

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

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Ehpesians (1:15-23; 2:1-10)

The title contains the main verses to be covered in this study. Please read through them to become familiar. With the context. There are concepts contained therein, on which the study will expand, using other scriptures.

Ephesians 1:15-16: *15. Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16. Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;* Paul was a man of prayer, always praying for the churches which he had started (Rom 1:9; 2 Cor 13:7; Phil 1:9; Col 1:3; 1 Th 1:2; 2 Tim 1:3; Phlm 1:4) because of their belief (faith) in Jesus. We should do the same for each other, and for those whom we desire to be saved. Paul's prayer was that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation⁽⁶⁰²⁾ in the knowledge⁽¹⁹²²⁾ of him (Eph 1:17).

The Greek word (*ep-ig'-no-sis*) for knowledge means, *full, correct, precise knowledge*. This type of spiritual knowledge can only come from God Himself. Therefore, Paul is praying for the church to have the Father's knowledge, which consists of an understanding of the Father, Son and your own heart. Wisdom is what it takes to apply the knowledge correctly.

Revelation⁽⁶⁰²⁾ (*ap-ok-al'-oop-sis*): This Greek word is the title of the last book of the Bible. In English it means, *an uncovering of something hidden*. Here is how Paul used the same word: **Romans 16:25-26:** *25. Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26. But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment*⁽²⁰⁰³⁾ *of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:* The revelation of hidden things has to do with understanding Jesus and the cross. The Greek word (*ep-ee-tag-ay'*) is God's commands to set in order our understanding in order to bring us into obedience. How did Paul learn these things? By the scriptures (writings) of the prophets - today, we call it the Bible. Paul adds to this, **Galatians 1:11-12:** *11. And I make known to you, brethren, the good news that were proclaimed by me, that it is not according to man, 12. for neither did I from man receive it, nor was I taught [it], but through a revelation of Jesus Christ* (Young's Bible). Paul's revelation came from Christ through the writings of the prophets. It is the same today, we read and study the Bible, listen to the preacher/teacher, but it is the spirit of Christ that impresses the heart with the truth (1Jn 2:27). The Bible or the book of Revelation will only be understood when God is ready to reveal it to His church.

The Old Testament was commonly referred to by the Jews as - the law of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms (Lk 24:44-45). Paul also gave the purpose of the law (Bible): **Galatians 3:19-20:** *19. Wherefore then serves the law? It was added because of transgressions*⁽³⁸⁴⁷⁾, *till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. 20. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.* The reason the law was given was because of our violations against each other; and it was set in order by messengers (prophets) in the hand of a Mediator - *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus* (1 Tim 2:5). As you can see, the message of the Godhead is interwoven throughout the gospel of the life of Christ. Without a correct understanding of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the gospel (good news) cannot be understood.

How does Jesus mediate? He IS NOT protecting us from an angry God, as I was taught and the vast majority of Christianity believes today. **Romans 8:26-27:** *26. Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groans which cannot be uttered. 27. And he that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.* It is the spirit of Christ which assists us with our feebleness of mind. Different Greek words are translated the same in English, but have slightly different meanings: In verse 26, the Spirit itself intercedes in our behalf. In verse 27 the Spirit consults in behalf of the saints. We start out spiritually dumb, and do not even know for what to pray; but Christ consults with the Father in our behalf as to what we need, with groans.

Here is an example of the groans: **John 11:32-33, 37-38:** *32. Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou had been here, my brother had not died. 33. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled.... 37. And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? 38. Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.* In His mind, Jesus was groaning because they did not grasp that He was the resurrection and the life (verse 25). Lazarus was four days in the grave, a spiritual picture of humanity being dead in their sins, and having need of a Savior. Spiritual resurrection and life come before the literal event. This happens in the heart as we receive the correct understanding of the cross and how it manifests God's love.

Ephesians 1:18: *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.* Our inheritance is to obtain the Spirit of the living God (verses 13, 14; Gal 3:14, 18), of which the Spirit of Christ is the pledge. Eyes are a symbol of our understanding which enlightens the mind when we receive the riches (truth) of God's glory (character, or name - Ex 33:18-19; 34:5-7). The 144,000 have the NAME of God written in their foreheads (Rev 14:1).

Ephesians 1:19-23: *19. And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20. Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly (places), 21. Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22. And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things of the church, 23. Which is his body, the fulness of him that fills all in all.* It is the Father who put all things under the feet of Christ (1 Cor 15:28). By the time of the cross the Son of God came to understand the Father's plan for humanity, how He fit into the plan and that the Father loves humanity as much as His only Son (Jn 17:23). This He learned through suffering: *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him* (Heb 5:8-9). Notice, that Jesus did not become author of salvation until after the cross - He cannot be equal to the Father, as taught by the churches.

Ephesians 2:1, 4-6: *1. And you (hath he quickened, who) were dead (spiritually) in trespasses⁽³⁹⁰⁰⁾ and sins⁽²⁶⁶⁾ 4. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us. 5. Even when we were dead in sins⁽³⁹⁰⁰⁾, hath quickened (given life to) us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved) 6. And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly (places) in Christ Jesus: The Greek word (*par-ap'-to-mah*⁽³⁹⁰⁰⁾) is the same for "trespasses" and "sins" in verses 1 & 5. This word is used for unintentional sins committed because of errors in belief. Verse one covers both, the unintentional and intentional sins we commit. The "life" we are given in Christ is the understanding of His sacrifice for all mankind. Again, understanding the cross requires a correct understanding of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are the "body" of Christ - the church.*

Just as all things are put under Christ's feet, so will it be for those who are in Christ. To have something "under the feet" means to have it in subjection; and ultimately, it is the sin-nature which we want to control, and not the other way around. When we are in Christ, we are at the right hand of the Father, just as is He. This is called "being in the heavens." It is a mental state of having God's understanding, and which changes the heart from that of adversity toward God and man, to that of loving God and neighbor.

From verse 5 above, *by grace ye are saved: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God* (Eph 2:8). A better way of rendering this verse is, *of the grace are ye saved by means of the faith* (of Christ). Grace is the love that the Father shows to us through His only begotten Son; and Jesus is the channel through which the Father brings the faith (spiritual understanding). **Galatians 2:16:** *Knowing that a man is not justified* (rendered innocent) *by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified* (rendered innocent) *by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.* Keeping the law according to a man's understanding will NEVER enable a person to overcome sin!

Ephesians 2:2-4: *2. Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience: 3. Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind*⁽¹²⁷¹⁾; *and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.* These verses describe a person before they give their heart to Christ - *fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind* (own understanding, thoughts). What does it mean *according to the prince of the power of the air*? Paul refers to this "prince" as a "spirit." So, it is something inward, of the mind. **John 12:31-32:** *31. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. 32. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.* A prince is a son of a king. Inwardly, a prince represents the thoughts a person walking according to a king of the earth (unsanctified), i.e. according to a man's understanding of the Bible. It is the cross that will correct man in his thinking, when we look at it from the Father's point of view (lifted up from the earth - self). **Romans 9:22-24:** *22. What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23. And that he might make known the riches (truth) of his glory (character) on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore (before) prepared unto glory, 24. Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?* When God's wrath comes upon the wicked, the wrath is not in Him, but in the people because they believe God is angry at sinners. Because of what they believe, fear will grip them when they appear before God, and men's hearts will fail them because of fear (Lk 21:26).

Ps 24:1-6: *1. THE EARTH is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein; 2. for he has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the rivers. 3. Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4. He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false, and does not swear deceitfully. 5. He will receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.* *Selah* (RSV). The "hill," or mountain of Yahweh is Mount Zion, and the "holy place" is inside the veil of the tabernacle. The laver at the door was for the priests to wash their hands and feet before entering. It is Jesus who washes the feet of the saints (Jn 13:7, 10); and we are washed by the water of the word (Eph 5:26). When we receive the words of Jesus, we are receiving His spirit and life (Jn 6:63). To receive God's righteousness, is to receive the way He thinks. Consider seriously your calling from the Lord. Amen!