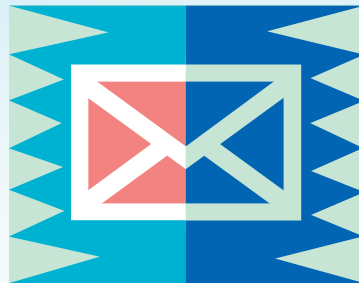


## New Testament Survey

# Christ and His Church

### Studying Colossians and Ephesians



*For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.*

1 Thessalonians 2:13

6



CBLT

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# Christ and His Church

## *Colossians and Ephesians*



### **LESSON OUTLINE**

- I. Introduction
- II. Christ's Supremacy
  - A. Exploring Colossians
  - B. Establishing the Historical Perspective
    - 1. Authorship
    - 2. Audience
    - 3. Geography
    - 4. Date
    - 5. General background
  - C. Examining the Content
    - 1. Theme
    - 2. Key Verse
    - 3. Topics and teachings
    - 4. Colossians: Jesus Christ, Our Life
- III. Walking with Christ
  - A. Exploring Ephesians
  - B. Establishing the Historical Perspective
    - 1. Authorship
    - 2. Audience
    - 3. Date
    - 4. Geography
    - 5. General Background
  - C. Examining the Content
    - 1. Theme
    - 2. Key Verse
    - 3. Topics and teachings
    - 4. Ephesians: Jesus Christ, Our All in All

## IV. Conclusion

### Self Test

#### Appendix 1. Let's Look At Colossians

#### Appendix 2. Let's Look At Ephesians

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson you should:

1. Be familiar with the Epistles to the Colossians and Ephesians.
2. Be able to identify the author, audience, key verses, and primary themes of Colossians and Ephesians.
3. Be able to place Colosse and Ephesus on a map.
4. Have a better understanding of God's call and your life.
5. Evaluate the integrity of your Christian walk.
6. Begin to preach and teach about the Christian life using what you have learned in this lesson.

### LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

1. Work through the entire lesson.
2. Read through Colossians and Ephesians during the course of this lesson.
3. Read the appendices, excerpts from *A Look at the New Testament* by Dr. Mears.
4. Complete Practical Assignments 1 and 2.

### WORD STUDY

**Asceticism**—the denial of self through various means, such as fasting or other physical or spiritual regimens, in hopes of attaining spiritual growth and favor with God

**Biblical Canon**—the fixed collection of texts included in the Bible that have been determined to be historically authentic and that are considered inspired of God

**Pantheism**—the religious or philosophical idea that God is in all things and all things are a part of God

## I. Introduction

In this lesson we will be studying two of what are called Paul's "Prison Epistles." They are given this designation because Paul wrote them during his first imprisonment in Rome. The Prison Epistles include Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon and Philippians. All of these books were written in a short time period, probably within the same year. In addition to that we know that Paul also wrote letters to other churches such as the church at Laodicea (Colossian 4:16), however, these letters have been lost because they did not become part of the Biblical canon. As you work through Colossians and Ephesians you will notice that they are similar in content. These two epistles and Philemon were probably sent out at the same time and delivered by Tychicus and Onesimus.

We have examples of powerful writing from prisons down through the centuries and in various countries. Prime examples are John Bunyan of England who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress* while imprisoned, Alexander Solzhenitsyn of the Soviet Union and Dietrich Bonhoeffer of Germany. God used

these men mightily through their times of suffering, just as He did the apostle Paul. His life is an incredible testimony of triumph over life's trials. And it is an interesting thought for us that, if he had not been imprisoned, we might not have some of these letters. His inability to visit these places when he wanted and perhaps felt it was needed, meant that he wrote down his advice, encouragement and teaching. Out of his persecution and suffering God created something beautiful and lasting.

This lesson consist of questions, exercises and assignments that will help you to dig into these epistles, opening up your understanding to the context in which they were written, and helping you to interact with God's Word. There are answers in the workbook to help you if you get stuck. In addition there is a self test included so that you can review what you have learned.

You need to have a Bible or New Testament which you will feel free to mark up as you will be required to make many markings. When you read, always keep a pen beside you so that you can mark whenever you find something particularly important to you. You will also need a personal notebook for written assignments. In addition there is a supplement, *New Testament Geography and Chronology*, which you must have to complete some of the exercises. If you did not receive one, please ask your leader.

You can do this study on your own, but it will be much more beneficial if you meet with a group and discuss what you are learning and discovering. We are meant to help and encourage and share with each other. It gives all of us more insights and greater joy. And then there is the issue of accountability. So often we have good intentions, but... Life is full and we easily lay aside a study, and then it gets buried. We need to spur each other on! Knowing that you are going to meet with a group often provides that extra incentive to dig in and learn. And every moment spent in the Word of God will build truth into your life and faith in your heart.

## II. Christ's Supremacy

### A. Exploring Colossians

You will be reading this book through now in the pattern we have established in other lessons. Take time to read Colossians through in one sitting. Read without interruption, marking verses that stand out to you. Although you should not take hours to complete this assignment, don't hurry through it either. Pray before you start. Take time to quiet your heart before God and then listen to His Word as you read. Before you start be sure to read the instructions in the exercise and follow them as you read.



#### Exercise 1

*Key words and thoughts in Colossians.* As you read through Colossians mark every reference to Jesus Christ, even the pronouns "He", "Him" in the color blue. You will use this later in the lesson. Also mark the word "all" in orange .

When you have finished this first reading, write down any thoughts or impressions from Colossians that you may have. If you have comments, questions or insights feel free to include them all in your notebook so that you can share them at the next group meeting.

This is a simple outline for Colossians. Observe what is included in the main sections.

OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS	
I. True Doctrine	1:1 – 2:3
II. False Doctrine	2:4 – 2:23
III. Practical Christian living	3:1 – 4:6
IV. Personal from Paul	4:7–18

It will be very helpful if you copy this outline into your notebook leaving spaces in between the sections so that you can add specific points as you build your understanding in this lesson.

## B. Establishing the Historical Perspective

As with every book Colossians has its own background. We don't find anything about the Colossians in Acts, so most of our background information must either be surmised from the text or gathered from secular sources.

We will start with the information that we can learn from the text such as authorship and audience.

### 1. Authorship

We have already touched on the authorship of Colossians, but it is important that you not only know who the author is but can also verify this information from the text. It is always important to check what others teach us against what the Scriptures say, even with simple facts like this.



**Question 1** You know that the author is Paul; where do we find that information?

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**Question 2** Which coworker of Paul is also recognized in the opening?

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**Question 3** How is it confirmed that Paul was writing from prison?

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### 2. Audience

Another piece of information that we can glean from the text is who the intended audience was. In this case the answer is simple, but it is important that you are able to locate this information in the text yourself.



**Question 4** Who is this letter addressed to and in what verse(s)?

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**Question 5** Who else did Paul want to read this letter?

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**Question 6** Look in Revelation 3:14-22 and find out what the problem was that seemed to have developed later in Laodicea.

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Although the Bible doesn't tell us a lot about Colossae we can learn more about it by looking at information from other sources such as maps, commentaries and secular histories.

### 3. Geography

For now we will start with some basic geography.



#### Exercise 2

*Plot Colossae on the map.* Turn to your supplement and plot Colossae on Map 1. You will probably need to look at Map 2 to locate it accurately.



**Question 7** What other cities are mentioned in Colossians? Note the references.

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Can you find these cities on Map 2 in the supplement?

Irving Jensen helps us to better understand some of the history of Colossae:<sup>1</sup>

*Colossae was one of the "tri-cities" of the Lycus Valley. This area was about one hundred miles [160 kilometers] inland from Ephesus. Five centuries before Christ, Colossae was hailed as "the great city of Phrygia." By Paul's time, it was just a small town. A main reason for the change was the rise of the neighboring cities of Laodicea and Hierapolis, when the trade route between Ephesus and the Euphrates Valley was diverted away from Colossae.*

The Lycus Valley was formed from the area surrounding the Lycus River. The three cities of Laodicea, Hierapolis and Colossae were all located on or near the Lycus River. The whole region was noted for its wool production and dyeing; Colossae was particularly noted for its beautiful black wool. Shortly after the time of Paul the town of Colossae was deserted in favor of nearby Chonum, possibly because of an earthquake.

### 4. Date

It is usually simplest to look up information such as the date in a commentary or other Bible-help book. Since you do not have the time to research the date for yourself in this lesson we will help you in this process.

As we learned earlier Paul wrote this letter as well as several others from prison in Rome. Knowing this makes it easier to pinpoint the time period in which Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians and Philemon were written. Although Paul was imprisoned many times, most of them were not for a long duration, but we do know that his imprisonment or house arrest in Rome lasted for about two years (Acts 28:30), during the period from A.D. 60-62. It is likely that these four letters were all written during this time period. Colossians, Ephesians and Philemon were probably all written at about the same time and sent with the same couriers. A median date for the letters would be A.D. 61.

### 5. General background

People who came from Colossae or lived in it during that time period include Epaphras, Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, Onesimus.



**Question 8** What do you learn about Epaphras from Colossians 1:7 and 4:12?

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<sup>1</sup> Irving L. Jensen, *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament*, 335–336.

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It is generally accepted that Epaphras was the one who established this church.



**Question 9** What was the immediate occasion for this letter? (Colossians 2:4, 20-21)

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## C. Examining the Content

### 1. Theme

It is important for us to note how Paul handled the heresies that were attacking the church. His confrontation in a positive manner was a presentation of Jesus Christ Himself and the truths of His person and deity. At least two of the problems were legalism and self-efforts to achieve acceptance before God by self-denial (asceticism). We will state the theme as follows:

**In Christ alone we have completeness and sufficiency.**

### 2. Key Verse

The key verse for Colossians is 3:11b “Christ is all, and in all.” Take the time right now to sit down and read through the context of this verse. Context is important in Bible study so that we do not come up with a false theology. It would be easy to use this verse out of context to say, for example, that trees are Christ and Christ is in trees or to try to use it to “prove” some other pantheistic type belief.



#### Exercise 3

*Examine the context of Colossians 3:11b. If you have not followed the instructions above to read the context of the verse, do so now. Then write down in your notebook what Paul was talking about when he wrote that “Christ is all, and in all.” Tie the theme into this. Make sure that you explain it clearly and concisely—a paragraph or two should be plenty. Be prepared to share your answer for discussion at the next group meeting.*

### 3. Topics and teachings

Now that we have a general idea of the content of Colossians we are ready to dig a little deeper.

#### ***The deity of Jesus Christ***



**Question 10** Using the markings you have made about Jesus in the color blue, look over the portion 1:1-2:15. Pick out the verses that indicate the deity of Christ and list them as well as a few descriptive words of how they indicate His deity.

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## Redemption



**Question 11** What do we learn about redemption in the following verses:

1:14 \_\_\_\_\_

1:20, 22 \_\_\_\_\_



### Practical Assignment 1: Observe and Apply

Read through Colossians 3 again and as you read write down all the commands that you find in this chapter. Note the reference and either quote the command or summarize it in your own words in your notebook. You may wish to underline them in your Bible as well.

After you have finished writing down the commands, organize them under different headings, such as Christian Living, The Church, Family Life, etc. Which of these areas in your life needs the most attention right now? Circle that heading and the commands that go with it in your notebook.

Now write down three practical ways that you can begin obeying these commands in your life. Some examples from Paul's command for men to love their wives might include: I will wash the dishes for my wife tonight, I will help her in the garden on Saturday, or I will pray with her every morning/night for the next month. Your applications need to be written out very specifically. Don't just say, I will show my love for my wife more. You need to write down exactly how and when you are going to do this. Also write them out as "I" statements: "I will ..." not "I could/should/need to ..." or "he/she/they ..." This needs to be personally applicable in **your** life. Write each statement out as a commitment before the Lord and then sign and date your notebook underneath these statements. Your small group will be holding you accountable to fulfill this commitment to the Lord.



### Practical Assignment 2: Teaching for Small Group

After you have completed the previous assignment for yourself turn it into a Bible study for your small group. Have your group discuss Colossians 3 and ask them what commands they have found in this chapter. After making a list of the commands, have your group come up with at least one practical application for each command.

In one short chapter, Paul manages to give us all sorts of instructions on a variety of categories. He is direct and to the point in his instructions. He writes with authority and does not worry about what others may think of him. He knows that he is speaking the Word of God in love. How much there is to learn from Paul!

There is a lot more that we could cover in our study of Colossians. There is so much interesting background information surrounding each book of the Bible that we would never have time to go through them all in one course. Remember: our goal is to help you have a grasp of the **whole** New Testament, not just individual parts. To round out our study of Colossians we will look at Mears' insight into this little epistle.

## 4. Colossians: Jesus Christ, Our Life

Read Appendix 1 and answer the following questions.



**Question 12** How long did it take for the Gospel to reach the whole Roman world?

\_\_\_\_\_

## The Higher Life



**Question 13** According to Mears, what kind of life should a Christian live?

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**Question 14** Who is the totality of the Christian life?

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**Question 15** How is this expressed in Colossians?

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## The Inner Life

Dr. Mears writes that we should “show to the best of our ability what is the goal of our lives”. Actually, each one of us shows the goals of our life by our actions and priorities. When watching some people it is easy to see what their goal is: a new car, marriage, more clothes, a better standing in the church... How would you know a person whose goal is to be like Jesus?



**Question 16** What does your conduct show others?

---

Mears tells about a daisy that grew to about eight times its normal size. What a perfect illustration of what we as Christians should be like! There are many “good” people in the world. People who try to help others or who obey the law or even sacrifice their lives to save others. These people are like normal daisies. As Christians we should grow and bloom through our relationship with Jesus until the world cannot ignore us, until they look at us in awe because of our beauty and glorify God.

### Food for Thought

*Examine your life for hypocrisy.* As Christians we believe that God has saved us through faith, but often we act like we are trying to earn salvation. This is hypocrisy. In what ways have you been trying to earn your salvation? Write down as many as you can think of in your notebook. Take time to pray and ask God sincerely to point out to you ways in which you have been trying to do this. Examine every area of your life, from how you behave at home to your ministry and job. What about your heart attitudes? Do you sometimes do things with the hope that you will get onto God’s “good side”? Don’t rush through this. Take time to think it through for several days writing down your answers as they come to mind. What are three things you need to change to start removing some of the hypocrisy from your life?



**Question 17** What simple method does Mears present for testing for false teaching?

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### Food for Thought

Take some time to think about and write down what your goals are in life. Write down what you are spending most of your money on and where you spend any extra money that you have. What would you buy if you had a million dollars? Where do you spend your spare time? What would be the most devastating thing that could happen to you?

In answering these questions you’ll discover what your goals really are, not just what you want them to be.

# III. Walking with Christ

## A. Exploring Ephesians

Read through Ephesians in one sitting now. This reading should take you less than an hour since there are only six chapters in Ephesians. Focus on the big picture of Ephesians. Think about the book as a whole, not as individual chapters, passages or verses. Begin to consider what the theme of Ephesians is. Before you start, read the instructions to the exercise and follow them as you read Ephesians. You may also want to use the outline below for reference.



### Exercise 4

*Mark key words and thoughts in Ephesians. As you read, mark the following words in Ephesians.*

Brown -- "Church"  
Red -- "walk"  
Orange -- "mystery"  
Yellow -- "saints"

Write in your notebook any first impressions or any questions that you might have about this letter.

The first outline is very simple, not even identifying the parts which are greetings or closing. The purpose of this outline is just to help you find your way quickly without going into detail. You will find it helpful to develop your own detailed outline.

I. Christ and His church	1:1–3:21
II. Christian Conduct	4:1–6:9
III. Christian Armor	6:10–24

Or an alternative outline is below. As you can see it is quite different from the above even though it is the same book of the Bible.

I. Praise to God for His blessings in Christ	Chapter 1
II. Salvation by grace alone	Chapter 2
III. Prayer and benediction	Chapter 3
IV. Walking in Christ	Chapter 4
V. Transformation in personal life and relationships	Chapter 5 – 6:9
VI. Standing in Christ's strength	Chapter 6:10 to end



**Question 18** Which outline is more helpful for you? Why?

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As you read through Ephesians you should have noticed how frequently God and Jesus are referred to in these six chapters. Both of the outlines touch on this in their division titles as well. When you read through Ephesians again you may wish to mark all the references to God or Jesus in one color, so that you can easily pick out these references in this book.

## B. Establishing the Historical Perspective

Our background study of Ephesians will follow a similar pattern to that of Colossians.

### 1. Authorship



**Question 19** Where does it state that Paul is the author of this letter?

---



**Question 20** What verses indicate to us that he was in prison?

---

### 2. Audience



**Question 21** How do we know that this letter was written to the Ephesians?

---

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**Question 22** Where do we find reference to who delivered this letter, and who was it?

---

### 3. Date

To discover the date for Ephesians refer to the information on the date of Colossians.



**Question 23** Write the date of Ephesians on the blank below.

---

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### 4. Geography

Ephesus was a key city in the Roman province of Asia. The city was a center for international trade, the worship of the goddess Diana and cultural and philosophical pursuits such as theatre and poetry. In the time of Paul the city had a population of nearly half a million people. This is at a period of time when the world population was only 300 million. Into this bustling environment Paul sent his letter.



#### Exercise 5

*Map Ephesus.* Find Ephesus on Map 2 and then plot it on Map 1 in the supplement.

### 5. General Background

We want to take time now to look at the early days of the church of Ephesus. Read Acts 18:18-20:1, 16-38, then answer the following questions.



**Question 24** Whom did Paul leave at Ephesus during his first visit there?

---



**Question 25** Who came to Ephesus after Paul had left this first time? What was he doing? Who helped him to grow deeper in the Christian life?

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**Question 26** When Paul returned to Ephesus, how long did he speak in the synagogue?

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**Question 27** How long did Paul then teach and preach in the lecture hall of Tyrannus?

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**Question 28** Who was included in those who listened to Paul during this time?

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**Question 29** What does Acts 20:31 say about Paul's stay in Ephesus?

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This should help you understand what a strategic place Ephesus was for the spread of the gospel. It is also the longest time recorded that Paul stayed in one place.

Ephesus had a position as a center of occult or magic practices as well as being a place of idolatry. There are several instances that are of interest to us as we think about the letter to the Ephesians.



**Question 30** What happened in Acts 19:13-16 right after we read that Paul was used by God to do many extraordinary miracles?

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**Question 31** What did a number of people do after that?

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The verse following this says: "So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing." Keep the word *power* in mind as you continue to examine the letter to the Ephesians, because this is the concept that is expressed in this verse.



**Question 32** Summarize the cause of the incident recorded in Acts 19:23-41.

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In Acts 20 we have a last personal word from Paul to the Ephesian elders, even though he does not return to Ephesus.

## C. Examining the Content

Again we have very rich content packed into just a few chapters of Scripture. There is so much to learn from this little book and we can only pick out a few nuggets. We have done our best to choose those teachings that we feel are vital to Ephesians, however we want you to use this as a starting point for your future studies of Ephesians. These letters are the doctrinal foundations and practical applications that Paul found crucial for the early church.

### 1. Theme

It is often a challenge to agree on one central theme for a whole book, and this is the case with Ephesians. For now we are suggesting to you a theme for Ephesians, but our desire is that you

would use this as a foundation for your studies, a platform on which you can build your knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures. The theme that we feel best encompasses Ephesians is:

**Jesus Christ, only Head of the Church, unites believers through His power.**

The focus is not on the local church but on the “whole” church of Jesus Christ.

## 2. Key Verse

Just as summarizing Ephesians into one theme is challenging, it is difficult to pick out just one verse to encapsulate Ephesians. The verse that we chose goes well with our theme, however, there are several others that are also worthwhile looking at as potential key verses. You may even feel that one of them better encapsulates Ephesians than the one that we have chosen.



**Question 33** First, write Ephesians 1:22-23 on the lines below as the key verse. As you write it out, instead of using the pronouns “he” and “his”, put in either the name of God or of Jesus.

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**Question 34** Now write your own paraphrase of this verse.

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Now read the following verses and compare them. Which one do you feel best summarizes Ephesians?

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

Ephesians 2:19-22

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

Ephesians 4:4-6

## 3. Topics and teachings

Ephesians has many special emphases and we have tried to pick out some of the highlights.

### ***The believer's standing in Christ Jesus***

Ephesians 1

#### **Power**

Ephesians 1:18-23; 3

Another theme that is very prominent in Ephesians is “power”.

*Paul writes of God's “incomparably great power” and “the working of his mighty strength” (1:19). He pictures Christ in a position of power at God's right hand, “far above all rule and*



authority, power and dominion” (1:21). All things lie under the Son’s jurisdiction, both in this age and in the age to come (1:21 -- 22). That same power gives Paul his apostolic authority (3:7) to equip the church in its mission of making the gospel known to “rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms” (3:10). Christ is “head” of the church, its founder and reigning Lord (1:22; 4:15; 5:23; cf. Jn 13:13). Other examples of “power language” include 3:16, 20-21 and the famous “spiritual armor” passage of 6:10-17.

From Acts we know that sorcery and evil spirits were part of the religious climate for those both inside and outside the Ephesian church (19:13-19). This is corroborated by sources outside the New Testament. Worship of the Roman emperor and his family was also extensive.<sup>2</sup> All such beliefs and practices run against the central Pauline thesis of the supremacy of Christ. They expose their practitioners to moral error, spiritual deception, and possibly demonic affliction. It is possible that Paul wrote Ephesians to commend Christ as Lord to readers who had once (and perhaps in some ways still) bowed the knee to occult or imperial figures. Of course the Epistle’s message holds importance for all who read it, not just those whose background is pagan worship at Ephesus. But known local religious background may furnish the most plausible glue available to shed light on the letter’s distinctive emphasis.<sup>3</sup>

There are several other key topics and teachings in Ephesians which you may wish to study later.

### **“Mystery”**

Ephesians 3

### **Relationships in the Christian family**

Ephesians 5:22-6:4

### **Employer/employee relationships**

Ephesians 6:5-9

### **The believer’s armor for spiritual warfare**

Ephesians 6:10-24

Now we’ll take some time to further our study and look at some of the other highlights of Ephesians.

### **Food for Thought**

Examine your relationships. What does your life look like based on your relationships with others? If someone saw how you treat your spouse or children every day would they believe you are a Christian? What about your relationships with your parents—your boss? Take time to think about these and other relationships that you have. Are your relationships a witness to the fact that Jesus lives in you?

## **4. Ephesians: Jesus Christ, Our All in All**

Answer the following questions after reading Appendix 2



**Question 35** Which verse in Ephesians does the title “Our All in All” refer to?

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### **Our Salvation**



**Question 36** Why is God’s work of redemption greater than His work in Creation?

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<sup>2</sup> John McRay, *Archaeology and the New Testament*. — Grand Rapids: Baker. — 1991. — P. 256.

<sup>3</sup> *Encountering the New Testament*, pp.309–310



### ***The Audience Chamber of the King***



**Question 37** What quality of workmanship are we?

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### ***The Throne Room***



**Question 38** What is the best posture from which to see the face of Jesus according to Mears?

---



**Question 39** Choose the best answer.

God is able to do \_\_\_\_\_

- a. all that we ask or think.
- b. abundantly above all that we ask or think.
- c. above all that we ask or think.
- d. exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.



**Question 40** What must we do if we want a life filled with joy and beauty?

---

### ***The Jewel Room***



**Question 41** Why must we put away all lying, bitterness, anger and harsh words?

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### ***The New Man's Walk***



**Question 42** What kind of a life do we need to live if we want to draw others to Christ Jesus?

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### ***The Choir and Oratory Room***



**Question 43** To what does Mears compare not being filled with the Holy Spirit?

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## **IV. Conclusion**

Colossians and Ephesians have a great deal in common. Paul frequently used the same phrases. As we looked at some of the background information we saw that they were written at approximately the same time to churches that were within 160 kilometers of each other. Both books center around Jesus Christ. If you had no other books of the Bible available to you than these two, you could spend years meditating on them, delighting in how Christ is revealed and learning to apply the many principles to your walk in Christ!

The other two “prison epistles” will be covered in:

Lesson 7— Philemon and Philippians-- *Joy and Forgiveness*

Plan to study these two books and what Paul was able to teach out of his own brokenness in prison.

Here is a full list of the lessons in this series:

Lesson 1—James and Galatians — *The Truth about Faith*

Lesson 2—1 and 2 Thessalonians — *Standing Firm in Persecution*

Lesson 3—1 Corinthians — *Problems of the Church*

Lesson 4—2 Corinthians — *Ministry Defended*

Lesson 5— Romans — *Righteousness by Faith*

Lesson 6— Colossians and Ephesians — *Christ and His Church*

Lesson 7— Philemon and Philippians — *Joy and Forgiveness*

Lesson 8—1 Timothy and Titus — *Church Leadership*

Lesson 9—1 Peter, 2 Timothy & 2 Peter— *Encouragement and Warnings*

Lesson 10— Hebrews — *The New Covenant*

Lesson 11—Jude, 1, 2 & 3 John — *Love in Action*

Lesson 12—The Revelation — *Climax of the Ages*

# Self Test

Score:\_\_\_/103

## Matching (5 points each, \_\_\_/55)

a. Colossians

b. Ephesians

1. \_\_\_

- |                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| I. True Doctrine                |
| II. False Doctrine              |
| III. Practical Christian Living |
| IV. Personal from Paul          |

2. \_\_\_ Christ is all, and in all.

3. \_\_\_ Key Word: "all"

4. \_\_\_ Key Word: "church"

5. \_\_\_ And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all (key verse).

6. \_\_\_ Key Word: "walk"

7. \_\_\_ All hope of man's redemption is founded on Christ, in whom alone are completeness and sufficiency.

8. \_\_\_

- |                          |
|--------------------------|
| I. Christ and His church |
| II. Christian Conduct    |
| III. Christian Armor     |

9. \_\_\_ Jesus Christ, only Head of the Church, unites believers through His power.

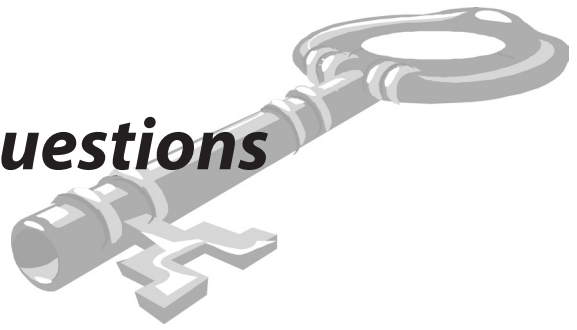
10. \_\_\_ Jesus Christ, Our Life

11. \_\_\_ Jesus Christ, Our All in All

## Fill in the Blanks (4 points each answer, \_\_\_/48)

1. The Prison Epistles were written during the period of A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Prison Epistles are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Colossians was sent to the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Prison Epistles were written by \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Ephesus was located in the Roman province of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. There is teaching about "mystery" in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The deity of Christ is emphasized in \_\_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ in the family are covered in both Colossians and Ephesians.
9. Believers can be prepared for spiritual warfare through Ephesians \_\_\_\_\_.

# Answers to Questions



## **Question 1**

Colossians 1:1 and 4:18.

## **Question 2**

Timothy.

## **Question 3**

In Colossians 4:18 it says, “Remember my imprisonment (or bonds).”

## **Question 4**

In Colossians 1:2 we see that Paul has addressed his letter to “the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae,” in other words the Colossians.

## **Question 5**

The church at Laodicea (4:16).

## **Question 6**

It became lukewarm towards Jesus Christ and proud of its wealth. Note that Revelation was written about 30 years after Colossians.

## **Question 7**

Laodicea—Colossians 2:1; 4:13, 15-16

Hierapolis—Colossians 4:13

## **Question 8**

The Colossians had learned the gospel from Epaphras, who was Paul’s beloved fellow bond-servant and a faithful servant of Christ. He is identified as one of them and as praying for them earnestly.

## **Question 9**

False teachings in the church.

## **Question 10**

1:15 image of invisible God

1:16 creator

1:17 he holds everything together

1:19 all the fullness of God in him

2:9 the fullness of deity

## **Question 11**

1:14—In Christ we have forgiveness of sin

1:20, 22—through the blood of the cross we are reconciled to God

## **Question 12**

32 years

## **Question 13**

Every Christian should strive to live like Jesus, to be rooted and built up in Him.

## **Question 14**

Jesus.

## **Question 15**

We are to be walking, rooted, built up, and perfected in Jesus. We are dead, risen and hidden with Him.

## **Question 16**

Whose you are and Whom you serve.

## **Question 17**

To test if a teaching is false or true we should ask, “Where does it put Jesus Christ? Is He something in it, or is He all?”

## **Question 18**

Your answer will probably depend on how familiar you already are with Ephesians. For someone who has not studied it very much the first outline helps to place some key aspects in his memory. The second one is done by chapters and therefore points out some key aspects from each chapter. However, these may not be the things that are most important to you.

## **Question 19**

Ephesians 1:1 and 3:1 tells us that Paul is the author.

## **Question 20**

Ephesians 3:1; 4:1; 6:20.

## **Question 21**

If we look at the first verse of Ephesians we see that it is addressed to “the saints who are at Ephesus...”

## **Question 22**

Ephesians 6:21--Paul’s faithful brother and a faithful minister in the Lord, Tychicus.

## **Question 23**

Ephesians was probably written in A.D. 61.

Note: This answer is found under the date section in the study of Colossians.

## **Question 24**

Aquila and Priscilla.

**Question 25**

Apollos, a Jew from Alexandria. He was teaching and speaking fervently about Christ—as much as he had learned. Aquila and Priscilla taught him more accurately the way of God.

**Question 26**

Three months.

**Question 27**

Two years.

**Question 28**

All the Jews and Greeks who lived in Asia.

**Question 29**

He was there ministering to them for three years.

**Question 30**

Some Jews were trying to drive out evil spirits in the name of Jesus—unsuccessfully.

**Question 31**

They confessed their evil deeds and some who had been practicing sorcery burned their ‘scrolls.’

**Question 32**

The makers of the idols of Artemis (Diana) started a riot because the influence of Christianity had become so great they felt their business was threatened.

**Question 33**

See Ephesians 1:22-23 in your Bible.

**Question 34**

Your answer. Here is an example: “God gave Jesus charge over absolutely everything and then made Him head of the church, which is His body, and it is the completion of Him Who completes all things everywhere.”

**Question 35**

Ephesians 1:23.

**Question 36**

Because God only had to speak to create the world, but He gave His only and beloved Son to redeem us.

**Question 37**

Masterpieces.

**Question 38**

Kneeling down.

**Question 39**

d. exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.

**Question 40**

We must yield our lives to Jesus if we want joy and beauty.

**Question 41**

We must stop lying, bitter and/or angry thoughts and words and harsh words because our speech shows our spirit.

**Question 42**

We must live our lives with heavenly conduct and in a way that is more than merely orthodox.

**Question 43**

She compares it to being drunk with wine.



# ***Answers to Exercises***



## **Exercise 1**

“All” occurs about 31 times in Colossians.

## **Exercise 2**

Your answer.

## **Exercise 3**

Your answer.

## **Exercise 4**

“Church” occurs nine times in Ephesians.

“Walk” occurs seven times.

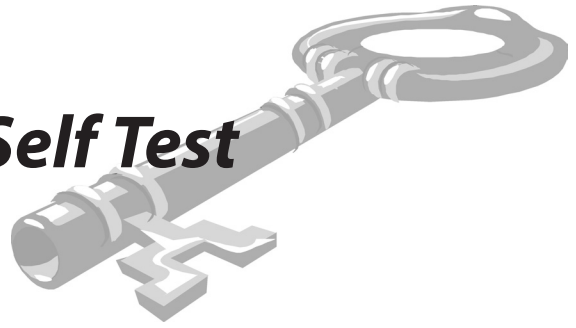
“Mystery” occurs six times.

“Saints” occurs nine times.

## **Exercise 5**

Your answer.

# ***Answers to Self Test***



## **Matching**

1. a.
2. a.
3. a.
4. b.
5. b.
6. b.
7. a.
8. b.
9. b.
10. a.
11. b.

## **Fill in the Blanks**

1. 60-62
2. Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon, Philippians
3. Colossae
4. Paul
5. Asia
6. Ephesians
7. Colossians
8. Relationships
9. 6

# Let's Look At Colossians

## *Colossians Portrays Jesus Christ, Our Life*

Chapter 13 from *A Look at the New Testament* by Henrietta Mears<sup>4</sup>

The Gospel, by this time, had been brought to “all the world” (1:6), and had been “preached to every creature” (1:23). Thirty-two years after Christ’s death, the Gospel had reached the whole Roman world. It only needed one generation to establish the Church as a worldwide fact.

### **The Deeper Life**

(Read Colossians 1)

Paul opens this letter as he opens so many: “We give thanks.” (1:3) He rejoices in the good news from the brethren scattered abroad in the various churches which he founded.

Notice Paul’s favorite words, “faith,” “love,” and “hope” (vs. 4,5), which he so often uses. He wants everyone to have faith in Christ, love toward others and hope of heaven.

Paul tells us the secret of the deeper life that we as Christians should have in Christ. Dig downward first, and become “grounded and settled” in Christ (1:23). Send the taproot of your Christian faith down deep into His life, as the great oak sends its root into the heart of the earth. We find that storms may beat against the solid oak, but it stands fast, for it is rooted deep.

Send your roots down into Christ. The source of your life is in Him. The Japanese have a way of cutting the taproot of the trees of the forest and confining them in miniature gardens and flower pots. The tree gains its life from the little surface roots and only grows to a few feet in height. Every soul is stunted until it puts its taproot into God and begins to draw on Him.

Next Paul presents a glowing description of the mighty Christ, the Superior One. He is ALL IN ALL.

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<sup>4</sup> Used by permission.

### Christ Is All In All

In His Deity—(1:15)  
In Creation—(1:15,16)  
In Pre-eminence—(1:18)  
In Redemption—(1:20-22)  
In Headship—(1:18; 2:14)  
In His Church—(1:18; 2:19)  
In His Indwelling Presence—(1:27)

We find in this first scene, that not only are we in Christ, but Christ is in us. *Christ in you, the hope of glory* (1:27). This is what it is to be a Christian; living in Him, this glorious, wonderful person, the Creator of this universe, in whom we have redemption.

## The Higher Life

(Read Colossians 2)

*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him* (2:6, 7). Paul is always practical. Again he says, *Act out what you believe*. You commenced well. Go on as you have begun! We have received Christ and have been grounded and settled in Him (1:23). Let us therefore walk in Him. Paul always wants our walk and life to correspond to our belief. It is sad when a Christian believes in Christ and acts like the Devil. No one will accept his profession as sincere. If we have received Christ, let us walk as He would have us. If we have been rooted in Him, let us grow up in Him. If we have been founded on Him, let us be builded up on Him. All of these are outward evidences of a changed heart, a new life.

- “Walking” expresses life.
- “Growing” exhibits an inner power.
- “Building up” shows progress of character until the structure is complete.

We have to do a great deal more than just believe truths about Christ. We must receive Christ if we are to have life. We cannot earn it or purchase it. It is a free gift (2:6). We are rooted in Christ. That means we draw our nourishment from Him. A plant cannot grow unless it is in touch with the life-giving soil. We are built up in Him. We have our foundation in Him. Every structure needs a foundation. All this must be in our experience if we would be built up. The Christian life is starting in Christ, and then growing in His grace and gifts. We must be as dependent on Christ for steadfastness of walk as we were for our assurance of salvation.

All the life we have as Christians is the life “in Him.” Our life in Christ is a person-to-Person relation with Him.

Walking in Him .....	2:6
Rooted in Him .....	2:7
Built up in Him .....	2:7
Brought to perfection in Him. ....	2:10
Dead with Him .....	2:20
Risen with Him .....	3:1
Hidden with Him .....	3:3

This is the life—real and satisfying, eternal life. We find in this chapter that Christ is all-sufficient, for *in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily*. This is a tremendous truth for us to grasp. In this Jesus, who walked on the earth, dwelt the whole Godhead. But more than this—in Him was all the fulness of the Godhead.

Our life must first be built downward, “rooted in Christ.” Next we must build upward, *built up in Him, and stablished in the faith* (2:7), rearing a stately structure to His praise, and of course, wholly by His grace. This is the higher life.

Meteorologists tell us that about twenty-five miles up, there are jet streams in which there are practically no disturbances. The higher you go with the Lord, the steadier is your disposition, the less disturbing are temptations and the smoother are the events in your everyday life.

## The Inner Life

(Read Colossians 3)

The building of our life cannot be only downward, “rooted in Christ,” upward, “built up in Him,” but our building must also be inward. Let us know that Christ is the believer’s life. Many believe that Christ gave us life as one would put a living seed into a flower pot. The pot would hold a detached thing—life. But Christ is more than that. He, Himself is in the believer. The life that is in Christ is in the believer. The illustration He gives, *I am the vine, ye are the branches*.

We find that our new life in Christ makes us less interested in the things the world offers. We become “dead to the world.” As the little chorus puts it, “One look at Jesus and He settled it all for me.” We find ourselves “hid with Christ,” and as we know Him we discover, one by one, the beauties of the Lord Jesus. *Mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering* (3:12). *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly* (3:16). It will make a difference. Others will recognize it.

The Brown family lived in a house that was an eyesore in the neighborhood. Weeds grew over the porch; the shades were always torn; the curtains were sagging and soiled. One day in passing by the house, we saw the grass cut; fresh white curtains were hung at the windows. The broken steps were mended. “When did the Browns move?” we asked. “Why, they haven’t moved,” answered our neighbor. “O, yes they have. The Browns don’t live in that house any more. A new family has moved in. I haven’t seen the people yet, but I know by the appearance that a new owner occupies the house.” Our outward life will be different. Others will see Christ living in us.

Since we are “risen with Christ,” we should seek those things which are above, and show to the best of our ability what is the goal of our lives.

For example, the submarine is made to travel under water. Yet, every submarine is equipped with an elaborate periscope by which it seeks those things which are above. It travels in the water, but the well-being of those in it depends on knowledge of what is above.

We live in the world, but we must set our minds (affections) on things above, for we are citizens of a heavenly country.

After we receive our new life in Christ Jesus, then we must “put off” the old man and his deeds (3:5-9). It should not be necessary to tell Christians that they must put off things that are more like the Devil than the Saviour!

Old leaves are pushed off by the new leaves as they begin to appear in the spring. This is what happens when we receive Christ—the new life pushes off the old works. Christ wants consistent Christian living and fellowship among His people. Our conduct should correspond to the Christ who is our life.

Paul admonishes us to destroy our old nature and “put off” all its vices. Read over Paul’s black catalogue. There is immorality, impurity, passion, greed. Then there is passionate anger and wrath, and the many sins of speech. Let us give up these sins. It is possible in Christ.

Can you imagine how ridiculous you would look if, when you went to buy a new suit, you refused to take off the one you had on, but rather insisted that the new one should be tried on without “putting off” the old one! This is what many Christians do. They try to put the garment of a new life on over their old nature. It just doesn’t fit. We must lay aside sin; then “put on” the new man.

A Christian’s conduct is what men see you do. As clothes indicate what kind of a person you are—they tell whether you are careful or careless; they tell whether you are a soldier or civilian, a king or a commoner—so outward expression will show “whose you are, and whom you serve” (Acts 27:23).

Paul says the new Christian not only puts away, but puts on or adds to his life. Let us “put on” the excellences of this new life, such as tenderness, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness and love (3:12-14). Yes, these are the things with which we are to adorn ourselves. If we lived like this we would find Paradise on earth.

Do you remember how Luther Burbank took the little wild daisy and developed it into a bloom five to seven inches in diameter, and the little poppy developed into a blossom ten inches across? So our Christian graces must be cultivated and enlarged. Too often they perish for want of care. Too often the fruit of our lives looks only like the ordinary fruit of the world. We must grow into the full stature of the fulness of Christ. Every living thing grows toward the sky, but even the giant sequoia cannot grow up into it.

Set down all the commands given to you in this chapter. They are many.

Yes, *Christ is all, and in all* (3:11). If Christ is not all in your life, He is nothing. No surer test can be given to any false teaching of today than this: “Where does it put Jesus Christ? Is He something in it, or is He all?”

If Christ is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.

A Christian heart is a singing heart (3:16). Christ wants us to be taught in His Word, and then He wants us to express our joy in Him by singing hymns. Teaching of the Word and singing of songs is the best way to promote the growth of the Christian life. Let us do more of it today in our churches.

## The Outward Life

(Read Colossians 4)

This chapter introduces another phase of our life in Christ, the outward life. We found we must build within, cultivating the virtues of the new life in Christ. But there is something more. We want our new life to be seen and felt among others. *Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time* (4:5). This is the way we present Christ to the world. Remember, Christians mean “little Christs.” The life of Christ is not written only by authors like Farrar or Edersheim. It was not ended when the Gospels were completed.

Christ is living in us. His life is told today in living epistles that are known and read of all men. What is the Gospel, according to you? Make Christ known by your life.

You as a Christian can pass on the power of God to others. You can be a transmitter. One man said, “I am an electric bulb. I cannot create light myself; I have no light in myself, but God puts me where He will and I glow by His power. Sometimes I am a high-powered light and sometimes a parking light. But I am His and He puts me where I can best serve.”

# Let's Look At Ephesians

## *Ephesians Portrays Jesus Christ, Our All In All*

Chapter 11 from *A Look at the New Testament* by Henrietta Mears<sup>5</sup>

This book shows us the great mystery of the Church. The real Church is the Body of Christ, and believers are members of that sacred Body of which Christ is the head.

Imagine for a moment that the Body is like a great building. The “stones” are redeemed human beings. Christ occupies the great throne room, or “Head.” All the parts are like “rooms” in the building. Come with Paul through this glorious structure.

We approach in these chapters, one after another, six magnificent rooms in this great temple. They are all “in Christ.” Let the scenes of this book be laid in each of these rooms successively.

### The Ante-Room

(Read Ephesians 1)

Let us enter this sacred Temple with hushed voices and bared heads. Christ is going to allow us to go into His holy presence. The door opens into the spacious Ante-Room, where we read upon the walls our standing with God through Jesus Christ. *Blessed . . . with all spiritual blessings. Chosen . . . in Him before the foundation of the world. Holy and without blame before Him in love. Accepted in the beloved.* These are some great wall mottoes for Christians. It will tax every spiritual energy to live up to them. Tremblingly we take our shoes from off our feet for the place whereon we stand is holy ground!

The blessings the Lord gives to the Christian are not only “heavenly” but *in the heavenlies*. Go through this first chapter and mark all you find “in Christ.”

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<sup>5</sup> Used by permission.



Was this always our position? (Ephesians 2:11-13)

We learn on entering this Temple that our calling and position have been planned and worked out by God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit before the foundation of the world (1:4). Every Christian should know his calling above everything else. The true knowledge of it will govern his life.

When a fellow is put on a football team, he must learn first to what position he has been chosen. Then he must know the rules of the game. All this governs his actions and his moves. We are playing the game of life. Let us find our calling in Christ, then as Paul says in Ephesians 4:1, *Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.*

### **Our Salvation**

The Father planned it.....	1:4-6
The Son paid for it.....	1:7-12
The Spirit applied it.....	1:13,14

*In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.* (Eph. 1:7)

Redemption is the most glorious work of God. It is greater far than His work of creation. He spoke a word and worlds were formed, but it cost Him the life of His beloved Son to redeem the world. Paul delighted to dwell on this theme.

A king once offered a subject a very magnificent present for some service. "This is too much for me to receive," the man said. "But it is not too much for me to give," was the king's reply. He was rich and gave according to his ability to give. God is very rich and very loving and when He gives it is "according to the riches of His grace." Let us receive and estimate at its true worth God's gift of redemption. *Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift* (2 Cor. 9:15).

## **The Audience Chamber Of The King**

(Read Ephesians 2)

Next we are conducted into the glorious Audience Chamber of the King, into the Divine Presence. We have *access by one Spirit unto the Father.* (2:18) We would tremble as we entered if we did not hear the gracious words sound out, *You hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: .... hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus* (2:1,6). But best of all, there is a sweet Voice sounding through the corridors, *Welcome here! Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God* (2:19). All of this is in sharpest contrast to what we were "in time past" (2:11-13). We once were "far off." Now we are "nigh." Humbly and thankfully we bow in glad acceptance of His love.

In this Audience Chamber, we find that God has made both Jew and Gentile "one" in Christ. We can better understand this by an illustration told by Dr. Keller of Hunan Bible Institute in China. A barber, an occupation held in contempt in China, was marvelously converted. He had been an opium addict and a moral degenerate. In desperation he had come to the missionaries and prayer was answered for him. His appetite for opium left and he became a living witness for Christ.

During the barber's stay in the mission, a young man of the "student class" came as an inquirer but seeing the barber he refused to go in. One day thinking the barber had gone, he entered the mission and met the barber. Being too polite not to speak to him, he engaged in conversation. The barber told of the wonderful change that had come into his life through Christ. Class barriers melted away.

The barber soon was a guest in the student's home, surrounded with wealth and culture. Christ had "made both one." This is what Christ will do with Jew and Gentile, slave and free man. Christ makes each one a new man and gives access into the very Audience Chamber of the King.

God is producing a Masterpiece, His Church. He says, *For we are His workmanship* (2:10). This comes from the Greek word "poiema"—poem or masterpiece.

In Ephesians 1, we find how God planned and worked in the production of this Masterpiece. We were *chosen in Christ* to be holy and blameless (1:4). In the ages of past eternity God was thinking about us, loving us, and planning to bless us. Know this, before Satan ever appeared to spoil the happiness of the man upon this earth, God made plans to make all who would believe on Him to be blameless.

"But God"—see God act! He changes all by His touch! This "But God" is the bridge which leads men out of their dark and hopeless condition (2:4). When all human strength is at an end—"But God." Remember Christ comes to give life to the dead.

A quaint old legend tells of a piece of marble crying from a pile of material which had been left as rubbish after a great building had been erected. It was saying, "Glory, glory!" A passer-by hearing the cry, stopped. He learned from the marble half-covered with dust and rubbish that Michelangelo had just passed by and said, "I see an angel in that stone." Now he had gone to get his mallet and chisel.

Humanity was like that stone in the heap, broken and useless, but the great Sculptor saw it and began His Masterpiece. As Michelangelo saw the angel in the old stone, so God sees the image of His Son in wretched humanity. The grace of God carved a Mueller out of the family scapegrace, a John B. Gough out of a barroom wreck.

The greatest proof of Christianity is that it has produced a New Man who is approved unto God. Only God could make a Paul out of Saul, and out of sinners make a new creation.

Salvation is the gift of God. *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God* (2:8). Faith is a gift, too. *Faith cometh by hearing* (Rom. 10:17). Faith is the channel of salvation. It is the hand that receives the gift. It connects man with God.

## The Throne Room

(Read Ephesians 3)

Standing at the doors of the Throne Room are the stalwart guards of Law. They demand: "Who goes there? Why do you come? What are your credentials?" I answer feebly, "A sinner; I come to see the Lamb. I have nothing to recommend me for admittance." Then I hear the Voice of the Lamb from within, the call of the Son of Grace. "It is one of my sheep. Invite him in. My blood covers all. He needs no credentials." And Grace brings me past the stern guards of Law unto the throne of His mercy.

*We have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him* (3:12). What a piling up of words to persuade us of our privilege and position as Christian believers! We are "accepted in the Beloved."

Here we behold the King! With Paul, we bow our knee *unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named* (3:14-15). Is posture a small thing? Kneeling is the attitude of humility, confession and entreaty. Remember the holiest of all men have approached God this way. David, Solomon, and Daniel knelt upon their knees. These men stooped to conquer; knelt to prevail.

When in Denmark we went up to one of the churches to look at Thorvaldsen's beautiful figure of the Christus. As we approached an old guard said, "If you wish to see His face, you must kneel." How true this is!

The word "mystery" which occurs three times here does not mean something mysterious. It merely means it is hidden until the appropriate time comes for God to reveal it. *Which in other ages was not made known . . . as it is now revealed*, Paul says.

The mystery of the Church is that the Gentiles are to have an equal position with the Jews, God's chosen people (Ephesians 3:6). All this was "by faith" (Rom. 15:9, 10; Gal. 3:8-9).

Let us lift our voices in this Throne Room in hosannas to our King (Eph. 3:20, 21).

**Able—Abundantly—Above—All—God**

**He is able to do all that we ask or think.**

**He is able to do above all that we ask or think.**

**He is able to do abundantly above all that we ask or think.**

**He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.**

If we are to enjoy this life in the Temple of God, we must be yielded in obedience to Him. If we yield to His plan for our lives as willing subjects, we will find that in His hand our lives will be filled with joy and beauty.

The great Paganini, world-famed violinist, was playing before a vast audience, when in the midst of a brilliant performance one of the strings of his violin snapped. He played on as if nothing had happened, but a second failed him. With two strings he proceeded to finish, when alas, a third string broke. But this master went on without faltering. He went to the end with such skill that his audience burst into a thunderous applause. Paganini was but a man, but our Master Musician is God. We may feel as if we were not gifted, a person with but one string. But if we place the instrument of our lives in His hand, He will bring forth real music by the skill of His hand.

## **The Jewel Room**

(Read Ephesians 4)

Here amid the flash of the Jewel Room, we will get our epaulets and our garments of holiness—"all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering." Here are our banners and escutcheons—"one Lord, one faith, one baptism." Here are the brilliant gems of the graces as we will take them—*But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ* (4:7). We must "put off," or lay aside, the old life as we would lay aside a garment, and "put on" the new life as a new garment (4:22-25). We must be different, but how? In what respect? What are the things we should be very careful about? We must put away lying. Our speech shows our spirit. We must put away all bitterness and anger and harsh words. Be kind to each other. We must not have anything to do with deeds of darkness for we are children of light. Read all of Ephesians 4:31,32.

We must go into God's robing room, not to make the garments but to put them on. God is the Tailor and He makes our dress to conform to our position and purpose in life. God wants His sons to wear suitable garments.

## The New Man's Walk

We have discovered as we have come into this Temple what our riches are in the heavenlies (1:18-21). Now we must *walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called* (4:1). The way we live must correspond to our creed. A heavenly calling demands a heavenly conduct.

One man prayed, "Dear Jesus, I see now that Christians must be something more than merely orthodox, if the world is to be won. I see now that our churches will be filled if outsiders find that people in them love them. This draws sinners." This is what we must do if we are to attract our friends and acquaintances to Christ. This is not strange for the first thing they know about Christ is what they see in us.

When God puts upon us His jewels of grace, He seals us by His Spirit (4:30). It is like a young man putting a diamond upon the engagement finger of one whom he has promised to marry. The Lord knoweth them that are His and we are sealed unto the day of redemption. The seal is the mark of ownership. "They are mine." When you have completed buying a piece of property the notary public stamps the deed with the government seal. Cattle on the range are branded and thus the owner is identified. The seal indicates guardianship. A seal is set for security. We are sealed until the day of redemption. Have you the seal? Show it then!

## The Choir And Oratory Room

(Read Ephesians 5)

In the Jewel Room we were bedecked as children of God and enjoined to walk worthy of our calling. We were sealed with the seal of ownership. Now we are to go out and be followers of God, as dear children. A Christian is "I" following Christ.

*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord* (5:19). Sing, Christian, sing! Christ wants it so. A singing heart guarantees a transformed life. When the spirit fills the heart, the lips overflow with praise. We will walk the Christian life as we sing and talk about Christ.

*Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit* (5:18).

The body, mind and spirit cannot function without outside stimulants. No one will think clearly or feel deeply unless something from without excites him. But this is where the tragedy comes. The world has plenty of powerful stimulants which give us quick and joyous reactions. But the results are devastating. Our bodies and minds are not made for such ruinous flames and are destroyed. Our bodies are for God's altars. *I beseech you therefore, brethren . . . that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice*, is God's plea. The Holy Spirit fires our bodies and spirits and sets them aglow but never destroys. Therefore "be not drunk with wine, (the wrong fire), but be filled (set aflame) with the Spirit." We can burn and never be consumed. We can live dangerously for God and never be in danger.

It is just as great a sin not to be filled with the Spirit of God as it is to be drunken with wine. Don't think that only ministers and missionaries need to be filled with His blessed Presence, but all! God's Spirit is waiting that He might fill His temples.

There is sociability in this great music room of God's Temple. We find it in relationship to everyone.

### A Christian's Walk Socially

As a wife .....	5:22
As a husband .....	5:25
As children .....	6:1
As servants .....	6:5
As masters .....	6:9

The Lord not only tells us to walk carefully in the spiritual sphere of our lives but in every other field. How is your walk as a Christian before your family, your friends, and your acquaintances? God demands a walk worthy of Him every place and everywhere. He teaches that a child of God must, under all circumstances, be a living witness of the power of Christ in his life.

## The Armory

(Read Ephesians 6)

Now we stand in a room hung with the whole armor of God. The armor is His, not ours! But He tells us to put it on. We must put on the whole of it if we will be safe.

The Christian's walk includes a warfare. Let us know the wiles of the forces marshalled against us!

You must come to Calvary for each piece of this wonderful armor. When we come and take it for ourselves, we can see that our whole body is covered. This armor is for defensive, not offensive, warfare. We are to *be able to stand against* the enemy. Stand, Christian, in the victory Christ wrought on Calvary. But you notice there is no armor for the back. The Christian is never supposed to run from his enemies but fight the good fight of faith, praying always! Keep in ceaseless communication with your Commander.



