

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

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I. A CALL TO WORSHIP: IN PRAISE OF GOD'S GLORY (1:1-3:21)

1:1-2 THE GREETING OF THE GOSPEL

- a) Saints through the will of God (1:1)
- b) Grace and peace (1:2)

1:3-14 THE PRAISE OF GOD'S GLORY

(NOTE: A single sentence in Greek without a stated main verb, which has to be supplied!
Any subdivision is interruptive of the doxological character of the passage.)

- a) A doxology—expressive of adoring gratitude to God
- b) A spiritual heritage in Christ the Beloved One—election (v. 4), new character (v. 4), adoption (v. 5), redemption (v. 7), forgiveness of trespasses (v. 7), wisdom and insight (v. 8), knowledge of the mystery of God's will (v. 9), chosen according to purpose (v. 11),, salvation (v. 13), sealed with the Spirit (v. 13), a guaranteed inheritance (v. 14)
- c) In Christ, we are called to be a “praise of God's glory” (1:6, 12, 14)

1:15-23 THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S MIGHT

- a) A prayer for full knowledge of God (1:15-18)
 - 1) Acknowledgement of thanksgiving for faithfulness and expression of love (1:15-16)
 - 2) Prayer for a spirit of wisdom and revelation of full knowledge of God (1:17)
 - 3) Prayer for knowledge of the hope of God's calling and the glory of God's inheritance to the saints (1:18)
- b) Christ, the power of God's might (1:19-21)
 - 1) Pleonastic focus—surpassing greatness, power at work, strength—“the working of the power of his might” (1:19)
 - 2) Focus on the resurrection and exaltation of Christ (1:20-21)
- c) The church, the full completion of all things in Christ (1:22-23)

2:1-10 THE WEALTH OF GOD'S GRACE

- a) Children of wrath unto death (2:1-3)
- b) The surpassing wealth of God's grace in Christ (2:4-7)
- c) Salvation by grace through faithfulness (2:8-10)
 - 1) Creation of God as gift
 - 2) Created in Christ for good works
- d) God's grace works good (a noun, 2:10)

2:11-22 THE WORKING OF GOD'S PEACE

- a) In Christ, plight has become provision (2:11-13)
- b) Christ himself, our peace (2:14-17)
 - 1) He brought hostility to an end
 - 2) He abolished the law of commandments given in ordinances (2:15)
 - 3) There is one corporate unity
 - 4) Both Jew and gentile are reconciled in one new body in Christ (2:14)
 - 5) Our "new person" is reconciled to God (2:15-16)
 - 6) Christ "gospelled" peace (2:17)
 - 7) Reconciliation comes through a self-sacrificial cross (2:16)
 - 8) Christ destroyed the "dividing wall" of fragmentation (2:14)
- c) Christ, our access to the Father (2:18-22)
 - 1) Christ is the cornerstone (2:20)
 - 2) The singular people of God grows together as a sanctuary in the Lord (2:21)
 - 3) All people are built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (2:22)

3:1-21 THE REVELATION OF GOD'S MYSTERY

- a) The mystery made known (3:1-13)
 - 1) The mystery of God's grace in Christ revealed to Paul (3:1-7)
 - 2) The mystery of grace (3:8-12)
 - 3) Glory in affliction (3:13)
- b) The response of worship (3:14-21)
 - 1) The surpassing wealth of God's glory (3:14-19)
 - 2) Doxology (3:20-21)

II. LIVING OUT THE WORSHIP OF GOD (4:1-6:24)

4:1-32 THE CHARACTER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- a) The calling of the church (4:1-16)
 - 1) The unified identity of calling (4:1-6)
 - 2) The grace of growth in Christ (4:7-16)
- b) The new creation of God (4:17-24)
 - 1) Pagan conduct (4:17-20)
 - 2) Contrasting conduct in Christ (4:21-24)
- c) The seal of grace (4:25-32)
 - 1) Living out new relationships (4:25-29)
 - 2) The seal of God's grace (4:30-32)

5:1-6:9 THE PROPER IMITATION OF GOD

- a) Live as [Become] God's beloved children (5:1-6)
 - 1) Imitation of God: A high calling (5:1-2)
 - 2) The character of the children of the Kingdom (5:3-6)
- b) Live [Walk] as children of light (5:7-14)
 - 1) From darkness to light (5:7-14a)
 - 2) A hymn to Christ the Light (5:14b)
- c) Live [Walk] and worship wisely (5:15-21)
 - 1) Understand the will of the Lord (5:15-17)
 - 2) Be full of praise (5:18-20)
 - 3) Mutual subjection in Christ (5:21)
- d) Live out relationships in Christ (5:22-6:9)
 - 1) Wives and husbands (5:22-23)
 - 2) Children and parents (6:1-4)
 - 3) Slaves and masters (6:5-9)

6:10-20 THE FULL PROVISION OF GOD

- a) Be clothed with the power of God (6:10-13)
 - 1) Be strong in the Lord (6:10)
 - 2) Put on God's full clothing (6:11-13)
- b) Stand! (6:14-20)
 - 1) The armor of the saints (6:14-17)
 - 2) Prayer and proclamation (6:18-20)

6:21-24 THE CLOSING WORDS OF PROMISE

- a) Personal words of promise (6:21-22)
- b) The Promise of God's Gospel (6:23-24)
 - 1) Peace (6:23)
 - 2) Grace (6:24)

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