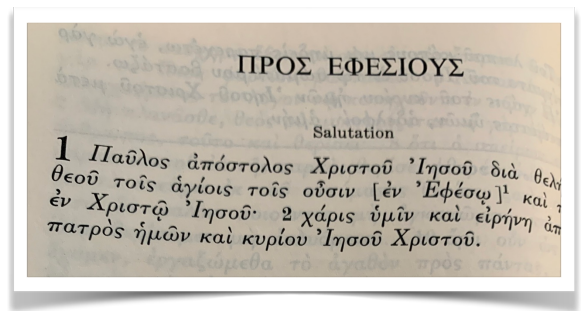


Paul's Letter to the CHURCH AT EPHESUS



Ephesians 4

(EPHESIANS 3:1-21)

¹ Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

"THEREFORE..." LOOKING TOWARD

- ❖ As a _____ of the Lord...
- ❖ Implore you...
 - ❖ _____ plead, beg (implications?)
 - ❖ Walk in a manner _____ of the calling with which you have been called — What's this?

ATTITUDES OF UNITY

- ❖ With all (define)
 - ❖ humility
 - ❖ gentleness
 - ❖ patience
 - ❖ tolerance
 - ❖ in love
- ❖ Why????
- ❖ Implications for us?

IS THERE ANY EFFORT TO THIS UNITY?

- ❖ Be diligent...
 - ❖ _____ the unity of the Spirit
 - ❖ in the _____ of peace

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

9 (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and

❖ There is one...

❖ _____ (what's this?)

❖ _____ (why mention this?)

❖ one _____

❖ _____

❖ _____

❖ _____

❖ _____ and _____ of all

❖ What's Paul's argument?

❖ What are the implications for today?

❖ One body?

❖ One hope?

❖ One faith?

❖ One baptism?

ONE BODY, DIFFERENT GIFTS

❖ "According the measure of Christ's gift..." — what is this?

❖ V. 8 quotes Psalm 68:18

❖ Paul: When He _____ on high, He led captive a host of _____, and He gave _____ to men."

❖ Psalm 68:18 – "You have ascended on high, You have led captive Your captives; You have _____ gifts among men..."

❖ What happened here?

❖ Probably...

❖ Only the _____ part of the Psalm verse is actually quoted

❖ Paul deliberately changes the second part to make a point about...

❖ Christ's triumph, and ours

of the knowledge of the Son of
God, to a mature man, to the
measure of the stature which
belongs to the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to
be children, tossed here and there
by waves and carried about by
every wind of doctrine, by the
trickery of men, by craftiness in
deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but
speaking the truth in love, we are
to grow up in all aspects into Him
who is the head, even Christ,
¹⁶ from whom the whole body,
being fitted and held together by
what every joint supplies,
according to the proper working
of each individual part, causes the
growth of the body for the
building up of itself in love.

¹⁷ So this I say, and affirm
together with the Lord, that you

❖ And as victorious king, distributing spoil among His army —
gifts among the _____

❖ Vss. 9, 10 — Paul's inspired NT explanation of descension and
ascension

❖ Original text speaks of the LORD's triumph over the
_____ and receiving spoil _____ men

❖ Paul now sees Christ as having descended to earth, triumphed
over _____ and its _____, ascended
victoriously to heaven, and divided spoil among His own

❖ What are some of these gifts?

❖ apostles (who are they, are they still around?)

❖ prophets (who are they, are they still around?)

❖ evangelists (who are they, are they still around?)

❖ pastors (who are they, are they still around?)

❖ teachers (who are they, are they still around?)

❖ For what purpose?

❖ _____ the saints for the work of _____

❖ to the _____ up of the body of Christ

❖ until we all attain to...

❖ unity of the _____ (?)

❖ _____ of the Son of God

❖ to a _____ man

❖ to the _____ of the _____ of the fullness
of Christ

❖ No longer to be children

❖ easily diverted and persuaded by every wave or wind of

❖ _____ of men

❖ _____

❖ deceitful _____

walk no longer just as the
Gentiles also walk, in the futility
of their mind, ¹⁸ being darkened
in their understanding, excluded
from the life of God because of
the ignorance that is in them,
because of the hardness of their
heart; ¹⁹ and they, having
become callous, have given
themselves over to sensuality for
the practice of every kind of
impurity with greediness. ²⁰ But
you did not learn Christ in this
way,

THE CHRISTIAN WALK

- ❖ Who are the Gentiles in this context?
- ❖ How do they walk?
 - ❖ What does it mean to be darkened in your understanding?
 - ❖ What does it mean to be “excluded from the life of God”?
- ❖ In what way were they ignorant?
- ❖ How did their “hardness of heart” contribute to their ignorance?
 - ❖ What is “hardness of heart”?
 - ❖ Application to us?
- ❖ What does it mean to be “callous”?
 - ❖ How does this happen?
 - ❖ Is this related to “hardness of heart”?
 - ❖ What does it mean to “give yourself over to...” something?
- ❖ What had the Gentiles given themselves over to?
 - ❖ What is sensuality?
 - ❖ What is impurity?
 - ❖ How were they indulging these?
- ❖ “But you did not learn Christ in this way...”
 - ❖ What does this mean?