

## Daily Devotions

Ephesians – Week 3

(Vs 1-12) Paul is saying that he has been chosen by God to reveal this “mystery.” The time of the church, the bride of Christ!

We are living in what is called the “church age.” In actuality we have “churches” and when the Lord comes we will have one giant church with the “Great Shepherd” as our Pastor.

It is important to recognize that anybody who downplays the importance of the Church is downplaying what God emphasis. To be on God’s program is to be interested in Christ’s church.

**Saturday/Sunday:** (Ephesians 3:13-21)

(Vs 13-16) Are you ever concerned for other people? We all are, sometimes there is nothing we can do for them and this is a helpless feeling. Paul said he prayed for this church. (Vs 14)

(Vs 16) The Holy Spirit can strengthen what we cannot, the inner man. This is why prayer can do what we can’t.

(Vs 17- 19) Paul prayed that they would know the love of God. I believe the more we understand of God’s love the more we love Him. Vs 19 tells us it “passeth knowledge”

*1 John 4:19*

*We love him, because he first loved us.*

(Vs 20-21) These verses are really the culmination of the preceding truths. God has chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world, set out on a mission to save us, establish a body called the church! Of course He is able to do abundantly above all that we ask or think! What power He has shown and does show towards us!

(Vs 21) This is what is due Him after all He has done for us! What a Father we have! He has been exceedingly gracious towards us.

**Monday:** (Ephesians 2:1-6)

(Vs 1) Notice the personal nature of this verse “you.” If you are saved, you were dead in sins, but God has “quickened”(made alive) “You” Not your neighbour, not just the preacher but YOU! What a blessing to have a personal salvation.

(Vs 2-3) Before we were saved, we walked according to this world. We had a life that is radically different from what God intended. It was characterized by “disobedience.” Notice how it is implied that this was the past way of life not a present reality.

(Vs 4) Someone pointed out to me the order of these 2 first words “But God” = This offers great victory, but when we reverse these two words into “ God but.....” we have great defeat. Which way are you approaching things in your life? God is able!!!!!!

(Vs 4-6) God is the great lover of man and is seeking man. Here we see the truth of being “in Christ”

When Christ died you died, when Christ was buried you were buried and when Christ arose victorious over sin.... So did you! (Col 3:3)

We **are** saved by works, not ours but Christ’s. In Him we have everything. Thank the Lord for His works on our behalf!

**Tuesday:** (Ephesians 2:7-10)

(Vs 7) Do you ever wonder what we will do in Heaven? I suppose there will be amazing things to see, but the most amazing thing to see and fully understand according to this verse will be to fully see the “exceeding riches of his grace” towards us.

We can scratch the surface and see hints of God’s great plan of redemption and His love for us, but it is vastly more complex and amazing than we understand!

(Vs 8-9) these are famous verses. They show how salvation is all of God and none of us. These are verses you should learn well to give to people who are trying to “work their way to heaven”

If you could earn heaven it would be the most unpleasant place to spend eternity with all the boasting! In heaven all praise and glory will be to God who saved us according to His grace!

(Vs 10) Even after salvation we are “His workmanship.” He is still working on us to walk in “good works” In fact; this is why He saved us. Have you paused to wonder why He saved you? As we saw in Chapt 1 you are “elect.” Before the U.S. president is sworn into the office he is called the “president-elect,” destined for a purpose. Well friend, you are “elect, chosen of God” for a purpose, God has predestined you (not for salvation) but because of your salvation!

You have a “high calling” to live up to, but do not worry, its still of grace, God will work with you! As we are made aware of our calling we are called to live up to it and God’s purposes are accomplished.

Today and every day; my challenge to you is to live up to your position in Christ!

### **Wednesday:** (Ephesians 2:11-18)

(Vs 11-13) Ephesians was given primarily to Gentiles who had no part in the OT laws. Not only were they “without Christ” but they were outside God’s covenant with the Jews (being Gentiles). Vs 12 describes us too.

(Vs 13) Christ’s blood changed all this.

(Vs 14-18) There has always been a “wall” between Jew and Gentile. Christ tore it down and through Him we both (Jew and Gentile) have access to God (Vs 18)

It is a fact that the “ground is level at the cross” Any person can be saved who comes to Christ in faith! Rich-Poor, Jew-Gentile, there is only one door, Christ!

### **Thursday:** (Ephesians 2:19-22)

(Vs 19-22) this verse is a verse that is “good” for us, but very, very shocking and reassuring to these first century Gentile believers.

There were Judaizers =Jewish people trying to mix law and grace and in some cases trying to make Christianity hereditary to the Jews only. They were making Christianity an exclusive club!

These verses tell us that there is “one body” or “one building.” Jesus Christ is the “chief corner stone” and we are a “habitation of God”

It is not contingent upon being Jewish or keeping the law, but being God’s child through faith in Jesus Christ!

This offended some of the “moral Jews” who had kept the law so strictly while the Gentiles were saved out of pagan temples etc.

This is a good reminder to us that God makes all things new. A person can be saved from a horrible life and he is just as part of the “body of Christ” as a child saved in the Sunday School. This is GRACE! We ought to accept one another as God has accepted us!

### **Friday:** (Ephesians 3:1-12)

Wow! This is a good Chapt! Do you realize by reading these verses we are reading of God’s secret that He hid from the beginning of the world (Vs 9).

**God’s secret is this:** That He would gather unto Himself a people that had not sought Him and He would form one body (Jew and Gentile) called “The Church!”

Now understand what we have seen. Chapt 1: We saw God’s choosing in Christ known as “Election” This is entirely consistent with man’s free will. Chapt 2 We saw God’s saving of man and tearing down the barriers between Jew and Gentile and a new body being formed as a habitation of God. = The church.

