

ENCORE | Ephesians 6:18-24: Caring for One Another

- 01) In what ways is prayer a part of your spiritual arsenal?**
- 02) How important is prayer in the life of a believer?**
- 03) Explain your answer to question 2.**
- 04) Does God work through prayer?**
- 05) How?**
- 06) How is prayer an encouragement?**
- 07) How is prayer a comfort?**
- 08) How often do you pray to God for the needs of others?**
- 09) What is a “personal testimony”?**
- 10) Can you recall a personal testimony you have heard?**
- 11) Do you enjoy hearing other Christians give testimony? Why or why not?**
- 12) Why did Paul send word (testimony) of his affairs (v. 21-22)?**
- 13) How might God use your testimony to help another brother or sister in Christ?**

Looking Ahead | Ephesians 1-6: The Book of Ephesians

Monday (1:1-23) – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). This is the key verse in understanding the whole book of Ephesians. Have you ever thought about just how blessed you are in Christ? Take a few minutes and make a list of the spiritual blessings currently in your life. Notice the two key thoughts for the book of Ephesians “heavenly places” & “in Christ”, we will find these phrases repeated throughout the book. What is the significance of these phrases as they relate to the rest of verse 3? Now read Ephesians 1:4-12 and count the instances of “He chose” “predestined” “the good pleasure of His will” “according to His good pleasure” “He purposed in Himself” “according to the purpose of Him” “according to the counsel of His will”. What point do you think the apostle Paul (by the direction of the Holy Spirit) is trying to make? What is the “main message” of Ephesians 1?

- Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 23-24; Matt. 28

Tuesday (2:1-22) – “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins” The “and” in verse 1 is taking us back to chapter 1 where Paul was laying out the many blessings of God. The word translated “and” is the Greek “kai” it is very emphatic and could be translated “even”. First Paul lays out a long list of the blessings God has bestowed upon you and then he says; “He even made you alive!” (paraphrase). Sometimes in Christian life it becomes easy to forget where you came from. It is easy to slip into sinful or judgmental thought patterns. We can become frustrated or angry with the sinful lives of those around us (and there is nothing wrong with hating sin). Or we can get depressed by the general bent of our country. But maybe we are forgetting one of the elementary truths of Scripture; “and such were some of you” (1 Corinthians 6:11). Because the Ephesians had forgotten this there was a problem in the church at Ephesus; unbiblical separation. More and more Gentiles were coming to Christ, and so the Jewish believers were now in the minority. The Jews were fearful (and prideful) that they might lose influence, and the Gentiles were holding onto past prejudices while trampling their Jewish brethren under foot. It can be easy to see (and point out or grumble about) the faults of others yet never see your own sin. What lesson should we learn (and apply) from Ephesians 2?

- Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 25-26; Mk. 1:1-22

Wednesday (3:1-21) – What is our mission? Well we all know (at some level) that our mission as believers in Jesus Christ is to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). Did you know that as believers and specifically as a church we have an even greater mission? Our mission is much the same as the Apostle Paul’s “to make all see” verse 10 says “that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church” God is calling each one of us to put His wisdom on display in this world. Verses 20-21 end the first half of the book of Ephesians. They are designed to help us remember the truths he has been teaching us: “Now to Him who is able” remember it is God who works, He chose you, He saved you, and He will cause growth in your life.

“the power that works in us” bringing to mind the resurrection power of Jesus Christ from chapter 1. “to Him be the glory” salvation is all of God and for His glory. “in the church” Paul’s teaching has been centered around life in the body. “to all generations forever and ever” that includes you and I.

- Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 27-28; Mk. 1:23-45

Thursday (4:1-32) – What does it mean to “walk” worthy (v.1 & 17)? In Philippians 1:27 Paul says “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” Notice how Paul ties your “manner of life” (walk) with unity in Christ, or how you are living together in the body. The “worthiness” of your life in Christ (walk) can be tested by the unity you are experiencing in the body. Notice also how many times Paul says “one” in this passage. Have you ever thought about how much we have in common in Christ? Have you ever really thought about how much we share in Christ? How is it possible for there to be any divisions in the body? As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:13 “Is Christ divided?” As we know from experience divisions do exist in the body and divisions are contrary to the will of God. If divisions do exist in our local body; what is the answer (what is your responsibility)?

- Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 29-30; Mk. 2

Friday (5:1-33) – Don’t waste your life! Instead “be imitators of God.”. The word translated (be) “imitators” is the Greek word from which we get our English word “mimic”. So he is saying mimic God, be like God! He tells us that we imitate God by living out (walking) a lifestyle of others-oriented, sacrificial love. We also imitate God by turning away from the “unfruitful works of darkness” and turning to the works (lifestyle) of light. God’s will for your life is that you would bear fruit (John 15:16; Romans 7:4). We are faced with choices every day that have an impact on eternity. You can live this life for yourself (like most people in our world) or you can live this life to fullest taking hold of everything God has for you, fully pleasing and glorifying Him in all things.

- Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 31-33; Mk. 3:1-19

Saturday (6:1-24) – The relationship issues from Ephesians 5 & 6 are all about submission, humility and biblical roles. “Submitting to one another”, “wives submit to your own husbands”, “Children obey your parents”, “Bondservants be obedient to ...your masters”. We then have Paul’s classic admonition on spiritual warfare “put on the whole armor of God.” This is followed by a final call to love, unity, and care in the body. How would you summarize the “main message” of Ephesians 6?

- Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 34-35; Mk. 3:2