

EPHESIANS 2021

1. Introduction

1:1-2

- a.** Paul an apostle.
 - By the will of God (See Act 1, Apostles were chosen by the Lord Jesus, were men, were (As far as we know from the word), Jews, and they had to have been with the Lord and the other apostles from the beginning of the Lord's public ministry all the way through to His ascension. They were called to be witnesses of His resurrection.
 - Look at Lk 9/10: there were more than the "12."
 - Look up Act 14:14: Paul and Barnabas were apostles.
 - Look at Rom 16:7: Andronicus and Junias were apostles.
 - Look up 1 Cor 15:3-8: After appearing to, among others, the 12, the Lord also appeared to "all the apostles" (vs 15:7).
 - An apostle was "one sent." They were chosen representatives of the Lord.

- b.** Paul adds "grace" (undeserved favor/kindness) to the traditional Jewish greeting of peace. Because of God's grace we who have believed have peace with God and with one another! We'll see more about this in chapter 2.

2. Paul praised God for all we have in Christ

1:3-14

- a.** What do we have in, through, because of, etc. Christ our Savior?
 - We've been blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing.
 - We were chosen in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. The cross was not "plan B." It was in God's mind in eternity past (See Rev 13:8). In Christ we have redemption, inclusion, forgiveness, reconciliation, adoption etc, etc. That was, and eternally is God's plan.
 - We have been adopted into God's family.
 - We have been given grace that God freely gives us in the One (Jesus) He loves.
 - We have redemption and forgiveness.
 - We have been shown the mystery of His will (See 3:6).
 - All things will be fulfilled and brought together in heaven and earth under our Lord Jesus, our Head.
- b.** Paul and his fellow workers had been chosen for the praise of God's glory.
- c.** The Ephesians were included (with God's redeemed) when (note the progression here):
 - They heard the word of truth, the gospel of their / our salvation.
 - Having believed (They heard and believed).
 - They were marked in Him with a seal (The Holy Spirit. At the moment they passed from death to life, they were made children of God.). See 1 Cor 12:12-13. It is the same for us.

3. Paul's prayer for the Ephesian believers. Good things we all need.

1:15-23

- a.** That God may give them/us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so we can know Him better. See 1 Cor 2:14-16.

- b.** That the "eyes of our heart" (our mind/will) might be enlightened so we can get our minds around the hope ("confidence") to which He has called us (1 Jn 5:13).

- c.** That the "eyes of our heart" may know the magnitude of His power for us who believe.
 - The same power by which Jesus was raised from the dead.
 - The same power that seated Jesus at the right hand of the Father and is above all for eternity. (See Phil 2:5-11).

EPHESIANS 2021

1. Then and now

- a. Then (Before we had trusted Christ as Savior).
 - We were dead in our trespasses (“*lawlessness*”) and sins (“*falling short of the mark*”).
 - That deadness characterized our lives as we conformed to the ways of this world, the ways also of Satan (The “prince of the power of the air”).
 - * The spirit now at work in unbelievers.
 - * Before we had trusted Christ, we were just like them and did whatever felt right.
 - * By nature, we were “objects of wrath,” that is, unbelievers under God’s condemnation.

- b. But...God:
 - Because of His great love for us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions. (Rom 5:6-8).
 - * He is rich in mercy (Mercy=not receiving the judgment we deserve).
 - * It is by grace we have been saved (Grace=receiving God’s unearned kindness).
 - God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms. A believer’s spiritual position is that they stand before the Father in the righteousness of Jesus (2 Cor 5:21).
 - * That in the coming ages He might bless us beyond our comprehension through Jesus.
 - * His grace has saved us, not anything that we can do-it is a gift of God.
 - * He has saved us for a purpose - good works.

2. Once far away (gentiles) now brought near (Grafted into believing Israel - see Rom 11: 11-24).

- a. Our spiritual condition before we were saved was:
 - We were “uncircumcised,” that is, not set apart for God.
 - Separate from Christ.
 - Excluded from citizenship in (believing) Israel.
 - Foreigners to the covenants of the promise (Gen 12:1-3, Gal 3:6-7).

- b. But...Jesus:
 - Is Himself our peace, making the two (Believing Jew and Gentile) one.
 - Destroying the barrier/dividing wall of hostility (the law of Moses) by His sacrificial death.
 - His purpose is to create one new man out of the two- the believer in Christ. (See Gal 3:26-29). There is peace in Christ.
 - Through the cross we have been reconciled. We are family if we are in Christ.
 - He came to us all, “near” or “far,” and we together have access to the Father by one Spirit.
 - We are now “mishpacha” - that is, family!
 - * In Jesus we are being made into a holy temple in the Lord. (1 Cor 3:9, 2 Cor 6:16)
 - * We are the dwelling place of His Spirit. (1 Cor 3:16, 2 Cor 6:16)

EPHESIANS
2021
Chapter 3

1. "For this reason" ... Because God has brought Jew and Gentile together as one people *in Christ*, Paul, "a prisoner of Christ for the sake of the Gentiles...." and he stops here and gives an explanation of how he came to be an apostle to the Gentile world. See Gal 2:6-10, Act 9:15 as well.
 - a. He says that "surely" they had heard about the administration (assigned task) of God's grace that was given to him (by God) for their benefit.
 - The mystery God had made known to him by revelation (See Gal 2:1-10).
 - * We think of a mystery as something unknown and "mysterious."
 - * In there New Testament the term means "something that was once hidden that is now made known to us."
 - Paul's insight into the mystery of Christ is explained in chapter 2:11-22.
 - * It was not yet made known in the past (e.g., see 1 Pet 1:10-12).
 - * Here it is: "through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members of one body (the church) and sharers (partakers) together in the promise of Christ Jesus.
 - b. How did Paul become a servant of the gospel?
 - By God's gifting (See 1 Cor 12, Eph 6:7-16, 1 Pet 4:7-11). The term gift in the NT is "charismata" in the original language. It means a "gift of grace." Because of God's kindness, He has given each believer in Jesus a ministry (See Rom 12:3-8, 1 Cor 12, Eph 4:7-16 etc.). What a blessing. Who are we that we should serve the living God?!
 - Why would Paul consider himself the least of all God's people?
 - To whom is the wisdom of God a witness through the church?
 - Why was Paul encouraged and why should the Ephesians be encouraged?
2. **Paul prays for there Ephesian church a second time (1st was 1:15-23). What does he pray that God will do for them?**
 - a. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit in their inner being so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith.
 - b. That the Ephesians, once might get a handle on the magnitude of the love of Christ. And not just "know" it in their heads, but to know and understand it.
 - c. He prays that we would be filled to be like Jesus.
 - d. He is well able! Beyond our comprehension.

EPHESIANS
2021
Chapter 3

- 1. What is the “mystery of the gospel?” (Vs 1-6).** That Jew and Gentile were heirs together through the gospel and members of one body (the church). This mystery had been revealed by the Holy Spirit to God’s apostles and prophets.
 - a. How was it made known to him? (vs 3, Gal 1:11-12).** By direct revelation. He was taught by our Lord Jesus, not by men. See also 2 Pet 1:16-21 for the Apostle Peter’s similar testimony.
 - b. What was Paul’s calling? (Gal 2:6-10).** He was called by God to be an apostle to non-Jews (Gentiles). See Act 9:1-19, especially verses 15-17; Acts 26:12-18; Rom 1:5-6; Gal 2:1-10.
 - **How does He describe his calling in verses 7-13?** He called himself a servant of the gospel. He subordinated other things for the sake of making it known. His focus was on evangelizing the Gentiles.
 - **To Whom also was the proclamation of the gospel (“The administration of this mystery”) a testimony?** It serves notice of God’s wisdom and to the angelic authorities (In this case, Satan and his demons) that His kingdom is advancing (See Mtt 16:18).

- 2. What is Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian believers? (Vs 7-21).**
 - a.** He prayed that God would give them power through His Spirit to be strong to live out their faith (That Christ would live in their hearts by faith). It’s one thing to merely attend church. It’s another to live seeking/knowing God. He wants their professed faith to be their reality.
 - b.** He prays that they would be rooted and established in love. That is, to know how secure And loved they are by God.
 - So that they can start to get their minds around how vast God’s love for them is.
 - That it might not be a theoretical concept but rather, something they *know* as true.
 - Our part is to seek Him. He’ll do the rest (vs 20—21).

HOMEWORK
For Eph 4
Part 1

Read the book through again and then from chapter 4, answer the following questions:

1. From verses 1-3, what does Paul urge us to do?

a. Define:

- Humble
- Gentle
- Patient
- Bearing with one another

There are a couple good on-line resources where you can check out the biblical language (Blue Letter Bible and Bible Hub are two great places to go). PS: They are free.

2. In verses 4-6 Paul gives us the basis for Christian unity. Make a list.

a. Why is biblical truth important? (E.g., Gal 1:6-9)

b. What would constitute genuine Christian unity?

3. From verses 7-16 answer the following:

a. What sort of people has God given to the church? (Vs 7-11)

b. For what purpose?

4. Look up Rom 12:3-8, 1 Cor 12 and 1 Pet 4:7-11. Make a list of the gifts from each passage.

a. How would our physical body function if some organs were missing (Say, gall bladder, spleen, pancreas?). If a limb or two was missing? An arm, leg, hand or finger(s).

- Could one still function?
- Could one function as well as before their disability? Explain. See 1 Cor 12:14-26 for some guidance.

- b. Why do you think that God has gifted His people in a variety of ways? What do you glean from these texts?**
- c. For what purpose has God granted these gifts? (1 Cor 12:7)**
- d. Who determines our gifting? (See 1 Cor 7:11)**

Questions: contact me at <loubetole@gmail.com>

EPHESIANS

Eph 4

Part 1

Read the book through again and then from chapter 4, answer the following questions:

1. From verses 1-3, what does Paul urge us to do?

a. Define:

- **Humble** - "Lowliness of mind," "modesty."
- **Gentle**- "mildness," the opposite of harshness.
- **Patient** - "long suffering," "forbearance."
- **Bearing with one another** - "To endure, have patience with..."

There are a couple good on-line resources where you can check out the biblical language (Blue Letter Bible and Bible Hub are two great places to go). PS: They are free.

2. In verses 4-6 Paul gives us the basis for Christian unity. Make a list.

- a. One body (Church)
- b. One Spirit (Holy Spirit)
- c. One hope ("expectation, confidence") to which you were called. (1 Jn 5:13)
- d. One Lord
- e. One faith (Gal 1:6-9)
- f. One baptism (Rom 12:9-11, 1 Cor 3:16, 1 Cor 16:19, 2:12-13, Eph 4:13, 2 Tim 1:14, 1 Jn 4:13)
- g. One God and Father of All. (Ex 3:14, Mal 2:10, Is 44:6)

a. Why is biblical truth important? (E.g., Gal 1:6-9). Because there is only one God and one gospel. To attempt to alter His message places one on the wrong side of His justice. See also Matt 7:15, Act 20:28-31, Rom 16:17, 2 Jn 1:10

b. What would constitute genuine Christian unity? Agreement with the gospel as it has been given and a commitment to live accordingly. See Tit 1:9, 13; Jude 3.

3. From verses 7-16 answer the following:

a. What sort of people has God given to the church? (Vs 7-11). In this case, God refers to gifted people He has given to the church: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

b. For what purpose? (12-16) To train up God's people for works of service so that - the body/church may be Unified, Mature and Stable.

4. Look up Rom 12:3-8, 1 Cor 12 and 1 Pet 4:7-11. Make a list of the gifts from each passage.

<u>Rom 12:3-8</u>	<u>1 Cor 12</u>	<u>1 Pet 4:7-11</u>
Prophecy	Wisdom	Speaking
Serving/helping	Knowledge	Serving
Teaching	Faith	
Encouraging	Healing	
Giving	Working of Miracles	
Leading	Prophecy	
Mercy	Distinguishing spirits	
	Languages	
	Interpretation of languages	

- a. How would our physical body function if some organs were missing (Say, gall bladder, spleen, pancreas?). If a limb or two was missing? An arm, leg, hand or finger(s). Ok, but not at its best.
- Could one still function? Yes but with an impairment.
 - Could one function as well as before their disability? Explain. See 1 Cor 12:14-26 for some guidance. I would say not at all.

b. Why do you think that God has gifted His people in a variety of ways? What do you glean from these texts? That we are all different and that God uses us in our diversity to strengthen His family.

c. For what purpose has God granted these gifts? (1 Cor 12:7). They are given to His people for the common good. Note that in no place are the gifts distributed for an individual's personal edification.

d. Who determines our gifting? (See 1 Cor 7:11). God and He alone.

HOMework

(Your mission, should you choose to accept it!)

Again, remember that if you have questions you can contact me at the following email:
<pastor@standishbiblechurch.org>

Read through the book of Ephesians again and then from chapter 4:17-32 answer the following questions.

1. Now this is a generality, but how do unbelievers live? (Ps 10:3-6)

2. How are unbelievers darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God? Draw up a list (from vs 17-19).
 - a. Define: ignorance
 - b. Define: hardness of heart.

3. How did we come to know the Lord? (Vs 20-24). Make a list.

4. OK, that (vs 20-24) sounds real “spiritual” but *how* does one do this? See vs 25-32
 - a. How hard is not to eliminate a bad habit from your life?

 - b. If someone tries to quit smoking, for instance, what other habit do they engage in that occupies both their hands and mouth?

 - c. To turn from one thing that is harmful, what is suggested in this text?
 - From falsehood, we are too turn to _____.
 - From holding a grudge, we are to do what? _____. See Lev 19:17-18.
 - From stealing/taking, we are to what? _____.
 - From hurtful speech, were are to seek to _____ those who hear us.
 - From nursing grudges and bitterness, we are to do what? (vs 29-32)

Questions? <pastor@standishbiblechurch.org>

EPHESIANS

Eph 4

Part 2

1. **Now this is a generality, but how do unbelievers live? (Ps 10:3-6).** In either a total disregard or ignorance of God.

2. **How are unbelievers darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God? Draw up a list (from vs 17-19).** Their thinking is futile (It isn't getting them anywhere but Hell). Because of their darkened understanding, separation from the life of God, willful ignorance and hardness of heart, they live existentially, trying to find happiness through self gratification. But nothing ultimately satisfies. They just want more but more doesn't do it for them.
 - a. **Define: ignorance.** Lack of knowledge (often willful), spiritual blindness.
 - b. **Define: hardness of heart.** "Covered with a callous, numbness, insensibility"

3. **How did we come to know the Lord? (Vs 20-24). Make a list.**
 - a. We heard of Him.
 - b. We were taught in Him according to His truth.
 - c. We were taught to "put off" the old corrupted life ("lay it aside, renounce" it, etc.)
 - d. We (were taught) to "put on" ("clothes ourselves with") the new, godly man/person.

4. **OK, that (vs 20-24) sounds real "spiritual" but how does one do this? See vs 25-32.**
 - a. **How hard is not to eliminate a bad habit from your life?** It can be tough. We get ourselves into a rut that we passively drift into. Think about language, eating habits, tobacco etc. Lots of stuff could be used as examples. The difficulty comes from having unthinkingly done some things for so long. It just becomes the pattern of our existence. When those patterns are ungodly and unhealthy we need to confront them. Anyone who has quit smoking, chewing, changed their diet etc. can easily relate. Inertia is a tough thing to buck.
 - b. **If someone tries to quit smoking, for instance, what other habit do they engage in that occupies both their hands and mouth?** Eating! If we don't approach repentance thoughtfully and intentionally we will simply drift into another potentially unhelpful habit or simply fall back into old ways.
 - c. **To turn from one thing that is harmful, what is suggested in this text?** Replacing it w/ something beneficial.

- **From falsehood, we are to turn to** telling the truth.
- **From holding a grudge, we are to do what?** Forgiveness **See Lev 19:17-18.**
- **From stealing/taking, we are to what?** Giving! Spending our resources to bless others instead of taking from them.
- **From hurtful speech, we are to seek to** build up and benefit those who hear us, instead of tearing them down.
- **From nursing grudges and bitterness, we are to do what? (vs 29-32).** Forgive and let go of bitterness and the rage, anger, Malice etc. that accompanies it and seek to be kind, compassionate and forgiving just as we have received from Christ.

HOMEWORK

Read Ephesians through if you can and from chapter 5:1-6:9, and answer the following questions:

1. **Why does a loved, secure child tend to emulate their parents?**
2. **How does a person walk (live) in love? (See Jn 13:34-35, Lev 19:18, Jn 15:12, 17; Rom 12:10, 13:8; Gal 5:14, 1 Thess 4:9, 1 Pet 1:22).**
3. **What does it mean to love your neighbor (Keep in mind that we are being asked to do something not feel something)?**
 - **Look up the following passages and write down what they say about things that will keep us out of heaven.**
 - * 1 Cor 6:9-10
 - * Gal 5:21
 - * Col 3:4-6
 - * Rev 21:8
 - * Rev 22:14-15
 - **In what way are such sins idolatry?**
 - **Is a believer capable of committing any sin?**
 - **What does God's word say about such sin in a believer's life? (See Act 5:1-10, 1 Cor 5, 6:12-20) .**
 - **Is salvation a license to do what I please? (See Rom 6).**
4. **What has happened for the believer that should make their life different? (Vs 8-14).**
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

5. According to verses 15-20 how should believers live? Make a list. As wise

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

EPHESIANS
Chapter
5:1-6:9

1. **Why does a loved, secure child tend to emulate their parents?** They are secure and usually desire to do what their parents are doing.

2. **How does a person walk (live) in love? (See Jn 13:34-35, Lev 19:18, Jn 15:12, 17; Rom 12:10, 13:8; Gal 5:14, 1 Thess 4:9, 1 Pet 1:22).** Make the conscious choice to seek the good of others. To treat them as we desire to be treated.

3. **What does it mean to love your neighbor (Keep in mind that we are being asked to do something not feel something)?** To do what is best for them as a commitment.
 - a. **Look up the following passages and write down what they say about things that will keep someone out of heaven.**
 - **1 Cor 6:9-10.** Sexual sin, worship of things other than God, theft, greed, habitual intoxication, slander, dishonesty in our financial/business affairs.
 - **Gal 5:21.** Sexual sin, impurity, sensuality/lasciviousness, false worship, occultic practices, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, habitual intoxication, orgies etc.
 - **Col 3:5-6.** Sexual immorality, impurity, lust (uncontrollable desires that enslave a person), evil desires, greed.
 - **Rev 21:8.** Cowardice, unbelieving, vile (“to stink,” behavior that is just detestable), murderers, sexually immoral, occult practitioners, idolaters, liars.
 - **Rev 22:14-15.** Dogs (those of impure mind), occult practitioners, sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.
 - b. **In what way are such sins idolatry?** They place self over God. Self *becomes* god.
 - c. **Is a believer capable of committing any sin? Yes.**
 - d. **What does God’s word say about such sin in a believer’s life? (See Act 5:1-10, 1 Cor 5, 6:12-20) .** They will be subject to discipline, even death. And those who claim salvation and yet live as unbelievers may well be deceived and unregenerate.
 - e. **Is salvation a license to do what I please? (See Rom 6).** No!

4. **What has happened for the believer that should make their life different? (Vs 8-14).**
 - a. Now that we are in Christ, we are exposed to His light: although we were once lost in darkness (Spiritually clueless - 1 Cor 2:14-16) we are enlightened. I.e., we know better.

- b. We should live our lives accordingly. If we do so we will find out (Lit: “discern, test and approve”) what the Lord’s will is. Do you desire to know His will? See Him and seek to live according to His word.
- c. To live our lives to honor Christ will expose the spiritual darkness of those living around us who do not know Him. We are not to be partakers (have fellowship with) such. Our Lord calls us to be in this world, but not **of** it (Jn 17:13-19). Note, this doesn’t mean we call out/expose the sins of others. It means rather, to be “salt and light” in this world and to be different. In this world but not of it!
- d. The light of Christ illuminates everything. Think: Who is He?

5. According to verses 15-20 how should believers live? Make a list. As wise

- a. Carefully (with exactitude, accurately) - not as unwise but wisely. I.e., believers should walk (“live, conduct their lives”) with their “eyes” open. Walk in the light! Make good use of your allotted time here on earth in this twisted world (It is morally corrupt, pain-causing).
- b. Don’t be foolish (“w/o reason, senseless, foolish”) but understand (“perceive”) what the Lord’s will is: Do not get drunk (intoxicated, see also Act 19:19 - “magic arts” here, elsewhere “pharmakeia” or use of drugs / sorcery - e.g., Gal 5:20, Rev 21:8). The idea seems to clearly be that a believer is not to be controlled by something outside themselves but rather, by the Spirit indwelling them.
 - To “be filled” is what kind of language, active or passive?
 - What is the filling of the Holy Spirit? See Is 6:1-8, Rom 12:1, 6:13, 1 Cor 6:20, Eph 4:1 etc. *Here is a disclaimer: What follows here is my opinion. Yes, I base it on my understanding of scripture but it is my opinion. The text here does not define the filling of the Holy Spirit. Some observations regarding the things indicative of the Spirit-filled life:*
 - * *The language is passive. We cannot do the filling. All we can do is offer ourselves to God. He does it.*
 - * *It is the direct opposite of yielding ourselves to the control of an outside agent (Alcohol, methamphetamine, MJ etc.).*
 - * *It seems to be something we are to consciously choose to do. (A lot like Is 6:8).*
 - * *It is a command (present, imperative, middle or passive voice) - we’re not talking an option here but a clear directive from God.*
 - * *Some people confuse the filling with the baptism of the Spirit. It is best always to make the distinction. 1 Cor 12:12-13 speak of the baptism of the Spirit that places a person into the family of God upon the moment they believe. Jn 14:23, Rom 8:9-11, Gal 4:6, make it clear that a person cannot be a believer and yet not have the Holy Spirit.*
- c. Speak to yourselves and one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music. In your heart to the Lord. Even if you think you cannot sing, do it! It involves our mind, body and spirit. Praise Him!
- d. Be thankful! It is God’s will for us (Eph 5:4, 1 Thess 5:18). Be thankful to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is because of Him that we have everything.
- e. Live in mutual submission: A military term meaning “to rank yourself under.” When a person enlists, among other things they swear to obey all lawful orders etc. They rank themselves under the duly constituted authority set over them.
 - Wives
 - Husbands

- Children
- Parents
- Servants
- Masters

Notice that we are called on by God to do our part. E.g., a husband cannot demand that his wife defer to his leadership in the home. It is only something she can do as part of her worship of God. Likewise, a woman cannot demand that her husband place her welfare/needs ahead of his own. It is between him and the Lord as a matter of his worship of God. This give and take applies on the job, applies with parents and kids etc. “Let your moderation (“gentleness, reasonableness, mildness”) be known unto all. “ Phil 4:5). This is one of the things that flow from the infilling of the Spirit.

HOMEWORK

Your “mission” (should you choose to accept it) - Read Ephesians through once and then from chapter 6:10-23, answer the following questions.

- 1. Finally, *how* are we to be strong (“be empowered”)?**
 - a. What does God want for us? See Paul’s prayer in 1:15-23, 3:14-19**
 - b. What is the armor of God? Make a list. See also Is 11:5, 59:17, 1 Thess 5:8.**
- 2. Why is God’s armor essential? (See 6:12 - just who are our foes?)**
- 3. In 6:18 we are told to “pray in the Spirit.” What do you think this means?**

Look up the following verses and write down what they say about prayer.

- a. Rom 8:26-27**
- b. 1 Cor 14:13-17**
- c. Phil 4:6**
- d. Col 4:2**
- e. 1 Jn. 5:13-15**
- e. Jude 1:20**

- 4. For what may we pray?**
- 5. How can we be alert in our praying?**
- 6. How often should we pray (6:18)**
- 7. What does Paul ask the Ephesians to pray regarding himself? (6:19-20)**
- 8. How does Paul close this letter? (21-23)**

EPHESIANS

Part 2

6:10-23

1. **Finally, *how* are we to be strong (“be empowered”)?** In the Lord and in His power. We need to rest in His strength and sufficiency. Pray, do. The best we can and trust God for the result.
 - a. **What does God want for us?**
 - **1:15-23.**
 - * To have a spirit of wisdom and revelation that we might know Him better.
 - * That we might be enlightened in order to fully comprehend the confidence to which He has called us. In Him we are secure. We are joint heirs with Christ.
 - * That we might know His power at work in us who believe (See Phil 2:12-13)
 - **3:14-19**
 - * That we might be strengthened within by God.
 - * That our lives might reflect Christ Who dwells within us.
 - * That we might get our minds around how much God loves us. A functional, working knowledge.
 - b. **What is the armor of God? Make a list. See also Is 11:5, 59:17, 1 Thess 5:8.**
 - Truth (Ps 119:160, Jn 17:17)
 - God’s righteousness
 - A readiness to share the gospel
 - Faith
 - Salvation
 - Word of God
 - Prayer
2. **Why is God’s armor essential? (See 6:12 - just who are our foes?).** We are not merely contending with humanity, but with the Devil and his minions who attempt to influence and Control this present world as they oppose God and His people (e.g., see Dan 10:12-21).
3. **In 6:18 we are told to “pray in the Spirit.” What do you think this means?** The text says to “pray always,” i.e., “in every season/time/occasion.” And to be watchful. Know what we pray about, do not utter empty, thoughtless prayers (See Matt 6:7-8). In Jude 1:20 we have the same thought expressed. It likely does not indicate glossolalia as in 1 Cor 14:15 it seems clear that the understanding of the one praying must be involved. Note in Rom 8:26-30 speaks of the *intercession of the Spirit*. The language here is present tense, meaning that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us not when words fail us but *continually*. I do not know about anyone else, but it greatly encourages me to know that God is aware of me, cares for me and that His Spirit and Son intercede continually for me. In the language of 1 Thess 5:17, we are to pray continually, “w/o ceasing. Look up Lk 18:1, 1 Tim 2:1, Heb 4:16.

Look up the following verses and write down what they say about prayer.

- a. **Rom 8:26-27.** The Spirit continually intercedes for God's people.
- b. **1 Cor 14:13-17.** We need to pray with our brain engaged.
- c. **Phil 4:6** We are not to harbor anxiety but bring everything to the Lord.
- d. **Col 4:2** We are to devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful (alert) and thankful.
- e. **1 Jn. 5:13-15** If we seek God's will in prayer He will answer.
- e. **Jude 1:20** We are to be proactive in seeking spiritual growth and to pray in the Spirit.

4. **For what may we pray?** Anything.

5. **How can we be alert in our praying?** Be focused. Follow up on prayer requests.

6. **How often should we pray (6:18).** Continually.

7. **What does Paul ask the Ephesians to pray regarding himself? (6:19-20).** He must have figured that God had him where He wanted him, so he prayed to be productive where he was (imprisoned).

8. **How does Paul close this letter? (21-23).** With a personal note about Titus and a benediction.