

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 01 Sept 2019	Ephesians 1:1-14	Rejoice
2) 08 Sept	Ephesians 1:15-23	Remembered
3) 15 Sept	Ephesians 2:1-10	Resurrected
4) 22 Sept	Ephesians 2:11-22	Reconciled
5) 29 Sept	Ephesians 3:1-13	Revealed
6) 06 Oct	Ephesians 3:14-21	Residence
7) 13 Oct	Ephesians 4:1-10	Walking Together
8) 20 Oct	Ephesians 4:11-16	Walking Forward
9) 27 Oct	Ephesians 4:17-32	Walking Differently
10) 03 Nov	Ephesians 5:1-14	Walking in Love
11) 10 Nov	Ephesians 5:15-21	Walking Wisely
12) 17 Nov	Ephesians 5:22-6:4	Walking as Family
13) 24 Nov	Ephesians 6:5-20	Walking to Battle

**INTRODUCTION**

- Ephesians is refreshing since Paul does not deal with any sin issues, but writes to expand the knowledge of his readers with the dimensions of God's eternal purpose for His church
- Paul may have written this letter about the same time as Colossians while he was in prison in Rome (~60 A.D.)
- Paul started the Ephesian church(es) on his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey with Silas (Acts 19). He was there about 2 years.
- On Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary trip he stayed at Ephesus for 3 years
- Yet, with all this fine attention by a preeminent Apostle the Ephesians would be reprimanded for leaving their first love ..... [Rev 2:4](#)
  - ♦ Every church is always one generation away from Apostasy
- The first 3 chapters focus on what Christians should believe, unfolding the glorious riches of God's grace in Christ
- The last 3 chapters explain the implications of God's grace for the church, for individuals, and for families – including being outfitted with the armor of God to withstand the onslaught of the devil

Passage	Comments
Acts 19	<p><b>Paul's First Encounter with Ephesus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-7. Paul met and baptized about 12 Ephesian men in the name of the Lord Jesus, who were only acquainted with the baptism of John. After laying his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying</li> <li>• vv7-10. Paul, for the first 3 months spoke boldly in the synagogue in Ephesus, reasoning and persuading his listeners about the Kingdom of God – and within 2 years “all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks”</li> <li>• vv11-17. God worked “extraordinary miracles by the hand of Paul” so that even his handkerchiefs were used to heal sick people and demoniacs.</li> <li>• vv18-20. Those believers who were involved in magic arts burnt their books, and “the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.”</li> <li>• vv21-41. Eventually, Paul left Ephesus following a city-wide riot let by Demetrius, a silversmith</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
Eph 1:1-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first 14 verses actually are only 2 sentences in the Greek</li> </ul>
vv 1-2	<p><b>Paul an Apostle of Jesus Christ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick intro of Paul's credentials (an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God)</li> <li>• “To the saints who are at Ephesus...” – “...at Ephesus” is not in 3 early mss giving a hint this may have been a circular letter to various churches in/around Ephesus</li> <li>• Why would Paul emphasize his Apostolic credentials?</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Paul stressed his credentials to new or struggling believers such as the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, and Colossians</li> <li>♦ Paul even accentuated his Apostolic credentials in his first letter to Timothy, but this letter had a wider audience than just to Timothy</li> <li>• By stating his credentials, Paul is emphasizing we need to listen to him – cause he's got the battle scars from being on the front line for the Lord.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Who in our church has got battle scars from serving the Lord today? Anyone? Any retired missionaries?</li> <li>♦ Do degrees or diplomas count? How do we give honor to whom honor is due?..... <a href="#">Rom 13:7</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
vv3-14	<p><b>God Chooses, Predestines, &amp; Seals Us</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v3. “Blessed with every spiritual blessing”             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Wouldn't you also want to be blessed with “earthly” blessings, such as with long life, good health, great spouse, kids, and in-laws, and/or cold-hard cash?</li> <li>♦ What are these “spiritual blessings in heavenly places”? <input type="checkbox"/> Abundant/Purposeful Life? <input type="checkbox"/> Eternal Security? <input type="checkbox"/> Lots of possessions? <input type="checkbox"/> Others?</li> <li>♦ Recall the widow w/ 2 mites in <a href="#">Mark 12:42-44</a> and the godly but destitute widows of <a href="#">1Timothy 5:5</a> who had to trust in God and pray night and day for relief</li> <li>♦ “One's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” ..... <a href="#">Luke 12:15</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• v4. We were <b>CHOSEN</b> before the world was created to be holy and blameless – WOW!             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Does this mean others are chosen to go to Hell? NO! If so, they would have an excuse. <a href="#">Rom 1:19-20</a> says those who go to Hell are without excuse because God clearly made Himself evident to them</li> <li>♦ Also, Jesus essentially told the non-elect Jews, “I am willing to give you eternal life, but you are unwilling to come to me” ..... <a href="#">John 5:40</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• v5. We were <b>PREDESTINED</b> to adoption.</li> <li>• vv6-8. The Gospel in a few words – Redeemed and forgiven by the blood of Christ – and God was not stingy but He “lavished” His grace on us</li> <li>• vv9-12. God told us the <b>MYSTERY</b> of His will – We are in it – thanks to Jesus Christ             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>PREDESTINED</b> according to His purpose!</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv13-14. Once we accepted Christ (believed by faith) we were then <b>SEALED</b> by the Holy Spirit (aorist/past tense – it's a done deal, cannot be undone), and He remains our pledge – AWESOME</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- God's sovereignty is tough to comprehend and articulate, but He is able to choose, predestine, and seal us without violating our will. Those who go to Hell don't want to be with God even for 1 minute.

**NEXT WEEK: Ephesians 1:15-23.** We will discuss God's “surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

