

LESSON 24 – PAUL, THE PILOT OF SALVATION LINER

Epistles of Paul

THEME: To show the responsibility of the believer to make plain to everyone what is the dispensation/administration of the mystery of Ephesians 3:9.

Last time we left off where the STOP barrier had been placed across KINGDOM HIGHWAY, where we turned off into glorious GRACE HIGHWAY. What makes GRACE HIGHWAY different from the other roads we have been traveling on *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE*? Paul was chosen to write about *secrets, or mysteries* as God revealed them to him. His letters are called the Pauline epistles. They are in principle named for cities or areas where believers were located to whom Paul wanted to minister or had ministered, or the names of individual believers to whom he wrote.

One day, a man named Tychicus arrived at the church in the city of Ephesus, with a letter to the believers, a letter from the apostle Paul who was in prison. We base this on Ephesians 6:21-22: “But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.” When the believers read this epistle, they found new and wonderful truths revealed in it. In the fourth chapter, Paul writes about the **SEVEN ONES**, which are very important for all believers in Christ to know. We should remember *all seven ones* as they are found in Ephesians 4:4-6:

1. **ONE BODY.** No longer is there Jew first, but now Jews and Gentiles become members of *one Church, one Body*, with Christ the Head, when they are saved. On the chart you see the BODY OF CHRIST is in the heavenly places, where Christ is seated, and when we, believers in Christ, became a part of His Body we were seated in the heavenly places with Him. Ephesians 2:6, 13-16.
2. **ONE SPIRIT.** The Holy Spirit baptized us into Christ’s death when we believed in the death, burial and resurrection on the third day of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He also raised us up with Christ to sit in the heavenly places, and sealed us securely and eternally in Christ so that nothing can separate us from Him. Ephesians 1:13; Romans 8:38,39. We need to understand that we have these spiritual blessings already even though we still live here on earth in our physical bodies.
3. **ONE HOPE OF OUR CALLING.** The Blessed Hope is that the Lord Himself will in one moment call up all the members of His Body, dead or alive, to be with Him forever. We use an airplane at GRACE AIRPORT to represent THE BODY OF CHRIST which will one day be caught up to be with Christ forever. In but a moment of time, faster than a

blink of the eye, our bodies will be changed to be like our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

4. **ONE LORD.** Our Lord Jesus Christ is the One who loved us and gave Himself for our sins, who now prays and mediates for us, and whom we should glorify in all things. Galatians 1:4; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 10:31.
5. **ONE FAITH.** This is the body of truth which was delivered unto Paul by the Lord Jesus Christ for the Church of God which is THE BODY OF CHRIST. Ephesians 3:2-10; 1 Corinthians 12:27.
6. **ONE BAPTISM.** This is the baptism of the Spirit which baptizes us into and makes us members of THE BODY OF CHRIST. 1 Corinthians 12:13. Christ has many members of His Body, just as you have hands, feet, arms, but all work together directed by Christ the Head. Romans 12:5; Colossians 1:18.
7. **ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL.** God becomes our Father because we are one with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We are also fellow heirs with Him. Ephesians 1:11, 3:6.



Source: Sweet Publishing - for illustration purposes of Paul writing from prison only

Do you see now why this is such a glorious part of *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE*? To be made *one with Christ*, to become a part of Him, and all by grace, is surely something which none of the saints in other dispensations knew. Ephesians 3:5.

How do you think people should act who are part of Christ and called *sons of God* (Galatians 3:26)? Paul tells us that we should walk like saints. We should focus our mind/affection upon things above, even though our walk is here upon the earth. Colossians 3:2. Especially in Ephesians 4:17-32 and Colossians 3 we are instructed how that walk should be.

We should walk so that men about us know that we are the sons of God. One thing is certain – our stand for the truth will mean little if our conduct does not harmonize with our testimony. In Ephesians 2:1-2, the apostle reminds us that we were once “dead in our trespasses and sins, in which we formerly walked according to the course of this world...” But in Romans 6:4 he says that we have been raised to “walk in newness of life.” There should be a radical change in our conduct after we are saved. If there is not, there is a necessary doubt about someone’s resurrection to “newness of life” and about someone’s salvation of eternal death.

We are debtors – to the Spirit, who indwells us, not to the flesh. With the Spirit in us to help us, there is no justification for complaining about our weakness, or for excusing our sins by saying: “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak,” or “I am human after all.” The question, in times of temptation, is generally whether we truly *desire* to overcome, for deliverance is by grace, through faith. It is *not* true that it is not possible for the believer to sin, but it *is* blessedly true that in any given case, it is possible for him/her not to sin, and if we truly desire to be delivered from sin in any time of temptation, the Spirit is there to help. Romans 8:12-15.

Today, Jew and Gentile are at the same level and must enter into the fellowship of God as *one*, having no difference. Salvation is free and can be obtained through believing on the Lord Jesus Christ as the *only Saviour from eternal death and sin*. Immediately, upon trusting Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour from going to hell, you are baptized by the Holy Spirit to become a member of this heavenly BODY OF CHRIST.

MEMORY VERSE: “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8,9.

