

“The Benediction (Valediction): My Wish & Prayer for You”

Outline of Ephesians:

- I. Greeting: Author; Audience; Advantages – 1:1-2
- II. God’s Eternal Plan for the Church Explained – 1:3 – 3:21
 - A. Doxology – 1:3-14 [A Run-on of Praise]
 - 1. The Father’s Role in Redemption: Sovereign Election & Predestination (4-6) [What the Father did for us in Eternity Past: Sovereign – He chose; Individual / Personal – He chose us; In Jesus; Unconditional – before the foundation of the world; Purposeful – purity; family; God’s glory]
 - 2. The Son’s Role in Redemption (7-12) [What the Son is doing for us in the Present: Savior – Redemption – Sacrificial Substitute (7-8); Supreme – Revelation – Sovereign Lord (v. 9-10); Sharer – Adoption – Inheritance (v. 11-12)]
 - 3. The Spirit’s Role in Redemption: Identification / Authentication / Possession / Protection (v. 13-14) [What the Spirit is doing for us in the Present and in the Future: Seal: prove ownership; certify genuineness or authenticity; demonstrate authority; guarantee security; Pledge]
 - B. Paul’s First Prayer – 1:15-23 [A Run-on of Prayer]
 - 1. The Motivation (15) [Faith + Love] = Genuine Believers
 - 2. The Model (16) [Persistence and Balance]
 - 3. The Matter: Illumination (17-23)
 - a. Grow in knowledge of God (17)
 - b. Grow in knowledge of God’s blessings (18-23)
 - 1) The hope of His calling (18) [Past]
 - 2) The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (18) [Future]
 - 3) The surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe (19-23) [Present]
 - a) Defined (19a)
 - b) Illustrated: Resurrection; Coronation & Subjection; Connection (19a-23)
 - C. Personal Application of God’s Eternal Plan – 2:1-10 [A Run-on of Grace]
 - 1. What we were: Dead; Drifting; Destined for wrath (1-3)
 - 2. Who God is: Rich in Mercy; Great Love (4)
 - 3. What God did: Made us alive; Raised us up; Seated us (5-6)
 - 4. Why God did it (7)
 - 5. How God did it (8-9)
 - a. Positives (what we must affirm about salvation): God saved us; it has been accomplished; it is entirely by grace; it is through faith
 - b. Negatives (what we must deny about salvation): that we had anything to do with it; that good works have anything to do with it
 - 6. What we are (10)
 - D. Corporate Application of God’s Eternal Plan – 2:11-22
 - 1. The Command: Remember! (11)
 - 2. The Content: What you were (11-12); What you are (13-18)
 - 3. The Consequences: Citizens of God’s Kingdom; Members of God’s Family; Stones in God’s Temple (19-22)
 - E. The Mystery of the Church in God’s Eternal Plan – 3:1-13
 - 1. Opposition to the Mystery (1)
 - 2. Revelation of the Mystery (2-6)
 - 3. Proclamation of the Mystery (7-8)
 - 4. Administration of the Mystery (9-10)
 - 5. Implications of the Mystery: Boldness; Confident Access; Tribulations (11-13)
 - F. Paul’s Second Prayer – 3:14-21
 - 1. Principles: Pray according to Scripture; in humility; intimately; according to God’s nature / character (14-16)
 - 2. Petitions: Spiritual strength; Comprehend and know the love of Christ; Fullness (16-19)
 - 3. Proclamation: God can do it; Give God the glory! (20-21)
- III. God’s Eternal Plan for the Church Applied (4:1 – 6:22)
 - A. What – 4:1 – Walk Worthy!
 - B. How – 4:2-6:22
 - 1. Walk in Unity – 4:2-16
 - a. Unity in the Church: the human spirit / attitude: humility; gentleness; patience; tolerance (2)
 - b. Unity in the Church: The Divine Spirit (3)

- c. Unity in the Church: The Foundation (4-6) [One Body – our Common DNA (4); One Spirit – our Common Source (4); One Hope of your Calling – our Common Future (4); One Lord – our common Master (5); One Faith – our Common Belief / Gospel / Doctrine (5); One Baptism – our Common Confession of Jesus as Lord (5); One God and Father – our Common Sovereign Ruler and Dad (6)]
- d. Unity in the Church: The Diversity of Spiritual Gifts (7-16)
 - 1) Who (7-10)
 - 2) What: Apostles; Prophets; Evangelists; Pastors and Teachers (11)
 - 3) Why: Equipping of the Saints; Until we all attain unity and maturity (12-13)
 - 4) So What: no longer children; grow to maturity; every member working properly; built up in love (14-16)
- 2. Walk in Holiness (new life) – 4:17-24
 - a. Not like an unbeliever [what you were: Useless, Senseless, Fruitless Worldview (17); Spiritually Blind (18); Spiritually Lifeless Soul (18); Willful Ignorance (18); Hard Heart (18); Sinful Lifestyle (19)]
 - b. Like a Believer [what you are: lay aside / put off the old self; renewed in the spirit of your mind; put on the new self] (20-24)
- 3. Walk in Love – 4:25-5:2
 - a. Put off Lying; Put on Speaking Truth [Motive = we are members of one another] (25)
 - b. Put off Sinful Anger; Put on Reconciliation [Motive = don't give the devil and opportunity to dive and conquer] (26-27)
 - c. Put off Stealing; Put on Hard Work and Generosity [Motive = we can share with one who has need] (28)
 - d. Put off Unwholesome Words; Put on Edifying Words [Motive #1 = it will give grace to those who hear. Motive #2: do not grieve the Holy Spirit] (29-30)
 - e. Put off Sinful Attitudes & Actions (bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice); Put on Godly Attitudes & Actions (kind, tender-hearted, forgiving) [Motive = God loves you this way] (31-32)
- 4. Walk in Sexual Purity – 5:3-14
 - a. Mandate / Method: Put off: immorality; impurity; greed; filthiness; silly talk; coarse jesting; Put on: giving of thanks
 - b. Motivation: Those who walk in sexual sin will not go to Heaven (5); Those who walk in sexual sin will experience God's judgment / wrath (6); A believer's new nature is light, not darkness (7-10); Sexual sin is contrary to your mission in the world (11-14)
- 5. Walk in Biblical Wisdom - 5:15-6:9
 - a. Exhortations (5:15-21)
 - 1) Walk Cautiously: Look before you Leap (15-16)
 - a) Mandate: Be Careful! (15)
 - b) Method: Put off unwise / Put on wise (16a)
 - c) Motive: The days are evil (16b)
 - 2) Walk Submissively (17-21)
 - a) Mandate: Do not be foolish > do not get drunk; Understand the will of the Lord > be filled by the Spirit
 - b) Motive: Don't get drunk with wine & waste your life
 - c) Method / Marks: Singing to people and to God; Thanksgiving; Submitting to authority (19-21)
 - b. Examples (5:22-6:9)
 - 1) Marriage (5:22-33)
 - a) Submission of the Wife: exhortation; explanation; illustration (22-24)
 - b) Servant Leadership of the Husband: exhortation; explanation; illustration (25-30)
 - c) Summary of a Spirit-filled, wise marriage (31-33) [Love & Respect]
 - i. Purpose for marriage: Priority; Permanence; Portrait (31-32)
 - ii. Primary Application in Marriage: Husband - love; Wife - respect (33)
 - 2) Family (6:1-4)
 - a) Children (any age): obey & honor parents & other authorities, because it's right, well-pleasing to the Lord, and it's a commandment with a promise (1-3)
 - b) Fathers (parents): don't provoke children to anger; bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord
 - 3) Workplace – Employees & Employers / Bosses (6:5-9)
 - a) What: Slaves: Spirit-filled actions, attitudes, allegiance, ambition, and aim; Employers / Bosses: Spirit-filled atmosphere and authority
 - b) Why: Slaves: real boss is Jesus; rewards; Employers / Bosses: real boss is Jesus; rewards
- 6. Walk in God's Resources – 6:10-22
 - a. God's Strength (10-20)
 - 1) The Panoply: full armor of God (10-13)
 - a) Command #1: Be strengthened (10)
 - b) Command #2: Start putting on the full armor of God (11-12)
 - c) Command #3: Start taking up the full armor of God (13)

- 2) The Parts: belt of truth; breastplate of righteousness; shoes of the Gospel of peace; shield of faith; helmet of salvation; sword of the Spirit (14-17)
- 3) The Process [Imperative (what) followed by participles (how)] (14-20)
 - a) Start standing firm: having girded; having put on; having shod; having taken up (14-16)
 - b) Start taking the helmet & sword: while praying (with all prayer, petition, at all times, in the Spirit); while being on the alert (with all perseverance, and all petition, for all the saints, and for Paul too)
- b. God's Servants: the Report; the Reporter; the Relationship (21-22)

IV. Benediction (Valediction) – 6:23-24 – ²³ Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible *love*.

A. Paul's Wish & Prayer (23-24)

1. Peace

2. Love with faith

3. From God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

4. Grace

B. For You

1. Brethren

2. Who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible *love*

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. What is your favorite verse or passage in Ephesians? Why? How have you practiced it in your daily life?
2. Why does Paul begin and end each of his letters focusing on **grace**? See Rom. 1:7; 16:24; 1 Cor. 1:3; 16:23-24; 2 Cor. 1:2; 13:14; Gal. 1:3; 6:18; Phil. 1:2; 4:23; Col. 1:2; 4:18; 1 Thess. 1:1; 5:28; 2 Thess. 1:2; 3:12; 1 Tim. 1:2; 6:21; 2 Tim. 1:2; 4:22; Tit. 1:4; 3:15; Philemon 3, 25.
3. Why is **grace** so important to him? What should it be important to us?
4. What is **peace**? What specific problem in the church at Ephesus made peace so important? How do we get peace with God? With one another? How does understanding our peace with God motivate us to pursue peace with one another?
5. What is the connection between **love and faith**? What else has Paul said about love in the book of Ephesians? How deep is your understanding of God's love? How could it grow deeper?
6. What impact do grace, peace, love and faith have on our ability to live out the truths in the book of Ephesians?
7. Why does Paul specifically say, "peace be to the **brethren**"? Why not say peace be to everyone in the whole world? What peace is only available to the brethren?
8. What does it mean to love the Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible *love*? Why is the word *love* in italics?
9. Why does Paul limit these blessings to people who love Jesus? In what sense is loving the Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love the true sign of saving faith? Use Scripture.
10. Read Acts 20; 1 Timothy; 2 Timothy; Rev. 2. Are there any examples of people who professed to love Jesus but it wasn't an incorruptible love? What happened to them? If they didn't repent, what does that tell us about them? What does John tell them to do in Revelation 2?
11. Spend some time praying with one other person or a small group of people. Ask God to pour out His peace, faith, love, and grace on them. Ask Him to cause their love for Jesus to grow deeper and stronger. Pray that their love would issue forth in radical obedience to His commands. Pray that their love would grow all the days of their lives and that they would finish the race more in love with Jesus than ever. Commit to pray this way every day this week for that person (those people).