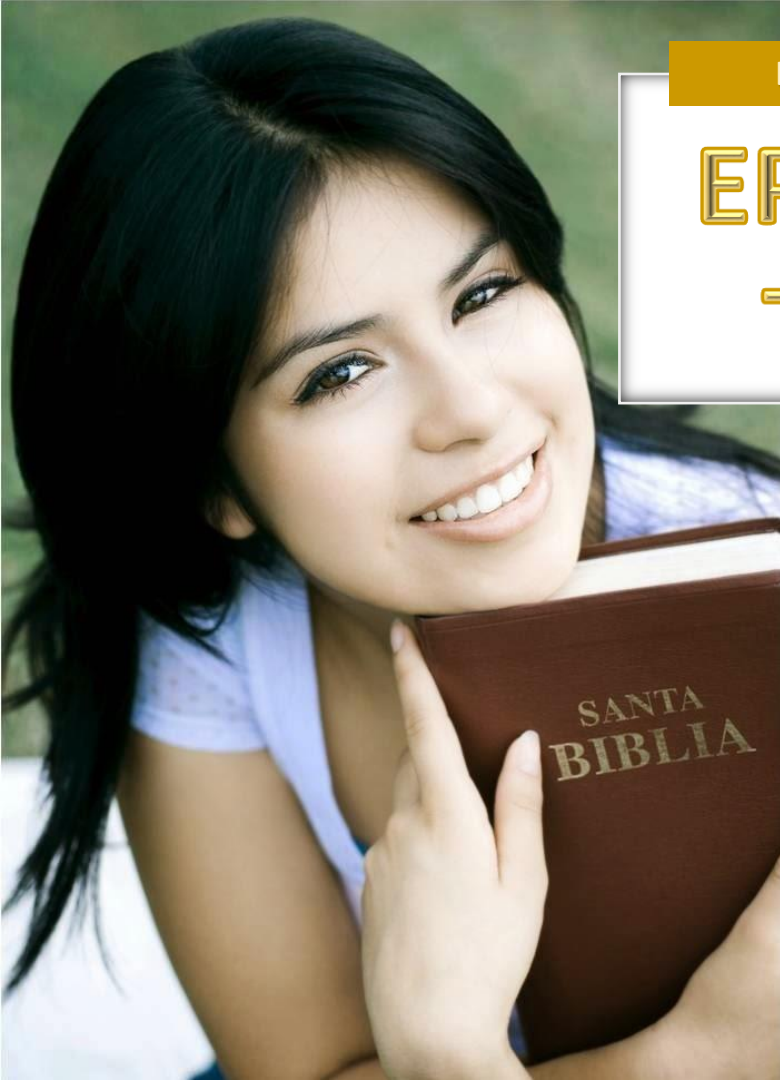


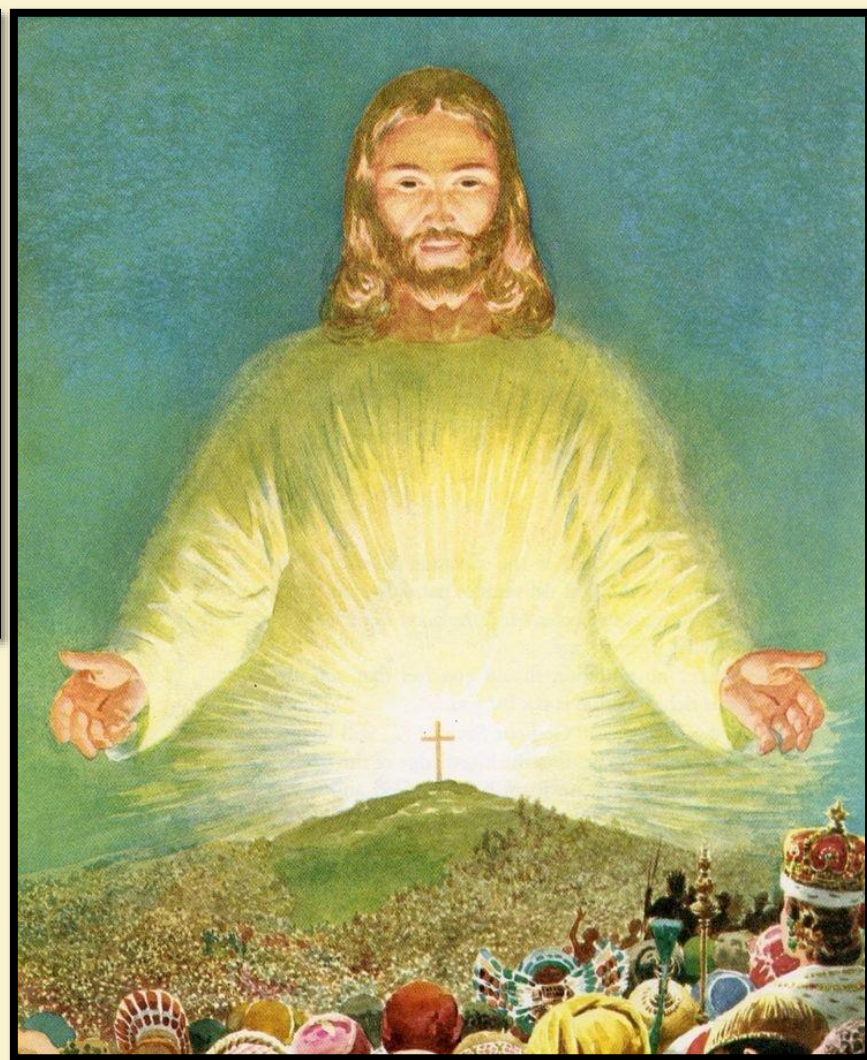
Lesson 14 for September 30, 2023

EPHESIANS IN THE HEART





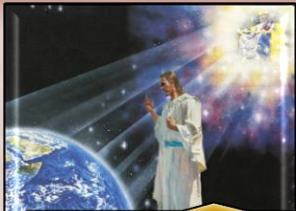
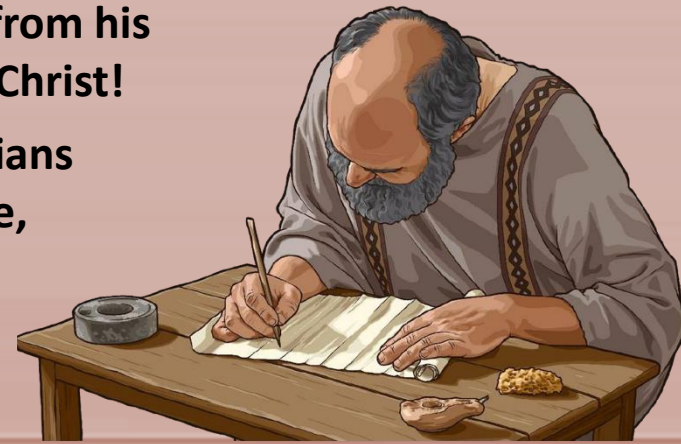
“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:8-10)



In 62 AD, Paul decided to write to the believers in Ephesus from his confinement in Rome. What would he talk to them about? Christ!

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the apostle reminded the Ephesians (and us) that Christ grants us blessings, grace, unity, new life, love...

Paul concluded his letter by encouraging us to take up the necessary armor to overcome in our battle against evil.



Ephesians 1



Ephesians 2



Ephesians 3



Ephesians 4



Ephesians 5



Ephesians 6

Gifts in Christ

Grace that breaks down walls

The mystery of Christ

Unity and new life








Walking in love

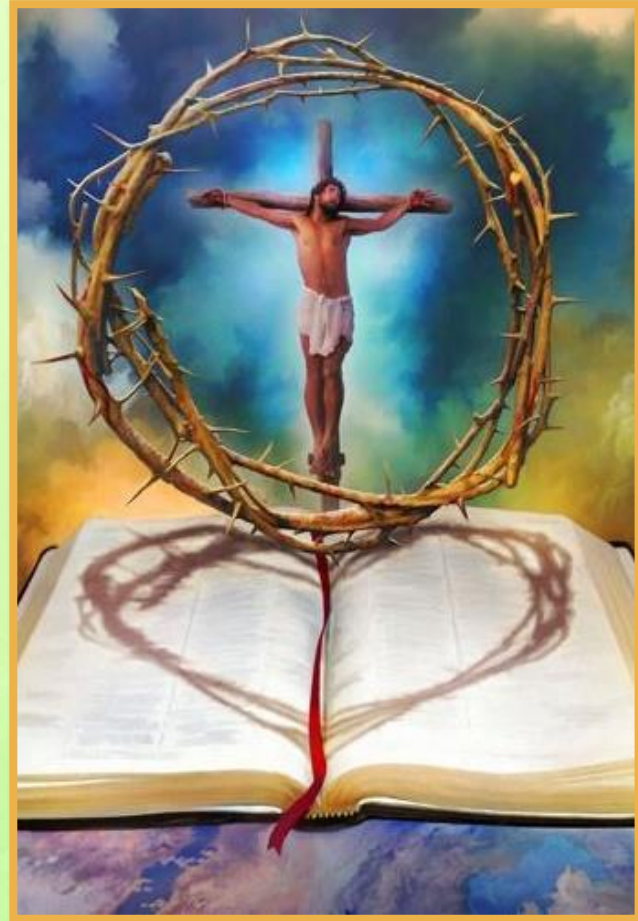
Armed for battle

Ephesians 1: GIFTS IN CHRIST

Paul wrote a quick overview of the plan of salvation from "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4) to "the redemption of the possession acquired" (Ephesians 1:14).

This plan is filled with gifts from God in Christ:

-  He gives us every spiritual blessing (v. 3)
-  He makes us holy and blameless (v. 4)
-  He adopts us as sons (v. 5)
-  He redeems us (v. 7)
-  He gives us wisdom and understanding (v. 8)
-  He gives us an inheritance (v. 11)
-  He seals us with the Holy Spirit (v. 13)



At the end of his introduction, Paul prays that God may enlighten our understanding to comprehend that everything is subject to Christ, who is the head of the Church (Eph. 1:17-23).

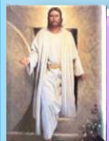
Ephesians 2: GRACE THAT BREAKS DOWN WALLS

What has God's grace done for us, and how does it affect our relationships with others?

What God's grace has done for us
(Ephesians 2:1-10)



It gave us life *WITH CHRIST* (v. 5)



It raised us up *WITH CHRIST*
(v. 6a)



It seated us *WITH CHRIST* (v. 6b)



It created us *IN CHRIST* for good
works (v. 10)

What God's grace does with our relationships
(Ephesians 2:11-22)



Christ brings us near to one another
by His blood (v. 13)



Christ tears down the walls that
separate us (v. 14)



Christ "kills" enmities (v. 16)



Christ makes us members of His family
(v. 19)

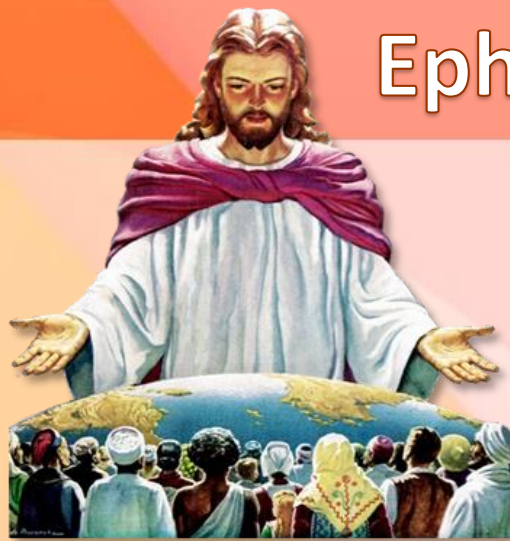


Christ coordinates us and makes us a
holy temple (v. 21)



Christ makes us the dwelling place of
God in the Spirit (v. 22)

Ephesians 3: THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST



In chapter 3, Paul reveals to us a plan of God, which he calls "the mystery of Christ" (Ephesians 3:4).



God conceived the plan and kept it hidden (v. 9)



Jesus fulfilled the plan (v. 11, NIV)



This plan was revealed to Paul and others (v. 3-5)



Paul was entrusted with proclaiming the plan (v. 7-8)



Ultimately, everyone knows the plan (v. 10)

And what is this plan? "That the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel" (Ephesians 3:6).


This implies a united Church. And Paul prays that each of us may be "strengthened with power... through his Spirit" and be "filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:16, 19).



Ephesians 4: UNITY AND NEW LIFE


Ephesians 4 begins the practical part of the letter: how to make unity in the Church a reality.


 First, by caring for one another (v. 1-3, 16).

 Next, the unifying elements are listed: one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God (v. 4-6).

 Christ grants us the gifts necessary to achieve unity (v. 7).

 He has also placed people responsible for reaching unity: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (v. 11-13).

 We are encouraged to grow together, avoiding internal issues that may arise (v. 14-15).

 Finally, each of us should experience a change in life so that we can be kind to one another (v. 17-32).



Ephesians 5: WALKING IN LOVE



**We must imitate God (Ephesians 5:1).
How can we do this? By following
Christ's example: walking in love (v. 2).**

**To be able to do this, we must abandon
"dark" habits of our lives, not associate
with those who indulge in sin, and do
what pleases God (v. 3-12).**



**We are encouraged to make the most
of our time and be filled with the Holy
Spirit so that, together, we can sing,
praise, and give thanks to God
(v. 15-20).**

Final advice for achieving unity:



**Submit to one another
(Eph. 5:21)**



**Husbands love their
wives, and wives respect
their husbands
(Eph. 5:22-33)**



**Children honor their
parents, and parents do
not provoke their children
(Eph. 6:1-4)**



**Slaves serve their masters
as unto the Lord, and
masters treat them kindly
(Eph. 6:5-9)**

Ephesians 6: ARMED FOR BATTLE

The letter to the Ephesians concludes with a vigorous call to action. We are God's army and actively fight against "spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12, NIV).

Though the enemy is powerful, God has provided us with the necessary armor to stand firm:



Truth
(v. 14a)



Righteousness
(v. 14b)



The gospel of peace
(v. 15)



Faith
(v. 16)



Salvation
(v. 17a)



The Word of God
(v. 17b)



Prayer
(v. 18)

With these weapons, victory is guaranteed!

“The powers of darkness stand a poor chance against believers who love one another as Christ has loved them, who refuse to create alienation and strife, who stand together, who are kind, courteous, and tender-hearted, cherishing the faith that works by love and purifies the soul. We must have the Spirit of Christ, or we are none of His.

In unity there is strength; in division there is weakness.”

E. G. W. (Sons and Daughters of God, October 6)