10)

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6. Who planned the good works that believers do (2:10)?

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### ***Interpretation:***

1. What does the pronoun “that” refer to (2:8)? Is it grace, faith, salvation, or all of these? Give reasons for your conclusions.

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2. What does it mean that we are “God’s workmanship” (2:10)? Do a word study of “workmanship.” What did you discover?

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3. What does it mean to be “created in Christ Jesus” (2:10)?

4. What does it mean that God prepared our good works beforehand? Give reasons for your conclusions.

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***Application:***

1. If God designed salvation so that no one may boast, how will you respond to God’s gift of salvation?

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2. Knowing that God prepared good works beforehand for you, how will you respond? How will that truth impact your life?

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## **Ephesians 2:11-22**

**11** Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called " Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands -

**12** remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

**13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**14** For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

**15** by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,

**16** and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

**17** AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;

**18** for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

**19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

**20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

**21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

**22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.



***Observation:***

1. Take an hour or two to observe everything you can from Ephesians 2:11-22. Mark the text, either in this workbook or your Bible.
  2. What is the central idea of Ephesians 2:11-22?
-

# Ephesians 2:11-13

**11** Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands -

**12** remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

**13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.



## *Observation:*

1. What does the opening word "Therefore" refer back to? (2:11) Compare Eph. 2:1-3 for help.

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2. Circle or underline all references to "formerly" in Ephesians 2. What do you learn as a result?

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3. What does Paul say was true in the past about the Gentiles who have become Christians? (2:12)

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4. What is true now about them (2:13)?

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**Interpretation:**

1. Who are the “so-called Uncircumcision”? (2:11)

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2. What does “the commonwealth of Israel” refer to? (2:12) Give reasons for your answer.

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3. What do the “covenants of promise” refer to (2:12)? Give reasons for your answer.

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4. What does it mean to be “in Christ Jesus” (2:13)?

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5. In what sense were they “far off” and in what sense are they now “brought near” (2:13)?

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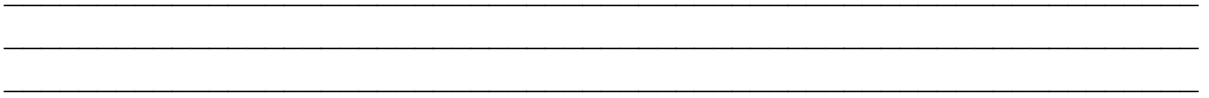
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**Application:**

1. As you reflect on where you were when God saved you and all that He has done for you, how do you think you should respond to Him? Give specific examples.



## Ephesians 2:14-16

- 14** For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,  
**15** by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,  
**16** and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.



### *Observation:*

1. What connecting word does Paul use at the beginning of verse 14? What does that tell you about how verse 14 relates to verse 13?

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2. What kind of peace did Jesus establish? Who is this peace between (2:14; compare 2:11)?

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3. How did Jesus establish this peace (2:14)?

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4. What did Jesus abolish in His flesh (2:15)?

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5. What did Jesus do for both Jews and Gentiles (2:15-16)?

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***Interpretation:***

1. Who did Christ make peace between (2:14)?

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2. What does Paul mean by the “barrier of the dividing wall” (2:14)?

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3. What is the “Law of commandments contained in ordinances” and why was that a barrier between Jew and Gentile?

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***Application:***

1. Since Jesus Christ broke down the barrier that divided Jews and Gentiles (different ethnic groups) through His death, what implications should this have for the church today? Should local churches consist of only one nationality or ethnic group? What can we do to foster a spirit of peace and unity among all of God’s people regardless of their ethnic backgrounds?

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## Ephesians 2:17-18

**17** AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;

**18** for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.



### *Observation:*

1. Where is Paul quoting from in verse 17?

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2. Who is the One who preached peace in verse 17?

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3. What do both groups have through the work of Christ (2:18)?

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4. What do both groups share should unite them (2:18)?

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### *Interpretation:*

1. Who came and preached peace (2:17)?

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2. Who are those who were “far away” and who are those who were “near”? Compare the phrase “far off” in 2:13.

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3. If those who were far away refer to the Ephesian Gentiles, how did Christ preach to them? Jesus never visited Ephesus.

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***Application:***

1. What great blessing does Paul mention to all believers regardless of their ethnicity in 2:18? Are you taking advantage of this blessing in your own life? Explain.

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## Ephesians 2:19-22

- 19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,  
**20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,  
**21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,  
**22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.



### *Observation:*

1. Verse 18 tells us that both Jews and Gentiles have access to the Father in one Spirit. What does Paul tell us in verse 19 is the result of that truth (2:19)?

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2. What foundation is the New Testament church built upon (2:20)?

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3. What is the chief cornerstone of the church (2:20)?

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4. What does Paul compare the church to in 2:21?

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5. What is the church growing into (2:21)?

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6. Notice the word “together” in verses 21 and 22. What two things do these verses teach us that God is doing in His church?

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### *Interpretation:*

1. What does the word “citizen” teach you about the nature of the church (2:19)?

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2. What does the word “household” teach you about the nature of the church (2:19)?

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3. Paul teaches in 2:20 that the church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. This can either be interpreted as apostles *and* prophets (apostles and prophets being distinct from one another) or as apostles who are prophets (those who are instruments through whom God gives Scripture). The word “and” is *kai* in the Greek and can mean “even.” It may function like that in Ephesians 4:11 (pastors who are teachers). Which of those interpretations do you believe is best? Give reasons for your answer.

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4. Do you believe that God is still giving apostles to the church today? How does Ephesians 2:20 inform your conclusion?

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5. Do you think the “whole building” mentioned in 2:21 is different from “a dwelling of God in the Spirit” mentioned in 2:22? If so, what does each phrase refer to?

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***Application:***

1. If the church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, how should we determine the doctrine and practice of the church? What is the final authority in these matters?

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2. The phrase “being fitted together” in 2:21 implies that God is placing the members of His church precisely where He wants them to be as He grows the church. What implications does that have for your own life and service in the church?

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3. Paul describes the local church as “a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” How does that emphasize the importance of the local church? Can you receive all of God’s blessings if you do not participate in a local church? How will you allow this truth to guide your involvement in a local church?

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## Ephesians 3:1-13

[1](#) For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles -

[2](#) if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;

[3](#) that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as

I wrote before in brief.

[4](#) By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

[5](#) which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

[6](#) to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

[7](#) of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.

[8](#) To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

[9](#) and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

[10](#) so that

the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

[11](#) This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

[12](#) in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

[13](#) Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.



***Observation:***

1. Mark up Ephesians 3:1-13 either in your Bible or in this workbook. Make as many observations of the text as you can. Take your time. Read and reread the text. Use all of the observation skills you have accumulated.
  2. What is the central idea of Ephesians 3:1-13?
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# Ephesians 3:1-3

**1** For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles -  
**2** if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;  
**3** that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.



## *Observation:*

1. How does Paul begin both verse 1 and verse 14? What do you find at the end of verse 1? What does that tell you about verses 2-13?

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2. What does “for this reason” in 3:1 refer to? What is the reason Paul prayed for the Ephesians in 3:14-21?

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3. How does Paul refer to himself in 3:1? What does that tell you about where he is when writing this letter?

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4. Was the church in Ephesus primarily made up of Jews or Gentiles (3:1)?

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5. Why does Paul go off on a tangent from 3:2 to 3:13? What does he mention in 3:1 that causes him to change gears in his thinking?

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6. What was given to Paul for the Ephesians (3:2-3)?

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7. Where did Paul previously write briefly about this mystery?



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***Interpretation:***

1. What is a “stewardship” (3:2)? Do a word study and record your findings.

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2. Paul tells us that by “revelation” the mystery was made known to him. What does Paul mean by “revelation” (3:3)?

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***Application:***

1. Paul knew exactly what God had called him to do. Do you know what God has called you to do? If so, what is it?

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## Ephesians 3:4-7

**4** By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,  
**5** which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;  
**6** to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,  
**7** of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.



### *Observation:*

1. What does the mystery of Christ refer to (3:4,6)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Was this mystery made known in the Old Testament (3:5)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who was this mystery revealed to (3:5)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was Paul made a minister of (3:6-7)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did Paul view this ministry? Was it a burden or a blessing (3:7)? Give reasons for your answer.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### *Interpretation:*

1. Do a word study of “mystery” and provide a definition of this word.  
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\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who are the “prophets” mentioned in 3:5?

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3. Summarize the mystery of Christ which Paul describes in 3:6.

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4. What is a “minister” (3:7)? Do a word study and record your findings.

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***Application:***

1. In the Old Testament, it was very rare to find any Gentiles who shared in God’s spiritual blessings among His covenant people. In the New Testament the door of salvation and blessing was thrown wide open and Gentiles streamed in. Are you a Gentile? If so, how does this truth make you feel? How will you respond to this truth?

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## Ephesians 3:8-10

**8** To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

**9** and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

**10** so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.



### ***Observation:***

1. How does Paul describe himself in 3:8?

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2. What was Paul called to preach (3:8)?

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3. What else do we learn about Paul's calling from 3:9?

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4. Why did God call Paul to these tasks according to 3:10?

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### ***Interpretation:***

1. Do you think Paul was just being modest, or did he really feel like he was the very least of all saints (3:8)? Why do you think that?

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2. What does "unfathomable" mean (3:8)? Look the word up in a dictionary. What does that tell you about the riches of Christ?

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3. Look up the meaning of the Greek word for “administration.” What does Paul mean by “the administration of the mystery” (3:9)?

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4. Who are the “rulers and authorities in the heavenly places” (3:10)? Compare Eph. 1:20-22 and 6:12. Also see 1 Peter 1:10-12.

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***Application:***

1. If Paul saw himself as the very least of all saints, how should we view ourselves? If we did so, how would it impact our daily lives and participation in our local church?

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## Ephesians 3:11-13

- 11** This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
**12** in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.  
**13** Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.



### *Observation:*

1. What was this mystery in accordance with (3:11)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What two things does Christ give us according to 3:12?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does Paul ask the Ephesians not to do (3:13)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How does Paul describe his tribulations on the Ephesians' behalf (3:13)?  
\_\_\_\_\_



### *Interpretation:*

1. What does Paul mean by “eternal purpose” (3:11)? Look up other NT references to God’s purpose. What did you discover?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Compare Eph. 3:12 and 2:18. What is Paul talking about when he mentions “access”? Access to what or to whom?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does Paul mean when he writes that his tribulations on their behalf are their glory (3:13)?

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***Application:***

1. Can God's eternal purpose be thwarted? Are you a part of God's eternal purpose? Compare Romans 8:28. How does that make you feel?

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2. Since Christ has provided you with boldness and confident access, how will you take advantage of that blessing?

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3. How should you view the tribulations that come upon you because of your service to the body of Christ (3:13)?

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## Ephesians 3:14-21

[14](#) For this reason I kneel before the Father,

[15](#) from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

[16](#) I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

[17](#) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

[18](#) may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

[19](#) and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

[20](#) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

[21](#) to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



### ***Observation:***

1. Read and reread this passage several times. Then mark it up distinctively in the way you have become accustomed to. Take your time. You might want to make as many observations as you can at one time. Then take a break and come back



to it, and see if you can find more observations. Making observations on the text and marking up your Bible is often one of the most exciting aspects of Bible study. Don't rush it. Enjoy!

2. What is the central idea of Ephesians 3:14-21?
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## Ephesians 3:14-15

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,  
15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,



### *Observation:*

1. Paul begins 3:14 with “For this reason.” Compare the same phrase in 3:1, after which there is a dash. This indicates that Paul left his train of thought to explore a different path for a while but has now returned to his original thought. To find out the “reason” Paul is praying for the Ephesians, reread 2:10-22. Then summarize what Paul says there about the Ephesian Christians, and why he would now pray for them.

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2. What posture does Paul take in prayer (3:14)? Do you think this posture is important? Why or why not? Look up other verses of Scripture that state what physical posture the person is in while praying. What did you find?

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3. Where does every family derive its name (3:14-15)?

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4. Where are these families located (3:15)?

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5. Just who belongs to God’s family? Compare Eph. 1:5 and 2:19.

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***Interpretation:***

1. Does Ephesians 3:15 support the teaching of the universal Fatherhood of God? (The teaching that all mankind are the children of God). Why or why not? Support your assertion.

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2. What does Paul mean by every family “deriving its name” from God the Father? Give support for your answer.

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3. Who constitutes the family in heaven? Who constitutes the family on earth?

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## Ephesians 3:16-17a

**16** that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,  
**17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;



### **Observation:**

1. What is the essence of Paul's first request for the Ephesians in 3:16?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What agent does God use to strengthen the believer with power (3:16)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What part of the believer does God strengthen with power (3:16)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does God strengthen the believer with power according to (3:16)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does Paul pray that the Ephesians will be strengthened in their inner man (3:17)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### **Interpretation:**

1. What does the fact that God strengthens believers with power in the inner man *according to the riches of His glory* teach you about God's resources and ability to do this work? What is the difference between God giving *out of* the riches of His glory and God giving *according to* the riches of His glory?  
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2. What does the “inner man” refer to? Compare 2 Cor. 4:16.

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3. What does Paul mean by “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith” (3:17)? Do a word study of “dwell.” What does the word mean? Is it talking about Christ living in us temporarily and sporadically, or permanently and continually? Doesn’t Christ already dwell in every believer’s heart through faith? If so, what is Paul specifically praying for?

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***Application:***

1. Do you think there is something you need to do in order for Christ to dwell in your heart through faith? What is it? What will you do about it?

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## Ephesians 3:17b-19

17 and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,  
18 may  
be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,  
19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all  
the fullness of God.



### *Observation:*

1. Summarize what Paul's second petition in these verses is about.

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2. What does Paul pray that believers would comprehend (3:18)?

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3. Can we comprehend the fulness of the love of Christ (3:19)?

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4. What is the ultimate goal of knowing the love of Christ (3:19)?

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### *Interpretation:*

1. What does Paul mean by "rooted and grounded in love" (3:17b)? Give reasons for your answer.

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2. Is Paul speaking about our love for Christ or Christ's love for us in 3:19? Give reasons for your answer.

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3. How can we know the love of Christ if it surpasses knowledge (3:19)? What is Paul getting at with that statement?

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4. How is it possible for a finite person like us to be filled up to all the fullness of God when God is infinite (3:19)? What is the meaning of this statement?

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***Application:***

1. Are you “rooted and grounded in love”? Take some time today to meditate on Christ’s love for you. How broad is it? How long is it? How high is it? How deep is it? Write down your thoughts after a time of meditation.

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2. The goal of knowing the love of Christ is that we would be filled up to all the fullness of God (3:19). How full of God are you? 25%? 50%? 75%? 100%? What do you need to do to experience a greater fullness of God in your life?

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## Ephesians 3:20-21

**20** Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

**21** to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.



### *Observation:*

1. Ephesians 3:20-21 is a doxology, which means it is an ascription of glory to God. What attribute of God does Paul glorify God for in verse 20?

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2. What is God able to do far more abundantly than (3:20)?

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3. Where is God to be glorified (3:21)?

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4. How long is God to be glorified (3:21)?

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### *Interpretation:*

1. What does the power of God have to do with us (3:20)?

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### *Application:*



1. Do you experience the power of God working within you? If so, provide some specific examples. What changes do you need to make in your life for the power of God to work in you in a greater way?

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2. A doxology is given to us not just for analysis, but for participation. Take some time right now to engage in this doxology by going to the Lord in prayer and giving Him praise and glory.

## Ephesians 4:1-6

- 1** Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,
- 2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,
- 3** being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- 4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as also 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 over all and through all and in all.



### ***Observation:***

1. Paul begins this section with “therefore.” He is actually starting a new part of the letter., transitioning from the doctrinal to the practical. He moves from telling us who we are and what we have in Christ, to how we should live out those truths in our daily lives. Take some time to review the first three chapters and make a list of what God has done for us in Christ.

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2. Take a lengthy period of time to make observations on Ephesians 4:1-6. Mark up the text above or your Bible. Be very thorough, and read it repeatedly,

seeking to notice every detail. Write notes, circle words, underline key phrases, and draw arrows. Don't move forward until there is nothing more for you to see here.

3. What is the central idea of Ephesians 4:1-6?
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## Ephesians 4:1-3

**1** Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

**2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

**3** being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.



### **Observation:**

1. How does Paul identify himself in 4:1? What does that tell you about his current circumstances as he writes this letter?

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2. Notice the word “walk” in 4:1. This is a key word Paul will use in the second half of this letter to introduce a new section. Take the time to find every reference to “walk” in Ephesians chapters 4-6, and circle or highlight it with a colored pencil in your Bible.

3. List the character qualities that Paul exhorts his readers to exercise toward one another (4:2).

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4. Is Paul envisioning his readers exercising these character qualities alone or in the context of a local church (4:2-3)? What makes you think that way?

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5. What does Paul want his readers to be diligent to do in 4:3?

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6. What is the goal of exercising the character qualities mentioned in 4:2? Where does Paul want them to lead?

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***Interpretation:***

1. Notice the word “implore” in 4:1. What does the word mean? Look it up in an English dictionary. Then look up the Greek word for “implore.” What is its definition? (Use the Blue Letter Bible app). Then read the verses where this word appears in the New Testament. What have you learned about this word?

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2. Follow the same process for the word “walk” in 4:1. Is Paul using this word literally or figuratively? What does he mean by this word?

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3. What is Paul referring to when he mentions “the calling with which you have been called”? Think about the context here.

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4. Look up the definitions for the Greek words in verse 2 and record them below:

Humility: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gentleness: \_\_\_\_\_  
Patience: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tolerance: \_\_\_\_\_  
Love: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do a word study for “diligence,” examining the Greek word used here (4:3). What does the word mean?

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6. Paul does not tell the Christians at Ephesus to *create* the unity of the Spirit; rather he tells them to *preserve* it. Do you think this is significant? What is the difference between creating unity and preserving it?

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7. What does Paul mean by “the bond of peace”? Look up the meaning of “bond.” What did you find?

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***Application:***

1. What do you believe God wants you to do in order to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace? If you aren’t sure, take some time now to pray about it, asking God to show you. Record your thoughts below.

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## Ephesians 4:4-6

- 4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as also 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 over all and through all and in all.



### *Observation:*

1. What word does Paul repeat seven times in these three verses?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the seven different things that bring unity to believers?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### *Interpretation:*

1. What does Paul mean by the following words or phrases:  
Body \_\_\_\_\_  
Spirit \_\_\_\_\_  
Hope of your calling \_\_\_\_\_  
Lord \_\_\_\_\_  
Faith \_\_\_\_\_  
Baptism \_\_\_\_\_  
God and Father \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does Paul tell us there is one body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism and God? Think context.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you think Paul means by God being over all, through all, and in all?

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4. Paul has implored us to be diligent in preserving the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Why does Paul list seven things that all believers have in common? What is he aiming to achieve?



***Application:***

1. Before this study, what did you think was necessary for you to have in common with another believer in order to have genuine fellowship with them? Has your view changed at all? What do you think is necessary for fellowship with someone now? What doctrines do you need to agree on? What practices?

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## **Ephesians 4:7-16**

**7** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

**8** Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

**9** (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?

**10** He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

**11** And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

**12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up the body of Christ;

**13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

**14** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

**15** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

**16** from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.



***Observation:***

1. Distinctively mark up the text of Ephesians 4:7-16, either in your Bible or in this workbook, noting everything about the text that you possibly can.
  2. What is the central idea of Ephesians 4:7-16?
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## Ephesians 4:7-10

**7** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

**8** Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

**9** (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?

**10** He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)



### *Observation:*

1. Who did God give grace to (4:7)?

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2. What did God give this grace according to (4:7)?

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3. Where is Paul quoting from in 4:8?

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4. What are two things Jesus did when He ascended on high (4:8)?

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5. Before Jesus ascended, what had He already done (4:9)?

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6. Where did Jesus ascend to (4:10)?

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7. Why did Jesus ascend (4:10)?

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**Interpretation:**

1. What does Paul mean when he says “When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives” (4:8)? Who were these “captives”?

**Note:** There are various interpretations at this point. Some believe Jesus led the souls of those who were saved before His coming into the world out of Hades and into heaven. Others believe this is figurative language that speaks of Christ’s victory at the cross. They interpret it as alluding to the historical custom of a victorious general leading those he had captured in war through the streets of his home city, greeted by a thronging jubilant crowd shouting in joy. If that interpretation is correct, the “captives” refer to sinners conquered by His grace to whom He gave gifts.

Which of these interpretations do you think is best and why? Or perhaps you have thought of another alternative interpretation that is better?

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2. In 4:8 the text says that “He gave gifts to men” and in 4:11 it states, “He gave some as apostles...” What does that tell you about the gifts that Christ gave to men? What do these “gifts” refer to?

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3. What does it mean that Christ “descended into the lower parts of the earth” (4:9)? Contrast Jesus’ ascension to His descent. Jesus ascended far above all the heavens while He descended into the lower parts of the earth. Some believe that Jesus went into the heart of the earth to a place called “Hades” and took the souls of believers with Him to heaven. Others believe “the lower parts of the earth” simply means He came all the way from the highest place in heaven

down to the earth where sinners dwell. What do you think is the best way to understand this phrase and why?

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4. What does it mean that Jesus “might fill all things” (4:10)?

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***Application:***

1. Ephesians 4:7 tells us that grace was given to “each one,” and in verse 8 we discover that when this grace was given to each one, they received gifts. What gifts has Christ given you? Take some time to list them below:

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2. How does the Lord want you to use these gifts for His glory and the good of the church?

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## Ephesians 4:11-13

**11** And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

**12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

**13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.



### *Observation:*

1. What are the types of gifted men that Paul mentions in 4:11?

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2. What was the reason Christ gave these gifted men to the church (4:12)?

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3. When the saints do the work of service, what is the end result (4:12)?

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4. How long will this process of equipping and work of service take place (4:13)?

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### *Interpretation:*

1. Some believe that Paul presents five different types of gifted men (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers). Others believe he presents four different types arguing that “pastors and teachers” should be viewed as a single category (pastor-teachers). The phrase “pastors and teachers” can be translated

as “pastors, even teachers.” What do you think is the best way to understand the list of these gifted men? Is there any indicator in the text that would lead you one way or the other?

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2. What is an apostle? To help you with this question, you can look up the various verses in the New Testament that discuss an apostle, and read an article in a reputable Bible Dictionary or Encyclopedia. Record your findings below.

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3. What is a prophet? Use the same steps as #2 above to find your answer.

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4. What is an evangelist? (Use the same steps as before)

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5. What is a pastor? (Use the same steps as before)

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6. What does the word “equipping” mean in 4:12? Conduct a word study of the original Greek word.

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7. In our churches today, a common model is for a few gifted individuals to do all or most of the ministry while the rest of the congregation prays for them and provides financial support. Is this the model of church life that Paul is describing here? Why or why not?

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8. What is God’s design for building up the body? How does He want it to take place (4:12)?

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9. The word “until” is a time indicator in 4:13. When will we all attain the unity of the faith, the knowledge of the Son of God, the mature man, and the measure of the stature that belongs to the fullness of Christ (4:13)? Explain your answer below.

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10. In verse 3 Paul speaks of the “unity of the Spirit,” and here in verse 13 he speaks of the “unity of the faith.” Is he talking about the same thing in each verse, or is there a difference? If so, what is that difference? Explain why you have come to your conclusion.

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11. Do you believe the entire church will

arrive at the state that Paul describes in 4:13 before the second coming of Christ? Why or why not?

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***Application:***

1. Do you see yourself as one of the gifted people mentioned in 4:11, or as one of the saints who are being equipped for the work of service in 4:12? Depending on your answer, what do you believe God wants you to do to apply this truth to your life?

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## Ephesians 4:14-16

**14** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

**15** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

**16** from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.



### *Observation:*

1. What should be the result of this equipping ministry occurring in the church, and the work of service of the saints (4:14)? What should no longer take place?

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2. What do the expressions “tossed here and there by waves” and “carried about by every wind of doctrine” communicate to you?

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3. What do the words “trickery” and “craftiness” tell you about Paul’s concern for the church (4:14)?

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4. How can the church avoid being “tossed” and “carried about” by the trickery and craftiness of men (4:15)?

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5. What results from the church “speaking the truth in love” (4:15)?

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6. Who is the church supposed to grow up into (4:15)?

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7. What must take place in order for the body to grow and be built up in love (4:16)?

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***Interpretation:***

1. Why do you think Paul compares believers to children in 4:16?

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2. Who is supposed to do the “speaking the truth in love” of verse 15? Why do you think this way?

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3. How does a believer speak the truth “in love”? How would that be different from merely speaking the truth? What should they do to ensure that their speaking is “in love”?

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4. What is Paul alluding to when he writes of the whole body “being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies” (4:16)?

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5. In verses 13, 15, and 16, Paul writes of the growth of the body. What does he have in mind? Is he talking about numerical or spiritual growth? Explain your reasoning.

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***Application:***

1. Do you think you are easily deceived into believing false doctrine due to the trickery and craftiness of various teachers? If so, what will you do differently in the future to avoid being tossed here and there and carried about?

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2. For the body to grow and be built up, each individual part must work properly. How does God want you to function effectively within the body? Is there anything you need to change in your life to operate properly in the body?

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## Ephesians 4:17-24

**17** So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

**18** being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

**19** and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

**20** But you did not learn Christ in this way,

**21** if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

**22** that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

**23** and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

**24** and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.



### ***Observation:***

1. Distinctively mark up Ephesians 4:17-24, making as many observations of the text as you possibly can.
2. What is the central idea of Ephesians 4:17-24?

## Ephesians 4:17-19

**17** So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

**18** being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

**19** and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.



### **Observation:**

1. What word appears in 4:17 that tips you off that Paul is starting a new thought block here? Tip: the word also appears in 4:1.

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2. How should the Christian no longer walk (4:17)?

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3. List the ways Paul describes the Gentiles in 4:17-19?

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4. What two reasons does Paul give for these Gentiles being excluded from the life of God (4:18)?

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5. What have the *Gentiles* given themselves over to (4:19)?

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### **Interpretation:**

1. What is the purpose of Paul saying “and affirm together with the Lord” (4:17)? Why does he include that? What is the meaning?

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2. Who does Paul mean by the *Gentiles* in 4:17? How do you know?

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3. What does Paul mean by *the futility of their mind* (4:17)?

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4. What do the expressions “futility of their mind,” “darkened in their understanding,” and “ignorance that is in them” tell us about these Gentiles?

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5. Ephesians 4:19 tells us that these Gentiles have become callous. In what sense are they callous? Look up the original Greek word for “callous.” What did you find?

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6. If the reason these Gentiles have been excluded from the life of God is because of ignorance and hardness of heart, then what needs to happen for them to be included in the life of God?

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7. Paul tells us that these Gentiles have given themselves over to “sensuality.” Do a word study of this word and record your findings below.

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***Application:***

1. Do you see any sensuality, impurity, or greediness in your life? If so, what are you going to do to put them to death (Rom.8:13)?

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## Ephesians 4:20-24

[20](#) But you did not learn Christ in this way,

[21](#) if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

[22](#) that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

[23](#) and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

[24](#) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.



### **Observation:**

1. Verse 20 begins with “But.” What is the purpose of this word in a sentence? What is its purpose?

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2. What did the Christians Paul is writing to not learn (4:20)?

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3. What did Paul assume was true about the experience of the believers he is writing to (4:21)?

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4. Where is truth found (4:21)?

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5. What must these believers lay aside (4:22)?

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6. What must they put on (4:24)?

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7. What is true about the “old self” (4:22)?

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8. What part of the believer must be renewed (4:23)?

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9. What is true about the “new self” (4:24)?

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***Interpretation:***

1. Paul says that these Christians have “heard Him” (Jesus). However, Jesus never visited Ephesus during His earthly life. How then did these Christians hear Jesus? Give support for your answer.

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2. What does Paul mean by the “old self” (4:22)?

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3. What does Paul mean by the “new self” (4:24)?

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4. How does someone obey the command to “be renewed in the spirit of your mind” (4:23)?

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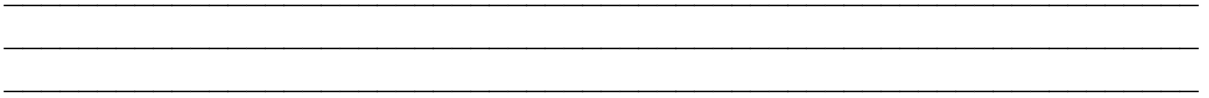
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***Application:***

1. Did the Lord speak to your heart in any way as you studied this passage? In what way were you challenged to change?



## **Ephesians 5:1-14**

**1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

**2** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

**3** But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

**4** and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

**5** For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an 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 formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

**9** (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth ),

**10** trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

**11** Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

**12** for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

**13** But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

**14** For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."



***Observation:***

1. Mark up the passage above in a distinctive way; make every observation of the text you can think of.
  2. Now that you have taken considerable time with the text, what do you think is the central idea of Ephesians 5:1-14?
-

## Ephesians 5:1-2

**1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;  
**2** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.



### *Observation:*

1. What does the word “therefore” refer back to? How does it relate to what came before it?

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2. What is the command in 5:1?

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3. What is the Christian’s relationship to God identified as in 5:1?

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4. What is the command in 5:2?

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5. How is Jesus Christ our example of how to walk in love (5:2)?

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6. In addition to giving Himself up for us, who else did Jesus give Himself up for (5:2)?

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7. What is Christ’s sacrificial death pictured as (5:2)?

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**Interpretation:**

1. How was Christ's sacrificial death like an offering and a sacrifice? What are the points of similarity (5:2)?

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2. Were any Old Testament animal sacrifices ever linked with a "fragrant aroma"? If so, where? What significance does the "fragrant aroma" have in the meaning of Ephesians 5:2?

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**Application:**

1. Are you aware of ways in which you are not imitating God's gracious bestowal of love? If so, in what ways? Take some time now to talk to the Lord about those areas, and ask Him to change you to be more like Christ.

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2. How can your acts of love be counted as a sacrifice to God (5:2)? What would need to happen in your life for that to be true?

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## Ephesians 5:3-6

**3** But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

**4** and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

**5** For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an 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.



### *Observation:*

1. What kinds of things should not even be named among the saints (5:3)?

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2. What kinds of speech are off-limits for the people of God (5:4)?

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3. What kind of speech should be prevalent in the Church (5:4)?

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4. What kind of person does not have an inheritance in the kingdom of God (5:5)?

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5. What word does Paul use in 5:5 that indicates there should be no doubt about the truth of Question #4 above?

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6. Based on Ephesians 5:5-6, what might someone try to deceive another person about?

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7. What might a person use to deceive others (5:6)?

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8. Who does the wrath of God come upon (5:6; 2:2)?

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9. What kinds of things will bring God's wrath upon an individual (5:5-6)?

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***Interpretation:***

1. Do a word study of the original Greek words for the following and record below what you discovered about them.

Immorality: \_\_\_\_\_

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Impurity: \_\_\_\_\_

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Greed: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Filthiness: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Silly Talk: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Coarse Jestings: \_\_\_\_\_

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---

2. What does Paul mean when he says that immorality, impurity and greed must “not even be *named*” among saints?

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3. Do word studies on the following words and record your findings below:

Immoral: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Impure: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Covetous: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Idolater: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. We know that salvation is by grace through faith, not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9). How does that truth harmonize with Paul declaring that a sinful person, such as the one described in 5:3-5, will not inherit God's kingdom?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What does Paul mean by the wrath of God coming upon the sons of disobedience? When will that happen? What will it be like?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



***Application:***

1. As you were studying this passage, did the Lord convict you of any sins of speech? If so, identify which ones and where and when they most often occur in your life. Then repent before the Lord and seek His grace to change your conduct to align with God's will.

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2. Based on the meaning of the word “immoral,” do you believe that a person who is committing fornication without repentance is truly saved? Should the church baptize a person like that?

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3. Has anyone told you that they were a Christian while you knew that they were living in sexual sin? Did they deceive you with empty words? Now that you have studied this passage, what would you tell a person living like that?

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## Ephesians 5:7-10

- 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them;  
8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light  
9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth ),  
10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.



### ***Observation:***

1. Why does Paul begin verse 7 with “Therefore”? What function does that word have in verse 7?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What must believers *not* do (5:7)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why should they not do it (5:8)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How must the Ephesian Christians now walk (5:8)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What three things does the fruit of the Light consist in (5:9)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why should believers walk as children of Light (5:10)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Interpretation:**

1. Do word studies on the following words. Record what you learn below.

Goodness \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Righteousness \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Truth \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Application:**

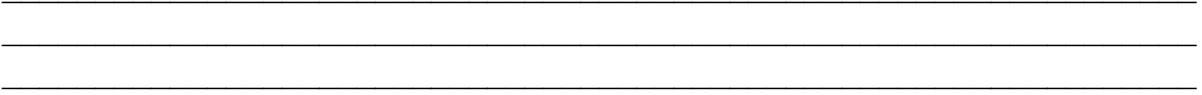
1. Do you find yourself partaking in the same sins that non-Christians commit? If so, identify them, and repent before the Lord.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do we walk as children of light in order to become light in the Lord? Or do we walk as children of light because we already are light in the Lord? How does your answer affect your pursuit of holiness?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. In all of our pursuit of goodness, righteousness, and truth, what is the primary goal (5:10)? How does that idea impact your daily Christian life?



## Ephesians 5:11-14

- 11** Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;
- 12** for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.
- 13** But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.
- 14** For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."



### ***Observation:***

1. What must the Christian *not* participate in (5:11)?

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2. What must he do instead (5:11)? Why (5:12)?

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3. What is the result of the Christian exposing the deeds of darkness (5:13)?

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Note: The person pictured in Ephesians 5:14 is not dead; he is asleep. But it is as though he is lying down asleep next to other corpses. This sleeping man is a picture of the Christian whose life looks much like the life of an unconverted man. From a distance, the sleeping man and the dead body look alike. You would have to come close to notice that one body is breathing, while the other is not. Paul is saying, "You don't belong to the world anymore. You are alive to God, and they are dead in their sins. Arise! Get up and start living like a man who has life, because you do! When you participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, you look just like them. Wake up and get out of that graveyard! If you will, you have the promise that Christ will shine on you!"



**Interpretation:**

1. Why does Paul say that the deeds of darkness are *unfruitful*? What does he mean by that?

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2. What is the basic meaning of 5:14? What is Paul driving at in that verse?

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**Observation:**

1. Can you think of deeds of darkness that you need to expose? If so, when and how will you do it?

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2. Has there been a point in your Christian life when you resembled a non-Christian? Are there areas in your life now that are similar? Identify those areas and spend some time before the Lord confessing your sins and seeking His grace to overcome them.

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## Ephesians 5:15-21

**15** Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

**16** making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

**17** So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

**18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

**19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

**20** always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

**21** and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.



### ***Observation:***

1. Read through the text above repeatedly, marking it distinctly, until you have noticed everything in the text that you can possibly see.

## Ephesians 5:15-17

15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.



### *Observation:*

1. How does the word “Therefore” connect the previous verses with 5:15?

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2. What must believers be careful about (5:15)?

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3. How should believers “walk” (5:15-16)?

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4. Why must we make the most of our time (5:16)?

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5. What must the believer not be (5:17)?

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6. How can he do that (5:17)?

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### *Interpretation:*

1. What does Paul mean by “walk” in 5:15?

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2. Why is “because the days are evil” a reason why we should make the most of our time (5:16)?

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***Application:***

1. Are you making the most of your time? If not, what are the biggest time-wasters in your life? What are you going to do to start making the most of your time?

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2. How can a person understand what the will of the Lord is? Are you diligently seeking to know the will of God? How are you doing this? Do you need to make any changes in your life regarding this?

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## Ephesians 5:18-21

**18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

**19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

**20** always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

**21** and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.



### *Observation:*

1. What are we commanded not to do in 5:18?

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2. What are we commanded to do in 5:18?

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3. What four things will being filled with the Spirit result in (5:19-21)?

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4. What do the first three results of being filled with the Spirit have in common (5:18-20)?

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5. Who are we to speak in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to (5:19)?

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6. Who are we to sing to (5:19)? What are we to sing with (5:19)?

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7. What are we to give thanks for (5:20)?

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8. How often are we to give thanks (5:20)?

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9. What are we to give thanks for (5:20)?

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10. How are we to be subject to one another (5:21)?

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**Interpretation:**

1. In 5:18, Paul says that getting drunk with wine is *dissipation*. Look up this verse in the following translations, and record how they translate that word.

- NIV: \_\_\_\_\_  
NLT: \_\_\_\_\_  
ESV: \_\_\_\_\_  
KJV: \_\_\_\_\_  
HCSB: \_\_\_\_\_  
YLT: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Look up the Greek word translated “dissipation” and conduct a word study. Record your findings below:

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By examining the various translations of this word and considering the meaning of the Greek term, how would you summarize the reason why Paul instructs them not to get drunk with wine?

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3. Look up the Greek word for “be filled” in BlueLetter Bible.org. Type in Ephesians 5:18 in the search bar. When the verse appears, click on “Tools.” Then click on “Interlinear.” Scroll down the first column labeled “English”

until you find the English words “be filled.” Move over to the right column labeled “Parsing” and click V-PPM-2P. You will discover that the V stands for Verb, the first P stands for Present, the second P stands for Passive, the M stands for Imperative and the 2P stands for 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural. This provides additional information about this verb.

Present tense in Greek indicates continual action.

Passive voice implies that the subject is the recipient of the action, meaning this action is being performed on them.

Imperative mood signifies that this is a command.

2<sup>nd</sup> Person Plural indicates that Paul is addressing everyone collectively similar to saying “You all.”

Now, synthesize all of this information and summarize what Paul was conveying when he wrote “be filled” with the Spirit.

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4. Paul tells us in 5:19 that we are to speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. How are these similar to one another? How are they different? Conduct word studies on each one. Record your findings below.

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5. How does the “fear of Christ” relate to our being subject to one another (5:21)? In other words, why would Paul instruct the church to be subject to one another *in the fear of Christ*?

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***Application:***

1. What do you think you need to do in order to be filled with the Spirit? Compare Colossians 3:16-17.

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2. When your church gathers, do you verbally exhort and encourage others during the time of praise and worship? What can you begin doing to participate more actively?

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3. When the church gathers, do you intentionally sing to the Lord and do you do it with your heart? If not, what changes can you make to ensure this happens?

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4. How can a Christian give thanks for all things, considering that many events in life are evil and painful?

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5. Paul tells the church in 5:21 that they are to submit themselves to one another. What do you think that would look like? In what areas of your life do you need to be more submissive to others in the church?

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## **Ephesians 5:22-33**

**22** Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

**23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

**24** But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

**25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

**26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

**27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

**28** So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

**29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,

**30** because we are members of His body.

**31** FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

**32** This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

**33** Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.





***Observation:***

1. Read through the text above over and over, marking it distinctly, until you have seen everything in the text you can possibly see.

## Ephesians 5:22-24

[22](#) Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

[23](#) For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

[24](#) But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.



### *Observation:*

1. Who specifically is Paul addressing in 5:22-24?

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2. What word is repeated in 5:21, 5:22, and 5:24? What do Paul's instructions in 5:22-24 have to do with what he has just said in 5:21?

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3. Who must a wife be subject to (5:22)?

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4. How is she to subject herself? What other relationship in her life stands as a model for this one (5:22, 24)?

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5. What is the husband's position in relation to his wife (5:23)?

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6. Who is the husband's example in his relationship with his wife (5:23)?

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7. What role did Jesus perform in relation to the body (5:23)?

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8. In what things should a wife be subject to her husband (5:24)?

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***Interpretation:***

1. What does it mean for the husband to be the “head” of the wife? Look up other references in the New Testament that speak of Christ being the head of the church. Research the meaning of the Greek word and find out what “headship” means.

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***Application:***

1. If you are a wife, list the situations in your life where you find it difficult to submit to your husband. Then, pray about this, asking God to reveal how you can demonstrate a submissive spirit in those situations.

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## Ephesians 5:25-27

**25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

**26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

**27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.



### *Observation:*

1. Who is Paul specifically addressing in 5:25-33?

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2. What are husbands commanded to do (5:25)?

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3. Who is the husband's example (5:25)?

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4. What did Christ do as an expression of His love for the church (5:25)?

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5. Why did Christ die for His church? What was His goal (5:26-27)?

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### *Interpretation:*

1. What does Paul mean by "sanctify" in 5:26? Do a word study and record your findings below:

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2. What does “the washing of water with the word” refer to? What truth is Paul conveying here?

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3. What does “having no spot or wrinkle” refer to? What is Paul comparing the church to in this context?

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4. When will the church be presented to Christ in all her glory, holy and blameless? Why did you arrive at that conclusion?

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***Application:***

1. In what situations or areas of life does your love for your wife fall short? What will you do to increase your sacrificial love for her?

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2. If our love for our wives is to be modeled after Christ’s love for the church, and His love for the church aims at her holiness and blamelessness, we should love our wives sacrificially to promote her growth in godliness. Can you think of specific ways you can do this for your wife?

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## Ephesians 5:28-30

**28** So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

**29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,

**30** because we are members of His body.



### *Observation:*

1. How are husbands instructed to love their wives in 5:28?

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2. If a husband loves his wife, who else does he also love (5:28)?

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3. What do all people do for their own bodies (flesh)? (5:29)

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4. Why does Christ nourish and cherish the church (5:29-30)?

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### *Interpretation:*

1. Why is it that a husband who loves his own wife loves himself?

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2. What practical things do people do to nourish and cherish their own flesh?

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3. In what ways does Christ nourish and cherish His church?

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***Application:***

1. Since a husband is “one flesh” with his wife (Gen.2:24), when he loves his wife, he is loving himself and is really seeking his own best interests. Jot down some ways that loving your wife also results in your own best interests.

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2. Christ nourishes and cherishes the church, and He is our example of the perfect husband. Husband, jot down some ideas below on how you can nourish and cherish your wife.

Nourish: \_\_\_\_\_

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Cherish: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Ephesians 5:31-33

**31** FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

**32** This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

**33** Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.



### *Observation:*

1. When a man and wife are joined together, what do they become (5:31)?

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2. Paul tells us in 5:32 that he is not just speaking about a husband and wife here. What does Paul ultimately have in mind (5:32)?

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3. Paul summarizes his teaching on marriage in 5:33. What is his bottom-line command to the husband and wife?

Husband: \_\_\_\_\_

Wife: \_\_\_\_\_



### *Interpretation:*

1. When Paul wrote of the husband and wife becoming one flesh, how could it be said that he was speaking with reference to Christ and the church? What is his meaning in 5:31-32?

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2. In 5:22 Paul tells the wives to be subject to their own husbands, but when he summarizes this section, he tells them to respect their husbands. What does this tell you about the nature of godly submission?

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***Application:***

1. Husband or wife, do you truly see your spouse as part of you, and you as part of them? Do you view yourselves as one flesh? How would genuinely embracing this truth impact your marriage relationship?

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2. God has made it very simple for husband and wife. He has given each of them only one thing to focus on. For the husband, it is to love his wife. For the wife, it is to respect (be subject to) her husband. Determine that in every interaction with your spouse you will strive to obey that single command.

## Ephesians 6:1-9

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),

3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

8 knowing that whatever \* good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.



***Observation:***

1. Read through the text above repeatedly, marking it distinctly, until you have seen everything in the text you can possibly see.

## Ephesians 6:1-4

**1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

**2** HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise ),

**3** SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

**4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.



### *Observation:*

1. Who is Paul addressing in 6:1-3?

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2. What is the command given to them in 6:1? What is the reason given for obeying this command?

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3. What is the command given to them in 6:2?

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4. What is unique about this command (6:2)?

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5. What promise is made to those who obey the command of 6:2?

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6. Who is Paul addressing in 6:4?

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7. What are they told not to do in 6:4?

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8. What are they told to do in 6:4?

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**Interpretation:**

1. Look up all the passages in the New Testament that include the Greek word translated as “children.” Try to determine the age range that might be applied to this group. Does it include adult children, children still living at home, or only young children living at home?

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2. What purpose does the phrase “in the Lord” serve in 6:1? Is Paul referring to the children who are in the Lord, to the parents who are in the Lord, or to the manner in which children obey their parents “in the Lord”? Provide reasons for your answer.

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3. The word “honor” in 6:2 parallels the word “obey” in 6:1. What does this teach us about the type of obedience to parents that God requires?

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4. In the NASB, whenever words are in all caps, it indicates that they are quoted from the Old Testament. Where is 6:3 quoted from in the Old Testament?

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5. Is this a universal promise that obedient children will live long lives? How should we apply this promise in our lives?

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6. Conduct a word study of the Greek word translated as “Fathers.” Does this word refer exclusively to fathers, or can it also include mothers?

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***Application:***

1. If you are a child still living in your parents’ home, jot down ideas on how you can apply the commands given in 6:1 and 6:2.

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2. If you are an adult child living apart from your parents, how can you apply the commands in 6:1-2? Provide specific examples.

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3. If you are a parent, list all the ways you can think of that might provoke your children to anger.

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4. What specific actions can you take to raise your children in the discipline of the Lord?

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5. What are specific actions can you take to raise your children in the instruction of the Lord?

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## Ephesians 6:5-9

**5** Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

**6** not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

**7** With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

**8** knowing that whatever \* good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

**9** And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.



### *Observation:*

1. Who is Paul addressing in 6:5-8?

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2. What are they commanded to do in 6:5?

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3. In 6:5-7, Paul tells the slaves how they are to be obedient to their masters. List those ways below.

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4. What motivation does Paul give them to glorify God in their service to their master (6:8)?

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5. Who is Paul addressing in 6:9?

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6. What must a master do (6:9)?

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7. What must a master not do (6:9)?

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8. What must a master know (6:9)?

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***Interpretation:***

Note: Slavery was a widespread institution in the biblical world. It is not necessary to assume that Paul endorses slavery in this passage. Rather he was teaching Christians, whether they were slaves or masters, how to live out their faith and glorify God within an institution that was already prevalent in the world and in which some of his readers found themselves.

1. What does it mean that the slaves should be obedient “with fear and trembling” (6:5)? Who are they to exercise this fear and trembling towards?

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***Application:***

Note: The institution of slavery no longer exists in the United States. Therefore, we cannot apply this passage solely to literal slaves, as it would then apply to no one. Perhaps the closest analogous relationship today to the slave/master relationship would be the employee/employer relationship.

1. Summarize God’s will for you as an employee. What is the Lord most concerned with in your daily work?

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2. If you are a business owner or in management, what principle(s) can you apply from this passage to your work among your employees? How does God want you to relate to them and to Him?

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## Ephesians 6:10-17

**10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

**11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

**12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**13** Therefore \*, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

**14** Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

**15** and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

**16** in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

**17** And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



### *Observation:*

1. Read through the text above repeatedly, marking it distinctly until you have noted everything in the text you can possibly see.

## Ephesians 6:10-13

**10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

**11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

**12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**13** Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.



### *Observation:*

1. The word “Finally” in 6:10 is a clue for an observant interpreter. What does it communicate to you?

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2. What is the command Paul gives in 6:10?

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3. Where will we receive the power and ability to fulfill this command (6:10)?

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4. What is the Christian to “put on” (6:11)?

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5. Why is he to put this on (6:11)?

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6. What is our struggle not against (6:12)?

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7. Who is it against (6:12)?

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8. Why must we take up the full armor of God (6:13)?

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9. What must we do when we have done everything (6:13)?

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**Interpretation:**

1. What does the word “scheme” mean in the original Greek (6:11)? Do a word study and record your findings below.

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2. Who is Paul referring to with the terms *rulers, powers, world forces of this wickedness, and spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places*? Look up the following Scriptures and then form your opinion: Eph. 1:21; 3:10; Rom. 8:38; Col. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:22; Eph. 2:2; Jn. 12:31; Jn. 16:11.

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3. What does Paul mean by “take up” and “put on” the full armor of God (6:11, 13)?

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4. What does Paul mean by “the evil day” in 6:13?

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***Application:***

1. How does a Christian obey the command to be “strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might”? What does that involve?

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2. What is the purpose of putting on and taking up the full armor of God (6:11,13)? Hint: look for the “so that” phrases. What are the two things that God wants you to do when dealing with a spiritual attack?

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3. How effective are you currently at resisting the enemy and standing firm against him when he attacks? What can you do differently to be more successful in this struggle?

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## Ephesians 6:14-17

**14** Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,  
**15** and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;  
**16** in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.  
**17** And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



### **Observation:**

1. List the six different pieces of armor Paul mentions in 6:14-17 below.

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2. What is the one offensive weapon listed here (6:17)?

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### **Interpretation:**

1. Describe what you believe Paul means by the following pieces of armor. Hint: it may help you to remember that this is the armor *of God*.

Truth: \_\_\_\_\_

Righteousness: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel of Peace: \_\_\_\_\_

Faith: \_\_\_\_\_

Salvation: \_\_\_\_\_



Word of God: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How would “Truth” be distinguished from the “Word of God”?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



***Application:***

1. How do we put on the belt of truth? Provide concrete examples.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How do we put on the breastplate of righteousness? Provide concrete examples.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How do we put on the sandals of the preparation of the gospel of peace?  
Provide concrete examples.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How do we take up the shield of faith? Provide concrete examples.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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5. How do we put on the helmet of salvation? Provide concrete examples.

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6. How do we take up the sword of the Spirit? Provide concrete examples.

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7. Is there anything you believe you need to start doing to obey Ephesians 6:14-17 more fully?

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## Ephesians 6:18-24

**18** With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

**19** and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

**20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

**21** But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.

**22** I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

**23** Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**24** Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.



### ***Observation:***

1. Read through the text above repeatedly, marking it distinctly, until you have seen everything in the text you can possibly observe.

## Ephesians 6:18-20

**18** With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,  
**19** and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,  
**20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.



### *Observation:*

1. What is Paul urging believers to do in 6:18?

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2. Who are we to pray for specifically (6:18)?

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3. How are we to pray (6:18)?

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4. Who else does Paul urge them to pray for in 6:19?

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5. Why does Paul desire their prayers? For what reason? (6:19-20)

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### *Interpretation:*

1. What does Paul mean by praying “in the Spirit”? Give reasons for your answer.

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2. What is an “ambassador” (6:20)? Look up the Greek word used here, and read any other verses in the New Testament where that word is found. Record your findings below.

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***Application:***

1. Are you in the habit of praying for all the saints? How would your life need to change in order to obey this command?

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2. Where was Paul when he wrote this letter (6:20)? How does that fact influence his request for them to pray that he may speak the gospel boldly? What can you learn from this?

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3. Paul felt free to ask other believers to pray for him to fulfill God’s mission. Therefore, we can conclude that it is good and right for us to ask other believers to pray for us to do God’s will. Do you ask others to pray for you in order to fulfill God’s will? Why or why not?

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## Ephesians 6:21-24

**21** But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.

**22** I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

**23** Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**24** Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.



### *Observation:*

1. How does Paul describe Tychicus (6:21)?

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2. Why did Paul send Tychicus to them (6:21-22)?

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3. What blessings does Paul pray that God will grant to the church (6:23-24)?

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4. Who does Paul pray that God will grant grace to (6:24)?

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### *Interpretation:*

1. What does Paul mean by “incorruptible” love? Who possesses this kind of love for Christ? Conduct a word study and record your findings below.

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***Application:***

1. While Paul was imprisoned in Rome, what was his primary concern (6:22)? How does this challenge you in your Christian life?

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2. Paul’s prayer for grace is directed towards those who love Christ with an “incorruptible” love. What do you learn from this? How important is it for us to continue to love Christ until the very end?

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3. Using Paul’s prayer as a model for our own, what specific things should we prioritize in our prayers for other believers (6:23-24)? Are you currently in the habit of praying for others in this way?

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# Conclusion

Congratulations! You have worked through the entire book of Ephesians - chapter by chapter, paragraph by paragraph, verse by verse, and even phrase by phrase, and word by word.

My goal in writing this workbook, was to provide you with the tools to study other books of the Bible on your own. Do not stop studying God's Word just because you have finished this book! Let this study just fuel your desire for more of God's Word. Become a lifelong learner of Scripture!

Remember to ask questions as you read through the text.

- Ask Observation questions: What can you observe here? What does the text say?
- Ask Interpretation questions: What does the text mean?
- Ask Application questions: How should I apply the text? How does God want it to impact my life?

Whenever you are unsure of the meaning of a word, conduct a word study. Dig into the meaning and usage of that word throughout Scripture.

Keep the context in mind as you read. Be aware of what has come before and what follows the passage you are reading, as this will inform you of the correct meaning of the passage under consideration.

Before applying Scripture to your life, seek to discover what it meant to its original audience. Only after you have discovered that meaning are you truly able to apply it to your own life.

When applying Scripture, notice how your situation differs from that of the original audience and how it is similar. For example, if you are studying the dietary laws given by God to the Jewish people under the Old Covenant, recognize that you are not a Jew living under the Old Covenant in Palestine. However, you are devoted to Jehovah God and want to do His will, just as many Jews did. Your task is to find a timeless truth that applies to every person in all places at all times.

I pray that working through this workbook has whetted your appetite to read, learn, and discover more of God's truth. "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).