

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP

EPHESIANS Lesson One



CHAPTER ONE

“To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved” [Eph. 1:6 (KJV)].

This epistle, written and delivered about the same time as Philipians, Colossians and Philemon, was written by the apostle Paul while he was a prisoner in Rome about AD 60-62. Although it bears the name of the church in Ephesus, it was intended to be circulated among all the churches in Asia. Unlike many of Paul’s letters, Ephesians does not deal with specific problems within a local church or with an individual. Instead it addresses the common needs of all believers and the truths most essential for today’s church, also known as the Body of Christ.

Through this Bible study you will gain a greater understanding of the revelation God gave to Paul concerning the “dispensation of the grace of God” and the “mystery of Christ.” When you are done you should have a better appreciation of your position in Christ and how to live a more Christ-like life.

In preparation for this series of lessons, please prayerfully read through the entire Book of Ephesians. Do not begin the question and answer section until you can answer YES to the following question:

Have you read through the entire Book of Ephesians? _____

REMEMBER to begin in prayer and to reread the chapter before beginning each lesson.

1. (v. 1) How did Paul become an apostle (chosen messenger) of Christ Jesus? _____

2. To whom is this letter written? _____
and to the _____

3. In his greeting verse 2 Paul emphasizes grace and peace. These are two great themes in this book. (See also Eph. 2:8-9, 14.) In your own words, tell what you think these words mean?

Grace: _____

Peace: _____

4. (v. 3) How has God blessed us? _____

5. (v. 4) When were we chosen in Christ? _____

6. (v. 5) What did God predestinate (determine beforehand) us to? _____

7. Who is referred to as “the Beloved”? (v. 6) _____
(If you are unsure, read Matt. 3:17.)
8. (v. 8) According to the riches of God’s grace, we have two things. What are they? _____

NOTE: Paul’s primary purpose in writing Ephesians was to explain his insight into the mystery which had been kept secret since before the world began, but which God had chosen Paul to reveal to the world. Here, in Paul’s writings only, we read about the Church of the Mystery. Some may say, “But there is a church mentioned in early Acts before the apostle Paul was converted.” True, but that was not the church which is Christ’s body, made up of both Jews and Gentiles on an equal basis. The early church was strictly a Jewish church composed only of Jews and proselytes (converts to Judaism). This church was not a mystery at all, for Old Testament prophecy spoke of it frequently (Acts 2:16).

9. In verse 10 mention is made of a “dispensation.” This word means a period, stewardship, or an administration, during which God deals with mankind in a certain way. For example, in the Garden of Eden, before Adam and Eve sinned, we have the first dispensation - Innocence. There was no need of God’s moral law or of judgment because man had not yet sinned. Later we see another period, known as the dispensation of Law. The law was added by God to reveal sin.

Christ was born during the dispensation of Law? True: _____ False: _____

(If unsure, read Galatians 4:4.)

(Note to NIV users: The word “dispensation” was left out by the translators of the NIV Bible. No alternative word was provided.)

10. There is yet to be “a dispensation of the fullness of the times,” according to verse 10.
What is the present-day dispensation, this period in which we are now living? (Read Eph. 3:2.) _____

- Study 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. Is this the dispensation of the ONE BODY? _____
- Study Ephesians 3:8-9. Is this the dispensation of the MYSTERY? _____
11. (v. 10) What is God going to do in the dispensation of the fullness of times? _____

12. (v. 11) What have we obtained as a result of being in Christ? _____

13. (v. 13) What did you have to hear before you believed in Christ? _____

STOP! Take a moment to pray. Ask God to help you think of someone with whom you might share the “gospel of salvation.” Begin praying for that person and look for opportunities to share with him/her what your relationship with Christ has meant to you.

Person’s Name: _____

14. Observe also in this verse that we are “sealed” into Christ. Who does this sealing? _____

15. According to verse 14, why was the Holy Spirit given to us? _____

16. Who is God’s possession? _____ (See 1 Cor. 6:20)

17. If you are God’s possession, sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption and guaranteed an inheritance, can you lose your salvation? Yes _____ No _____

NOTE: Pastor H. B. Prince of Minneapolis, in a volume titled, Saved, Sealed, Seated, Sanctified, has written as follows: “We have received the Holy Spirit and the new nature as an earnest of our inheritance. Now the seal is God’s guarantee that we are going to realize all the blessings of God. You have God’s down payment and He cannot go back on His deal. He cannot go back on His contract....”

18. (v. 17) What did Paul pray that God would give the believers? _____

19. Paul’s prayer continues in verses 18 and 19. The prayer concerns three things “that you may know”:

1. (v. 18) _____

2. (v. 18) _____

3. (v. 19) _____

20. (v. 20) How was God’s power demonstrated? _____

21. Where is Christ Jesus right now? _____

22. (v. 21) Over what has Christ been given authority by the Father? _____

23. When does Christ have this authority? _____ and _____

**This current age is the church age, the dispensation of grace (Eph. 3:1-10).
The age to come is the kingdom (Acts 1:6; Rev. 20:4).**

24. (v. 22) What position does Christ have over the Church? _____

25. (v. 23) What is the church called? _____