

EPHESIANS

A series of 14 studies in the book of Ephesians

By John Nixon.

*Marvel again and again at
the mystery, the majesty and the magnificence of
the glorious Gospel of God.*

Study 1 of EPHESIANS.

The source of God's blessing!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Ephesians 1:1-14. To the praise of His glory!

Memory verse Ephesians 1 : 13b

1. From the first verse find out what you can about the writer of this letter and about those to whom is he writing?
2. What do you think is meant by the double greeting in verse 2?
3. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" - What reasons can you find in verses 3-6?
4. What part has Jesus got in the things for which we are to praise God from verses 3-6?
5. What are some of God's gracious purposes for us because of Jesus according to verses 7-10?
6. Verse 9 speaks about "the mystery of His will" - what is this mystery that had been hidden and not understood until the Gospel revealed it? (Eph 3:2-9 and Acts 10:34-48 might help to explain the "mystery"!)
7. Read Acts 19:23-41 and find out what the central focus of the religious life in Ephesus had been before being introduced to the Gospel of Christ.
8. Is there anything in the religion the people of Ephesus had been brought up in that compares to religion around us?
9. See how many times you find reference to "In Christ (Him)" in verses 1 to 14. Why does Paul emphasise this so much?
10. What reference can you find to the following:
The Father's Purpose?
The Son's Provision?
The Spirit's Presence?

Study 2 of EPHESIANS. Knowing God and His grand designs!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23. The hope to which you are called.

Memory verse **Ephesians 2 : 10.**

1. Why was Paul so full of thanksgiving for the Ephesians he was writing to?
2. What other response did Paul have for the Ephesian Believers that you and I should have for fellow Believers?
3. What was Paul's first and most important prayer request for the Ephesian Believers?

Why should this be a prayer request that you should have at the top of your prayer list?
4. List the truths about God the Father that you find in our reading from Ephesians 1:15-23.
5. Paul also prayed for the eyes of their heart to be enlightened. What do you think he could have meant by the eyes of their heart?
6. How would having the eyes of our heart enlightened affect our outlook on our spiritual life?
7. Read Romans 8:11 and find out what verses in our reading today take up that same subject.
8. How did God demonstrate His absolute approval of the "One He loves" who in His death had provided redemption for us by His blood?
9. What title is given to the group of people who benefit from Jesus' provision for them by their faith? and how is their relationship with Christ described?
10. What things have we learned about in today's study that we should be eager to keep in mind in order to improve our Christian life?

Study 3 of EPHESIANS.

The God of all Grace!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-13. God's kindness to us in Christ.

Memory verse Ephesians 2 : 8-9

1. In our reading today can you find the verses that speak about:

Dead men living & condemned?! ...
Resurrected men sitting?...
Incapable men working? ...
Rejects welcomed and received?...

2. What do you think is meant by being "dead" in your sins?

3. Does being "dead in sin" mean we are incapable of sinning any more?!

Does being "dead to sin" (Rom 6:2,7,11...) mean we never sin again?

4. In Luke 15:32 find out what the father had to say about his son's condition while he was away from home.

How does the son's condition compare with our past sinful condition as described in Eph 2:1, 12-13.

5. In Luke 15:17-20 find out what decision and action he had been able to make while in that terrible condition.

6. What words used to describe God in Eph 2:4-10 could also describe the father of the prodigal son in Luke 15:20-24, 31-32?

7. What does a sinner need to do in order to be saved?

What does God say that clearly shows us the sinner's part is not a "work" for which he can claim credit?

8. "Grace" means God's unmerited favour offered to us - "it is the gift of God." (v8.)
What descriptions of our sinful condition in the passage show how much we needed God's grace as a free gift?

9. Find out in our reading how is it that God can offer us grace without compromising His Justice and Holiness?

Is your answer to the above clearly supported by Romans 3:22-26?

10. From Ephesians 2:1-13 what contrast can you find between

Before

and

After salvation?

Study 4 of EPHESIANS.

Our wonderful Peacemaker!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22.

United in Christ Jesus!

Memory verse Ephesians 2 : 8-10

1. Paul is writing to Believers from a Gentile background. In what different ways are the unsaved Gentiles described?

Consider what each of the descriptions Paul uses means....

2. What is the horrible plight of the unbelieving Gentiles as found in one verse?

3. Find if there are verses that refer only to -

Jews...

Gentiles...

Both Jews & Gentiles....

4. "The Law" was unable to offer us any hope of salvation. What impossible standards did "the Law" set before us?

Find out in Galatians 2:16 what the Law would never be able to do.

5. In what two ways is Jesus shown to be our peace?

6. List some of the things Paul mentions that show what Jesus does and means for the Believer.

7. In how many single verses can you find reference to all the Persons of the Trinity?

Can you think of any other single verses in the Bible that refer to the Three-in-One God?

8. What do we learn from today's verses about the part the Holy Spirit has in the Believer's life?

9. In what different ways are the Believers described?

10. Where does the Christian message Paul is speaking about get its authority from?

What do the following verses say about relying on such authority? 1 Corinthians 3:11 & Matthew 7:24

Study 5 of EPHESIANS. The mystery of God's will revealed!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Ephesians 3:1-13. A servant of the Gospel!

Memory verse: Ephesians 6 : 19.

1. Paul refers to "the Mystery" of the Gospel seven times in the book of Ephesians. How often do you find it in our reading for today?

Which verse clearly explains the mystery for us?

2. What reason did Paul give for him being a prisoner at the time of writing?

Can you explain what he meant?

3. Who was responsible for revealing the mystery at that time and who had it been revealed to?

4. What right or authority had Paul to take on the job of declaring the mystery of God's will?

5. How was God going to demonstrate and declare to all the wisdom and glory of the mystery of His will?

6. How and when had the details of this mysterious plan been settled?

7. In what ways is Jesus Christ linked to this glorious mystery?

8. What rights and privileges do the gentiles receive according to this revealed mystery?

How does anyone qualify to benefit from the mystery of this Gospel?

9. Why do you think Paul considered himself to be "less than the least of all God's people."(verse 8.)?

10. Can you explain Paul's attitude to and his acceptance of his imprisonment?

Study 6 of EPHESIANS.

The fullness of God for us!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: Ephesians 3:12&14-21.

Oh what love!

Memory verse Ephesians 3 : 19.

1. Why do you think Paul had confidence to turn to God in the exercise of prayer?

2. Who do you think qualify as the "whole family in heaven and on earth" having God as their Father?

After giving your answer see if Hebrews 2:10-13 agrees with your answer. [Note Heb 1:1-6.]

3. In one verse find out from what source Paul believed he could obtain help for the Ephesians, and how would that help come to them?

4. What do you think Paul meant when he prayed "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith"? (V. 17.) Col 3:15-17 might help with your answer.

5. How is the life and power that we have in Christ to be fed and nourished?

Do you think John 14:15-17 has something important to say about that answer?

6. How WIDE do we see the love of God reach in the following verses? 1 John 4:12. / 1 John 2:1-2. / Mark 16:15.

Can you give any other verses that tell of the great width of God's love?

7. How LONG is the love of God seen to be in the following verses? Jeremiah 31:3. / Lam 3:23. /

Can you give any other verses that tell of the enduring love of God?

8. How HIGH is the love of God able to lift us according to the following verses? Eph 2:4-6. / John 17:23-24.

Can you give any other verses that tell of the great heights God's love reaches to?

9. How DEEP do we find the love of God reaches down in the following verses? Psalm 40:1-3. / 1 Tim 1:14-16.

Can you give any other verses that tell of the depths God's love reaches to?

10. How does Paul encourage us in our prayer lives after what he has taught us?

Study 7 of EPHESIANS. One Lord over/through/and in all!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Ephesians 4:1-13. Serve as/for the Body of Christ!

Memory verse Ephesians 4 : 12

1. How could Paul as a prisoner expect anyone to take seriously any advice from him or accept his instruction?

2. In the first verse what is Paul urging his readers to do and what reason should they have to respond?

3. What does God say we should "BE" according to Paul's letter?

Do you consider this as advice you need for your life today?

4. What does God say we should DO according to Paul's letter?

Is there something here you need to work at in your life?

5. What theme does Paul return to that he has spoken much about already? (see the "mystery" in 3:6.)

What arguments does he use to strengthen his teaching on this theme?

6. What relationships does God hold with each Believer?

7. How is it that each different member of the "Body" can be capable of fulfilling its role?

8. What does Christ's descending and ascending mean? And how important is this for us?

9. What provision has God made for the Church to be able to effectively serve Him?

10. What is the goal or objective for the Believer to keep focused upon?

Consider the wonderful "fullness" that is available to satisfy the Believer in Christ:
See 1:23. 3:19. 4:13.

Study 8 of EPHESIANS.

The emerging new creation!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Ephesians 4:13-24.

Going on to maturity!

Memory verse **Ephesians 4 : 24**

1. How does Paul say we can progress from infancy in the Christian life to become more mature?

2. What are some of the characteristics of still being an infant in one's spiritual life?

3. What part has Jesus Christ got in the growth and development of the maturing Christian?

4. Paul had an urgent message for the Ephesians. What was it? And why was it so urgent?

5. What could be the consequences of ignoring Paul's urgent message?

6. What gave Paul confidence to believe that the Ephesian Believers would not ignore his warning?

7. Make a list of any references you can find from our Bible passage that show Jesus Christ to be our life-giver, inspiration and instructor in the Christian life.

8. The maturing Christian has to be active. What has he or she to "put off"?

Can you think of other places in Scripture where the Christian is told of things to "put off"?

9. The maturing Christian has to be active. What has he or she to "put on"?

Can you think of other places in Scripture where the Christian is told of things to "put on"?

10. In what ways are we told we should become like God?

Study 9 of EPHESIANS.

Imitators of God!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Eph 4:22 – 5:2. Transformed into His likeness! (2 Cor 3:18.)

Memory verse Ephesians 4 : 12-13.

1. What are some of the "deceitful desires" we tend to want to justify but that need to be suppressed and overcome?

What are some of the God given desires that we experience and need to relieve without feelings of guilt?

2. What were the habitual behaviours and desires that some of the Ephesians had to overcome?

Can you list other desires and behaviours that Christians struggle with and need to overcome? (see 1 Cor 5:11.)

3. In what way is the Christian taught that he/she needs to be "made new"?

How do you think we are meant to develop this changed outlook on life? (See Psalm 1:1-2. 119:9.)

4. What work standard is given? and why?

5. What reason is given for us to maintain a relationship of trust and love with our fellow-Believers?

6. What are we told that we must not do to the Holy Spirit? And find out why it would be so inexcusable?

Look in Isaiah 63:10 to discover another reason why we shouldn't treat the Holy Spirit in that way.

7. List the things that are mentioned that would offend the Holy Spirit?

Can you add some more to that list?

8. What influence should the fact of God having forgiven us in Christ have upon our lives and attitudes?

9. Why should the Believer be seen to imitate God?

10. Note down what we have seen of how each Person of the Trinity should have His stamp upon our lives.

Study 10 of EPHESIANS.

The life of God's holy people!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Ephesians 5:3-16.

Do's and don'ts!

Memory verse **Ephesians 5 : 8 & 10.**

1. What do we learn about the company of the Believers from the various titles used to describe them in this passage?
2. What are we told is improper behaviour for God's holy people?
3. Can you see why some people believe that immorality does not disqualify you from God and heaven?
4. How many negative commands can you find telling us things not to do?
5. How many positive commands can you find telling us things we are to do?
6. How much do we find out about what God is like (His character) from this passage in Ephesians?
7. Read verses 11-12. Are we to expose error or are we not to mention it?
8. What are we told is required in order to expose the error and sin in which people live?
9. How is the message that the Believer can take to those overcome by the errors of sin summarized in the passage?
10. What advice are we given to enable us to be effective in our witness?

Study II of EPHESIANS.

Husband & wife relationship!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Ephesians 5:17-33.

The bride of Christ!

Memory verse; Ephesians 5 : 21.

1. What is said about the person who does not understand what the will of the Lord is?

Can you think of other times in the Bible where people are described in this way?

2. What is said about drinking wine?

What is that contrasted with and do you find the contrast helpful?

3. What are we told plays an important role in our Christian experience?

What are we to always do and how are we to do it?

4. Before Paul gives specific instruction to wives and husbands what general command does he give to everyone and what motive does he give for obeying it?

5. What is the special instruction that Paul has for the married woman and how does he emphasise this teaching?

6. What is the role of the Church to Christ?

7. What is the special instruction Paul has for the husband, and how does he emphasise this teaching?

8. What is the role of Christ to the Church?

9. What is the fantastic relationship of the Believer and Christ and what commitment does it call for?

10. In conclusion what are the two "musts" in a Christian marriage?

Study 12 of EPHESIANS. Acknowledge God in your relationships!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Reading: Ephesians 6:1-9. Children & servants of Christ!

Memory verse **Colossians 3 : 23.**

1. What are the different relationships Paul speaks about in our reading today?

Did you notice that in each case he deals with them as THREE way relationships?
Explain.

2. In the light of Eph 1:1 what does the fact that Paul directly addresses "children" in his letter teach us?

What was Jesus' attitude to children in Matthew 18:5-6? and does Paul seem to be in agreement with that?

3. Both the "children" and the "slaves" (employees) are given the same instruction - what is that?

You will discover the motive for such a response in John 14:15.

4. Several reasons are given for the CHILD to behave in this way, what reasons can you find in our reading?

5. Paul speaks of the 5th command as being "the first commandment with a promise". Do you agree with that? What about the 2nd command? (See Exodus 20:4-6, & 12.)

6. Explain the instruction given to "fathers". (verse 4.)

7. List the positive things that are to influence the attitude of the slaves (employee's) obedience?

What are the negative attitudes that are not to be considerations in service.

8. We must keep in mind that we are "serving the Lord, not men". What will the Lord reward? (NB. 1 Sam 16:7.)

9. How are the "masters" (employers) cautioned about their attitudes and behaviour?

10. What is the most important consideration that will influence all of the relationships we have in life?

Study 13 of EPHESIANS.

The Whole Armour of God!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: Ephesians 6:10-18a.

Be strong in the Lord!

Memory verse Ephesians 6 : 13

1. Who provides this armour? and what responsibility do we have concerning the employment of it?

How much of this armour do you really need?

2. It would seem that some Christians would be more interested in being "arm-chair Christians" rather than "armed Christians"! What do you think would be the difference in their attitudes?

3. Find out what guarantees are given with the Christian's armour.

Find out what information we are given concerning our enemy.

4. What part of a belt needs to be reliable?

What part of (the Belt of) TRUTH needs to be reliable?..... What does this teach us about the complete content of the Scriptures God has given to us? (NB 2nd Tim 3:16-17.)

5. What does God focus upon according to 1 Samuel 16:7?..... What protection does He provide to make and keep our hearts acceptable to Him ?

Find out how costly it was for God to make this covering and protection available for us: Romans 3:21-26.

6. Why is footwear important as part of the Christian's armour? Does Isaiah 52:7 suggest a possible answer?

7. Note, you "have" the previous items of armour, now what other armour are we to "take" in addition?

What are some of the "flaming arrows of the evil one"? And how can they be overcome?

8. Our mind needs to be protected and assured by the certainty of our "salvation"- past, present and future. Explain.

9. What weapon does The Spirit specialize in using? Explain.

10. What piece of a modern soldier's equipment that is essential to keep him in touch with his commander would Paul have surely included at the end of his list if it had been available in Paul's day? Explain your answer.

Study 14 of EPHESIANS.

Encouraging the Saints!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: Ephesians 6:18-24.

Make your requests known!

Memory verse Ephesians: 6 : 19.

1. How many references to do with praying can you find in these verses?

Who and what is meant to benefit from these prayers?

2. Paul was a Christian soldier. What do we learn here about his warfare and mission?

3. No soldier fights alone against the enemy. What evidence is there of Paul having fellow soldiers to support and encourage him?

4. What did we discover earlier in Ephesians to be "the mystery of the Gospel" that Paul is so intent on making known?

What possible opposition could he face in proclaiming this glorious mystery of the Gospel?

5. What do we find out about Tychicus? and in what way was he helping Paul?

6. How is Paul seen to encourage other Christians to pray for him?

7. How is Paul seen to encourage and stir up Christians to be active for the Lord?

8. What blessings does Paul commend to his fellow soldiers?

9. On what authority does Paul send his greetings and commendations?

10. What is the identifying characteristic of the Believers whom Paul is addressing his correspondence?

In the light of that would you consider yourself as one to whom this message was intended?

If you wish to compare my answers with yours go to www.godswordsays.com/EphesiansAnswers.pdf

If you have found these Bible Studies helpful
please tell others about them.

You may be interested in some of the other studies
that I have made freely available on the Internet.

They include:

Metaphors Jesus used of Himself. (13 studies)

Parables Jesus taught. (30 studies)

Acts of the Apostles. (28 studies)

1,2 & 3 John. (13 studies)

Revelation. (25 studies)

Galatians. (14 studies)

Beatitudes (9 studies)

Romans (16 studies)

Hebrews (13 studies)

Daniel. (16 studies)

Find them at:

www.godswordsays.com/BibleStudyIndex.html