

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace *be* to you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded

toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

15. Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

CHAPTER 2

AND you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of your-

selves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

11. Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile

both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

CHAPTER 3

FOR this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

4 Whereby, when ye read, ye

may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

14. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The Book of Ephesians is another of Paul's prison letters. In it he deals with the church collectively, as the body of Christ, the Bride. In his pastoral epistles, such as Timothy and Titus, he deals with the church as a local body, serving Christ. Both emphases are necessary for a balanced ministry. Certainly, in the mind of God, He sees the whole body with Christ as the Head; but as far as the work of the ministry is concerned, He works through the local assemblies in different places. It is the local church that receives the greater emphasis in the New Testament, but the ministry of the local church will be stronger if the members realize their position in the body of Christ.

The blessings of chapter 1 are numerous. In verses 3 and 4 God the Father has chosen us; in verse 5 He has accepted us. The blessings from God's Son, in verses 7-12, are as follows: He has redeemed us; He has forgiven us; He has revealed God's will to us; and He has made us an inheritance. Some of the blessings from the Holy Spirit are listed in verses 13 and 14: He has sealed us, and He has given us an earnest to our inheritance. "Earnest money" in business means money given as a down-payment for a purchased possession. Christ has purchased our future for us, but we have not yet entered into all the blessings. God has given us His Spirit as the down-payment, to assure us that we will experience that total redemption and receive God's promised blessings in glory.

Chapter 1 emphasizes our possessions in Christ; chapter 2 emphasizes our position in Christ. A man's position determines his possessions and power. Regardless of where the President of the United States may be physically, his position as the man who sits behind the desk in the White House gives him power and authority. So it is with the Christian. Regardless of where he might be physically (and Paul was in jail when he wrote this), we have power and authority in the spiritual realm because of our position in Christ.

Chapter 3 closes the first half of Ephesians, in which Paul has described our wealth in Christ. He is about to move into the practical section (our walk in Christ). But first he pauses to pray. He begins his prayer in verse 1, but does not continue it until verse 13. In verses 2-12 Paul is explaining his special ministry to the body of Christ; and in verses 13-21, his prayer is one of intercession for the saints at Ephesus.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart" (Proverbs 8:5).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 34 (found on page 8).

HYMN FOR THE DAY

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Latin hymn, 18th century English translation by Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880

The songs of the Christmas season comprise some of the finest music known to man, and this hymn is certainly one of our universal favorites. It was used in Catholic churches before it became known to Protestants. Today it is sung by church groups around the world since it has been translated from its original Latin into more than 100 other languages. The vivid imagery of the carol seems to have meaning and appeal for all ages in every culture.

The original Latin text consisted of four stanzas. The first calls us to visualize anew the infant Jesus in Bethlehem's stable. The second stanza is usually omitted in most hymnals, but it reminds us that the Christ-child is very God Himself:

*God of God and Light of Light begotten,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created—
O come, let us adore Him.*

The next stanza pictures for us the exalted song of the angelic choir heard by the lowly shepherds. Then the final verse offers praise and adoration to the Word, our Lord, who was with the Father from the beginning of time.

For many years this hymn was known as an anonymous Latin hymn. Recent research, however, has revealed manuscripts that indicate that it was written in 1744 by an English layman named John Wade and set to music by him in much the same style as used today. The hymn first appeared in his collection, *Cantus Diversi*, published in England in 1751. One hundred years later the carol was translated into its present English form by an Anglican minister, Frederick Oakeley, who desired to use it for his congregation. The tune name, "Adeste Fideles," is taken from the first words of the original Latin text, and translated literally means "be present or near, ye faithful."

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold Him, born the King of angels:*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing all ye bright hosts of heav'n above;
glory to God, all glory in the highest:*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.*

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1941

THE UNITED STATES DECLARED WAR ON JAPAN.

1765

ELI WHITNEY WAS BORN.

1776

GEORGE WASHINGTON CROSSED THE DELAWARE.

1940

FOUR HUNDRED BOMBERS RAIDED LONDON.

1840

DAVID LIVINGSTONE SAILED FOR AFRICA.

This great missionary had perhaps as much influence on the cause of missions and the Gospel of Christ around the world as any man since Bible times. Let us thank God for his life and ministry. Pray today for missionaries whom you know.

THE FARMERS' ALMANAC GIVES TODAY AS THE DAY OF CONCEPTION IN THE VIRGIN MARY OF THE CHRIST CHILD.

Whether this be true or not, no one knows, but we can thank God for the virgin birth of Jesus Christ and vow to stand for it until He comes again.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1925

The birthday of Sammy Davis Jr. (1925-1990).

1936

NAACP filed first suit in campaign to equalize the salaries of black and white teachers. *Gibbs v Board of Education in Montgomery County, Md.*, was the first of a succession of suits that eliminated wage differentials between black and white teachers.

Michigan Chronicle founded by Louis E. Martin.

Spingarn Medal presented to John Hope posthumously for his achievement as president of Morehouse College and for his creative leadership in the founding of the Atlanta University Center.

1972

Death of Rep. George Collins (47), in airplane crash, near Midway Airport, Chicago.

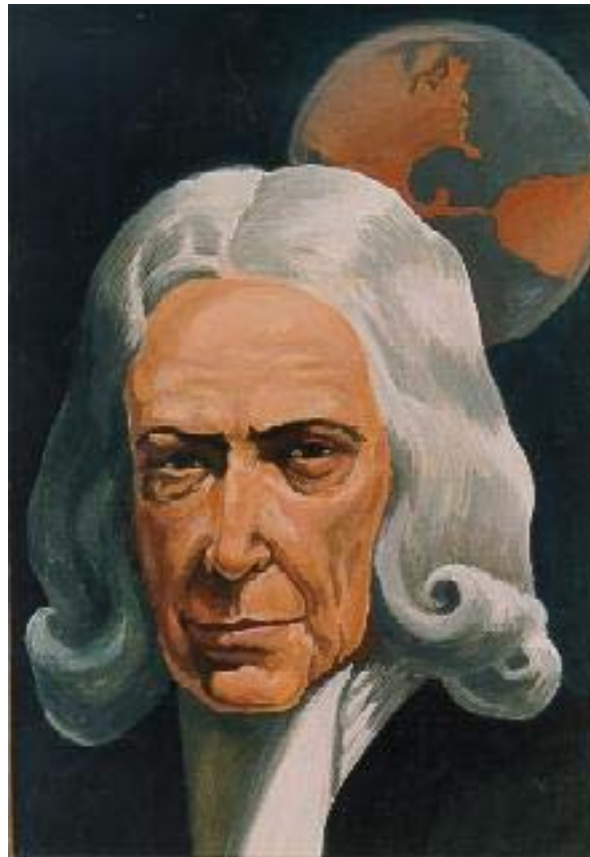
Atty. Jewel Lafontant named deputy solicitor general.

A Christian Life . . .

JOHN WESLEY (1703-1791)

Founder of Methodism. John Wesley was converted to Christ at the age of 35. Before his conversion, he had done missionary work among the American Indians as an Anglican minister. He was cast out of the Anglican Church and spent the rest of his life preaching in the fields and on the streets. He was up each morning before 5:00 for prayer and Bible study, and rode on horseback 15 to 20 miles a day, preaching four or five times daily.

During his lifetime, Wesley traveled 250,000 miles, preaching a total of 42,000 sermons. He died at the age of 88 and preached up to the very month in which he died.



MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 34 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION:

Divine inspiration evident in that the scriptures correct those who are trapped in error.

A. THE ERROR OF BEING SAVED BY LIVING A RIGHTEOUS LIFE

() Matthew 5:20

For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

() Luke 16:15

And he said unto them, yet are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

() Galatians 3:10

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

() Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

() Ephesians 2:9

Not of works, lest any man should boast.