

Friday: Intro *(Cont)*

(Chap 6)

Ephesians is a fascinating book to me. It begins with the high lofty mysterious eternal purpose of God and closes with the nitty gritty everyday battle we face.

It begins with a desire in the mind of God before the world began, proceeds with an impossible call to life issued to dead sinners and concludes with spiritual life as the new normal for all of God's redeemed!

Key verse: Vs 10

Thoughts: This chap is a continuation of Chap 5. It shows the life of a spirit-filled, spirit-led Christian. It is interesting to note that all of these things in chap 5-6 relate to relationships.

Truly life is relationships and the answer is you and I submitting to the Spirit's leading and letting Him work in us and through us.

Taped to my pulpit is the verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:24

“Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

This verse illustrates this same truth. Before the foundation of the world was laid, God knew I would be saved. My life is planned; He called me to do something and to be something that I cannot do or be.

He has to do it and He will. Now, ...are you saved? He is faithful towards you too! You must follow Him.

This is what Paul was saying in Phil 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ”

So we have journeyed from the eternal mind of God to what He has called you to be. God's Spirit and God's church are what He uses to accomplish His purpose. Let us respond to both

Daily Devotions

Ephesians – Week 1

Monday: Intro.

I wanted to briefly outline the book of Ephesians for your enjoyment. As I study it I see the whole Christian life in a book. I will list the chapters and the theme and the key verse with thoughts on each. *You do not need to read each chapter till we get there, just think about the main verses.*

(Chap 1) This chapter is set “before the foundation of the world.”

Key verses = Vs 3-5

Thoughts: Our life “in Christ” began before the foundation of the world. We cannot totally understand this, but we should rejoice in our Heavenly Father's preparation for us.

(Chap 2) This chapter is about salvation.

Key verses = Vs 1-10

Thoughts: Our salvation is a result of being “in Christ” (Vs 6). In God's mind you and I are already in Heaven.... We are just running the course He set to Him. From start to finish it is because of Him.

Tuesday: Intro. *(cont)*

(Chap 3)

Chapter 2-3 are linked. Salvation puts us into Christ and forms a new body. As a husband and wife are one, so is Christ and those “in Him” This is the formation of the “Church” (*See Chapt 2: 19-22*)
Key verses Vs 20-21

Thoughts: Just as God dealt with Israel for so long now we are in the “Church age.” The body is not Gentile or Jewish, but one body, the church. The church does not replace Israel, but is the mystery hid by

God for so long (See Ephesians 3:1-6). God will deal with Israel again, but for now He is building His church.

Today; be very wary of anybody who downplays the church or the necessity of it. The church is God's plan for this age; false teachers are promoting spirituality over Christianity. We cannot divorce Christ from His bride the church. To be true to Christ is to be true to His church.

Wednesday: Intro *(Cont)*

(Chap 4) in this chap we see a real transition. We started "before the foundation of the world," (Chap 1) looked at our salvation (Chap 2), saw the establishment of Christ's church (Chap 3).

Now we begin to see practical Christian living as a result of all this in chap 4.

Key verses: Vs 11-16

Thoughts: The transition from "sinful man" to "man living as God intended" takes place in God's church. God has set up the "churching" (assembling) in such a way to edify each other. It is astounding to think that God's ordained, eternal purpose is accomplished in us and through us by our dedication to His church.

Let me encourage you to be loyal to God's program of the local church. I say "local" because many will pay "lip service" to the church and refer to it as a "invisible institution" Can you imagine a man claiming he was for the family yet neglecting his wife and kids!

The church is the 'pillar and ground of the truth," not the building but the people. Let me encourage you to be for Christ's program the local church.

Thursday: Intro *(Cont)*

(Chap 5)

The end of Chap 4 and all of chap 5 give us hope for this new life. I would despair of the high calling I have would it not be for the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life.

Key verses = Vs 17-18

Thoughts: There is a great truth here. We are already told in the chapter about our salvation (Chap 2) that we are "His workmanship" (Eph 2:10). He would bring forth his purpose in our lives.

We are called to holiness unto good works; this is what Ephesians 5:17 is about. But we were dead in sins! It seems unfair to ask a guy who was a slave to sin to "bring forth fruit unto God"

God through the Spirit within us convicts us, guides us and teaches us and fulfills God's purpose and calling "that was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (Vs 18)

Every person either is "following the spirit" "purposely resisting the spirit" or "has not the spirit." (unsaved)

If you are saved, God has a purpose and a claim on you that was established before the beginning of the world. Accomplishing this plan is success. You could be a failure in man's eyes but if God's plan is accomplished through you.... You are a success!

We are called to submit unto the spirit's leading in our lives. Right now are you submitting to the Spirit of God in every area? The eternal purpose of God is accomplished through people like you following the Spirit's leading.

