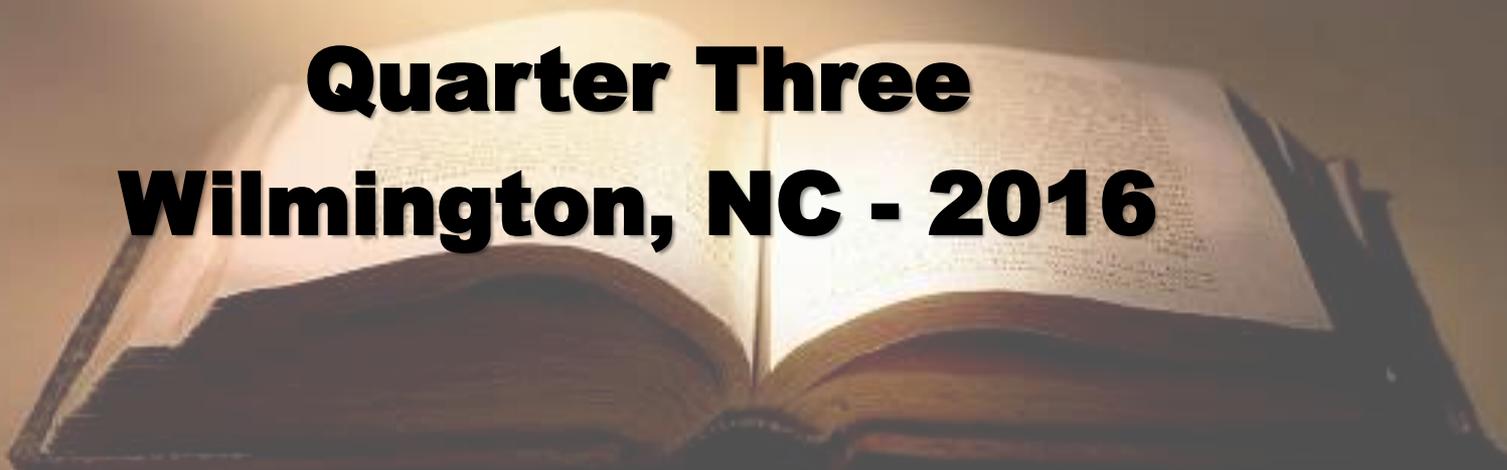


# New Testament Survey

## Acts - 1 Thessalonians



**Quarter Three**  
**Wilmington, NC - 2016**

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- **Author:** Paul
- **Place of Writing:** The traditional—and most likely correct—view is that Paul wrote from the imprisonment in Rome described in Acts 28:16-30
- **Key Verse:** Eph 1:3 – The “IN” passage
- **Theme:** CHRIST the Fulfillment of God’s Purpose To Redeem Man – in the Church

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- The Recipients of the Letter
  - There are several reasons to question whether Paul addressed this epistle to the Ephesian saints:
  - Several of the earliest manuscripts do not include the words “in Ephesus” in 1:1.
  - Marcion, while a heretic, referred to it as “the epistle to the Laodiceans” at a very early date (about a.d. 140).
  - Though Paul spent three years in Ephesus, longer than any other location on his missionary journeys, the letter is strangely impersonal. He “has heard” about their faith (1:15). Unlike his other epistles, Paul addresses no local problems, and closes without a single personal greeting.

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- The Recipients of the Letter
  - The epistle has the mature, universal tone of a letter sent as an encyclical, in this instance to all the churches of Asia Minor.
  - At the same time, most manuscripts do include “in Ephesus” and the church has traditionally called this epistle “to the Ephesians.”
  - If Paul did intend that the letter be sent to churches throughout Asia Minor, it is logical that it would have been sent first to the leading city, and from there copies would be circulated.
  - It is likely, then, that Paul did send this epistle to the Ephesians, but not to them alone.

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- The City Of Ephesus
  - Ephesus was the most important city in the Roman province of Asia, located on the west coast of what is now Turkey.
  - It was a leading commercial center, situated at the intersection of two major trade routes. It was a city where East met West, with the resulting exchange of ideas and philosophies.
  - Ephesus boasted the temple of Artemis (Diana), one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Four times the size of the famed Parthenon in Athens, this temple also served as the bank of Asia Minor, one of the few places where money could be safely deposited. An enormous theatre in the center of the city could seat from 25,000 to 50,000 people.

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- The City Of Ephesus
  - Within its population of one-third of a million, Ephesus also had a large colony of Jews.
  - After rejection by the local Jewish community, Paul found it possible to teach daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.
  - From this strategic center the gospel message spread “so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord” (Acts 19:10).
  - Ephesus and the other cities of Asia Minor to which Paul sent this epistle are also mentioned in Rev 1:4–3:22.
  - By that time the church in Ephesus needed to repent and return to its first love. Ephesus continued as a leading center of Christianity for several centuries.

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- Outline of the Book:
- DOCTRINE: God's Plan for Salvation—1:1–3:21
  - God's Blessings—1:1–23
    - Salutation—1:1–2
    - Present Blessings in Christ—1:3–14
    - Potential Blessings in Christ—1:15–23
  - God's Salvation—2:1–22
    - Saved from Sin—2:1–10
    - Saved from Separation—2:11–22
  - God's Participation—3:1–21
    - God Working in Paul—3:1–13
    - God Working in All Christians—3:14–21

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- DUTIES: The Christian's Response to Salvation
  - 4:1–6:24
    - The Christian in Church Life—4:1–16
      - Unity in the Body—4:1–6
      - Diversity in the Body—4:7–11
      - Maturity in the Body—4:12–16
    - The Christian in Personal Life—4:17–5:21
      - The Old Nature vs. the New—4:17–24
      - Members of One Body—4:25–32
      - Walking in Love—5:1–2
      - Walking in Light—5:3–14
      - Walking in Wisdom—5:15–21

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- DUTIES: The Christian's Response to Salvation — 4:1–6:24
  - The Christian in Domestic Life—5:22–6:9
    - Wives and Husbands—5:22–33
    - Children and Parents—6:1–4
    - Slaves and Masters—6:5–9
  - The Christian in Warfare—6:10–24
  - The Nature of the Enemy—6:10–12
    - The Armor of God—6:13–18
  - Paul's Own Farewell—6:19–24

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- **"Chose us in him" (1:4)**

- Great privilege to be chosen--in games, marriage, politics, for promotion, etc.
- Chosen for holy living--gets into the practical already!
- Chosen by adoption--not children of God by reason of natural birth, but by adoption proceedings. The gospel is the legal document that seals our adoption.
- Briefly discuss how for-ordination and predestination refer to God's purpose "in Christ" and how that everyone "in Christ" fits the pattern God drew before the foundation of the world. God decided that all who would respond to the gospel would be the chosen ones. He does not arbitrarily choose folks apart from the exercise of their free will.
- Grace bestowed abundantly in Christ (1:6; 2:5) Paul not afraid of "grace" (I Cor.15:10) Grace makes available:

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- **"Chose us in him" (1:4)**

- Redemption through Christ's blood (1:7)
- Forgiveness of sins (1:7; 4:32--God in Christ forgave you.
- Knowledge of God's will (1:9; 1:13; 3:4,5,8,9)
- A heritage with an inheritance promised (1:11,18)
- Sealed with Holy Spirit (1:13,14) God "knows them that are His" (2 Tim. 2:19)
- Great Power (1:19)
- Christ is in charge! (1:20-22) Not only of the church but of the universe! Great comfort.

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

## THE BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES OF EPHESIANS TWO

### • BEFORE CHRIST

- DEAD IN SIN (2:1)
- WALKED IN SIN (2:2)
- POWER OF SATAN (2:2)
- WORKED FOR SATAN (2:2)
- SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE (2:2)
- LIVED IN LUST (2:3)
- CHILDREN OF WRATH (2:3)
- SEPARATE FROM CHRIST (2:12)
- ALIENS (2:12)
- NO HOPE (2:12)
- WITHOUT GOD (2:12)
- FAR OFF (2:13)
- ENMITY WITH MAN (2:15)
- STRANGERS (2:19)

### • AFTER CHRIST

- ALIVE (2:1)
- WALK IN GOOD WORKS (2:10)
- UNDER POWER OF GOD (1:19)
- WORK FOR GOD (2:10)
- SONS OF GOD, OBEDIENCE (1:5)
- HOLY, W/O BLEMISH (1:5)
- CHILD OF INHERITANCE (1:14)
- WITH CHRIST (2:5)
- FELLOW CITIZENS (2:19)
- HOPE IN CHRIST (1:12)
- ACCESS, HABITATION (2:18,22)
- NEAR (2:13)
- PEACE (2:14)
- FELLOW CITIZENS (2:19)

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- THE CHURCH IS A MANIFESTATION OF THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD (3:10,11)
  - In the first two chapters, great emphasis is placed on the fact that it is in Christ that God summed up all things. (1:3,10)
  - But emphasis is also given to the church, even in chapter 1:22,23
- Special emphasis is given to the church in 3:10. Paul could have said...
  - "through Christ, the manifold wisdom of God
  - "through the gospel, the manifold wisdom of God
  - "through the apostles the manifold wisdom of God.
  - What he said was "through the church was made known the manifold wisdom of God."
- In this sense, Paul refers to himself as a minister of the church (Col. 1:23-25).

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- Accordingly, the church exists "according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus"(v11)
- The church is not the result of man's wisdom or forethought and any church making that claim cannot be the church of God's eternal purpose.
- The church is not some afterthought of God, a substitute for the kingdom as some mistakenly claim.
- The very existence of the church is to the glory of God (3:21)
- It is a product of God's handiwork--like natural creation that declares his glory (3:9)
- The church also exists for the purpose of glorifying God in an ungodly world. (1:11,12)

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- SATAN WORKS TO BRING US DOWN AND THWART GOD'S PURPOSE TO SAVE US
  - For Paul, Satan was real, not some figment of an overworked imagination.
    - "Prince of the powers of the air" (2:2; 6:12--operates in "heavenly places"--spiritual realm.(1:3)
    - "god of this world" (2 Cor.4:4--blinds)
    - Jesus called him "prince of this world" (Jn.12:31)
  - Peter: "your adversary, the devil..."(I Pet.5:8)
- Paul, by inspiration, warns strenuously for Christians to be on guard:
  - "neither give place to the devil" (4:27)
  - "redeem the time...the days are evil" (5:16)
  - "Put on armor...withstand the wiles of the devil (6:11)
- Armor--to stand in the evil day (6:13)
  - Shield of faith--to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one (6:16)

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- His "spirit now works in the sons of disobedience" 2:2  
REBELLION
  - The "lived in lust of the flesh" 2:3
  - Vanity of mind 4:17-- empty headed--true airheads
- Darkened in understanding 4:18--couldn't tell right from wrong, called bad good
- Alienated from the life of God 4:18--didn't know God, didn't live for God, for Satan.
  - Ignorance 4:18
  - Hardness of heart--conscience so hardened couldn't be pricked
  - Past feeling 4:19--no guilt, no shame,
  - Given over to lasciviousness--worship=sex
  - Work (make a trade of, occupation) all uncleanness with greediness 4:19

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talk, jesting 5:3,4
- secret, shame even to speak of 5:11--Paul speaks of horrendous sins, but some so horrible, can't talk about them in specific detail.
- Indeed, as Paul said of that day, "the days are evil." 5:16

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- WHAT CAN, MUST THE CHRISTIAN DO IN SEEMINGLY OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION?
  - Discern right from wrong! Uses senses God gave you. (Eph.5:15-17; Heb.5:14).
  - Remember the power and purpose of God that works in those who truly believe (Eph.1:11; 3:7,20)
  - Christ was manifest to destroy the works of the devil (I Jn.3:8; Jn.12:31,32)
  - Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world (I Jn.4:4).
  - Put on the whole armor (Eph.6:10-17)
  - Pray for the saints and yourself (Eph.6:18)
  - Put off the old man; put on the new (4:22-24)
  - Don't think it impossible to "walk worthily of the calling wherewith you were called" (4:1)

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- "WALK WORTHILY OF THE CALLING WHEREWITH YOU WERE CALLED." (4:1) -But even in the first 3 chapters, Paul speaks of the kind of life that is to characterize God's chosen.
- 1."Saints" (1:1)
  - Living demonstration of God working in our lives; saint is not one who has long been dead.
  - When a Christian is heard to say, "I ain't no saint", there is cause for concern. Supposed to be!
- 2."Faithful" (1:1)
  - Life in Christ begins with faith in the gospel message (1:13; 2:8)
  - The faithful are those whose faith leads to obedience and constancy-- remaining true (1:15a)
- 3."Holy, without blemish"(1:4)
  - "Saint" and "holy" come from the same root word. A saint is a holy person, like God (I Pet.1:15,16)
  - These holy ones form God's "holy temple" (2:21), not like the unholy temple of Diana.

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- Without blemish denotes: Initial cleansing (5:25-27; Acts 2:38, 41, 47; 22:16)
- Making effort to remain free from sin (I Jn.2:1a)
- Forgiveness possible when sin occurs (I Jn.1:9)
- 4. "In love" (1:4)
  - For God (5:1,2)
  - For fellow saints (1:15b; I Jn.4:9-11)
  - Are you grateful to God for your brethren? How do you show it?
  - Are you ready to come to their assistance in time of need? (I Jn.3:17,18)
  - Do you have the spiritual well-being of others as a priority? (Eph.4:16).
  - For truth (4:15,21)
  - How grateful are you that you've been exposed to the truth? Bible for granted?
- 5. "In subjection" 1:22
  - This is the opposite of defiance, rebellion, disobedience.
  - The member of the body, church of Christ realizes that he answers to Christ. Must submit.
  - Also, there is a submitting to one another in the fear of Christ" (5:21-6:9)

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- 6. "Good works" (2:10; 2 Tim.3:16,17) Good works are found in the Good Book.
  - As opposed to the evil works of our former life outside of Christ.
  - Whatever God calls good is appreciated and attempted by the Christian. A lifestyle.
- 7. "Humility" (4:2) Who can be proud when you consider all God has done for you?
- 8. Unity (4:3-6) Use God's gifts, talents for building up (7-16)
- 9. Putting away and putting on (4:22-24)
- 10. Don't lie (4:25) (Rev.21:8)
- 11. Control anger (4:26-27)
  - God expects Christians to keep their emotions in check.
  - Differences should be settled quickly.
- 12. Don't steal--work--share (4:28)

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- 13. No corrupt speech--edify (4:29)
- 14. No meanness (4:31)
- 15. Kind, forgiving (4:32)
- 16. No unbecoming behavior (5:3-4) Dirty talk, dirty jokes, etc. unbecoming of a Christian.
- 17. Give thanks (5:4; 1:16; 5:20)
- 18. Walk carefully (5:15)
  - Even in those "gray" areas, the Christian seeks to be extremely careful; modesty, recreation, entertainment, etc.
    - **Good questions to ask:**
      - **Am I imitating God and Christ?**
      - **Is this becoming of a "light walker?"**
      - **Will I look like a participant in wrongdoing?**
      - **Is it good, righteous, and of the truth?**
        - **Does it please the Lord?**
        - **Is it wise or foolish?**

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- 19. Don't get drunk (5:18)
  - The state has it's legal limit and that is subject to change.
  - What is God's legal limit when He considers someone drunk?
  - Why go to parties or become members of clubs where drinking is the "in" thing?
- 20. Be Filled with the Spirit (5:18) At the least, this is letting spiritual things revealed by the Spirit in the gospel be the driving force in your life.
  - No time for works of flesh when "led by the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16).
  - Evidence you are filled with the Spirit:
    - Singing (5:19) Singing praises just seems to be a good way to express the great joy and love we have for all that God has done for us, doesn't it?
    - Giving thanks for all things (5:20)
    - Subjecting yourselves to one another (5:21)
    - Wives to husbands; husbands to wives (5:22-33)
    - Children to parents; parents to children (6:1-4)
    - In the workplace (6:5-9)
- 21. Understand what the will of the Lord is (5:17) Study Ephesians and all of the Bible, listen, heed obey.

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- **In Summary:**

- PRAISE GOD FOR ALL HE'S DONE --"TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY"
- HAVE BOLDNESS AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR ACCESS TO GOD
- OUR MAIN GOAL SHOULD BE TO BE LIKE CHRIST (Ephesians 4:13-15 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- (NKJV).
- DO YOUR PART IN THE CHURCH (Ephesians 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (NKJV)
- DON'T GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT (Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (NKJV) One translation says, "Don't make the Holy Spirit sad."

# Lesson # 10 – The Book of Ephesians

- DON'T GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL (Ephesians 4:27 nor give place to the devil. (NKJV)
- GOD'S WRATH, WHICH IS JUST AS REAL AS HIS GRACE, MERCY AND LOVE.
- KEEP PRAYING
  - For other Christians (6:18--note it's prayer for saints, not to saints). Our brothers and sisters need God's help to win the victory. Are you praying for your brethren?
  - For the preacher (6:19). If anyone needs prayers, it's the preacher!
  - For self (1:17-19; 3:14-19--make Paul's prayer for the Ephesians your own personal prayer for strength).
- DON'T GIVE UP (3:13; 6:18)
  - God didn't go to all the time and trouble to bring the plan of salvation to fruition only to see you lost!
  - When his life was on the line, Jesus didn't give up and there's no good reason for you to.
  - You can't give up because others are watching you. If you quit, someone else might.
- You can't give up because the devil seems to be gaining the advantage. God has made it possible for you to be victorious--TO STAND! (Eph.6:11,13). The helmet of salvation is not worn by a bunch of losers!