

# **PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS**

**A TRANSLATION**

by  
**G. H. Shinn**

## Chapter One

### INTRODUCTION – 1:1-2

1 Paul, *an* apostle of Jesus Christ through *the* will of God, to the saints and faithful ones who are in Ephesus in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.

### THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD THE FATHER – 1:3-2:10

#### THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD MANIFESTED THROUGH THE TRINITY

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He elected us in Him before *the* foundation of the world for us to be holy and faultless in His presence, in love <sup>5</sup> having predestined us unto son placement through Jesus Christ unto himself according to the good pleasure of His will <sup>6</sup> unto *the* praise of *the* glory of His grace with which He graced us in His loved one, <sup>7</sup> in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He caused to abound unto us in all wisdom and insight, <sup>9</sup> having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in himself <sup>10</sup> for *a* dispensation of the fullness of seasons, to bring together for himself all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things upon the earth <sup>11</sup> in Him by whom also we were chosen, having been predestined according to *the* purpose of the one who works all things according to the counsel of His desirous will, <sup>12</sup> so that we will be unto *the* praise of His glory, the ones who first hoped in Christ, <sup>13</sup> in whom you also *hoped*, having heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, by whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is *a* down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, unto *the* praise of His glory.

#### THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD MANIFESTED THROUGH THE SAINT

15 Because of this, I also, having heard of the

faith of each of you in the Lord Jesus and your love which *is* for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> do not cease giving thanks on behalf of you, while making mention of you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, might give to you *a* spirit of wisdom and revelation in *the* full knowledge of Him, <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your heart having been enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what *are* the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us who believe, according to the working of the might of His strength, <sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ, having raised Him from dead *people*, and seated *Him* at His right side in the heavenly *places*, <sup>21</sup> above every ruler and authority and power and lordship, and every name being named, not only in this age, but also in the coming *one*. <sup>22</sup> And He subjected all things under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in all ways.

## Chapter Two

### THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD MANIFESTED THROUGH THE SINNER

1 And when you were dead in trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit who is now working among the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom we all also formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, performing the desires of the flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children of wrath, as *were* also the rest. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His much love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, He made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and He raised us together and seated us together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that He might display in the coming ages the superabundant riches of His grace in kindness for us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this *is* not from you,

*this is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> *this is* not by works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His product, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before, in order that we should walk in them.

#### THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST – 2:11-4:16

##### UNITY PRODUCED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

11 Therefore, remember that you *were* formerly Gentiles in the flesh, who are called uncircumcision by what is called circumcision hand-made in the flesh — <sup>12</sup> that you were at that season without Christ, having been estranged from the citizenship of Israel, and strangers concerning the covenants of promise, having no hope, and godless in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus, you who were formerly far away have become near by the blood of Christ.

14 For He Himself is our peace, the one who made both the things *into* one thing, and destroyed the dividing wall of the fence, <sup>15</sup> the enmity, having eliminated in His flesh the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, in order that in Himself He might create the two *into* one new man, making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, having killed the enmity in Himself. <sup>17</sup> And when He came, He proclaimed peace to you *who were* far and to the ones *who were* near, <sup>18</sup> because through Him we both have the way of approach to the Father by one Spirit. <sup>19</sup> So then, you are no longer foreigners and non-citizens, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of *the* household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being *the* cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom *the* whole building, being fitted together, grows into *a* holy temple in *the* Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom also you are being built together for *a* dwelling place of God by *the* Spirit.

### Chapter Three

#### UNITY PROCLAIMED THROUGH THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

1 Because of this, I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles, <sup>2</sup> if indeed

you have heard *of* the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that by revelation He made known to me the mystery, just as I wrote *a* small *amount*, <sup>4</sup> regarding which when reading you are able to understand my insight in the mystery of the Christ, <sup>5</sup> which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men as now it has been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by *the* Spirit, <sup>6</sup> that the Gentiles are to be fellow heirs and fellow sharers of the body and fellow participants of His promise in Christ through the gospel, <sup>7</sup> of which I became a servant according to the gift of the grace of God which was given to me according to the working of His power.

8 To me, the least of all the saints, was given this grace among the Gentiles, to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ <sup>9</sup> and to enlighten all *about* what the dispensation of the mystery *is*, which has been hidden through the ages by God, who created all things through Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> in order that the multi-faceted wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*, <sup>11</sup> according to *the* purpose of the ages which He produced by Christ Jesus, our Lord, <sup>12</sup> by whom we have confidence and the way of approach with trust through faith in Him. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, I ask *you* not to become discouraged by my troubles on behalf of you, which is your glory.

#### UNITY PRESERVED BY THE INDWELLING OF CHRIST

14 Because of this, I bend my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in *the* heavens and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> in order that He might give to you according to the riches of His glory with power to be strengthened through His Spirit in the inner man, <sup>17</sup> that Christ might dwell through the faith in your hearts, having been rooted and stabilized in love <sup>18</sup> in order that you might be able to comprehend together with all the saints what *is* the breadth and length and depth and height, <sup>19</sup> and to

know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, in order that you might be filled unto all the fullness of God.

20 Now to the one who is able to do exceedingly above *and* beyond all things about which we ask or think according to the power which works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever, amen.

### Chapter Four

#### UNITY PROMOTED THROUGH THE BOND OF PEACE

1 Therefore, I, the prisoner in *the* Lord, encourage you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and meekness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling. <sup>5</sup> *There is* one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, the one who is over all and through all and in you all.

#### UNITY PROVIDED BY THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

7 But to each of us was given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Therefore He says, After He ascended into *a* high place, He led captive a group of captives, and He gave gifts to men.<sup>1</sup> <sup>9</sup> But what does the *phrase* "He ascended" *mean*, unless *it means* that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> The one who descended, He Himself is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, in order that He should fill all things. <sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave first the apostles, then the prophets, and the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the outfitting of the saints unto the work of service for building up of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the full knowledge of the Son of God, to *a* mature man, to *a* measure of *the* mature age of the fullness of Christ <sup>14</sup> in order that we should no longer be in-

fants, being tossed by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching, by the cunning deception of men, by craftiness with *a* view to schemes *to cause* wandering, <sup>15</sup> but while expressing truth in love, we should grow unto Him in all things, who is the head, Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom all the body, being closely joined and being held together through every ligament *that* supports *it* according to the working in *a* measure of each single part, produces the growth of the body unto *the* building up of itself in love.

#### THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE SAINT OF GOD – 4:17-6:20

##### SPIRITUALITY DISTINGUISHED FROM THE GENTILE WALK

17 Therefore I say this and testify in *the* Lord, that you are no longer to walk just as also the remaining Gentiles walk, in the emptiness of their mind, <sup>18</sup> having been darkened in their understanding, being estranged from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them because of the callousness of their heart, <sup>19</sup> who, having become apathetic, gave themselves over to lasciviousness for working every *kind of* uncleanness in greediness. <sup>20</sup> But you did not thus learn Christ, <sup>21</sup> since, indeed, you heard Him, and in Him you were taught, just as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> that you are to put off with reference to your former lifestyle the old man who is corrupted according to the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new man which has been created according to God in righteousness and piety of the truth.

##### SPIRITUALITY DELAYED BY GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

25 Therefore, having put off the lie, speak each one truth with his neighbor because we are members of one another.<sup>2</sup> <sup>26</sup> Be wrathful and do not sin. <sup>3</sup> Let the sun not set on your wrath, <sup>27</sup> nor give place to the devil. <sup>28</sup> Let the one who steals no longer steal, but rather let him labor, working with his hands the good thing, in order that he might have *something* to share with the one who

1 Psalm 68:18. Not a direct quote, but an allusion.

2 Zechariah 8:16.

3 Psalm 4:4.

has need. <sup>29</sup> Do not let any harmful word come forth out of your mouth, but if *there is* any good word let it come forth for edification of *what is* necessary, in order that it might give grace to the ones who hear <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and blasphemy be removed from you, together with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, compassionate people, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.

### Chapter Five

#### SPIRITUALITY DETACHED FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY

1 Therefore, be imitators of God as beloved children, <sup>2</sup> and walk in love, just as also Christ loved us and gave himself on behalf of us *as an* offering and sacrifice to God for *a* fragrant odor. <sup>3</sup> But do not even let be named among you fornication, and all uncleanness or greediness, just as it is fitting for saints. <sup>4</sup> Also, *do not let* indecency and foolish talk or ribald jesting *be named*, the things that are not proper, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For you know this, that every fornicator or unclean or greedy person who is an idolater does not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

#### SPIRITUALITY DISCERNED THROUGH GODLY LIGHT

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words. For because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, do not become fellow participants with them, <sup>8</sup> for you formerly were darkness, but now *you are* light in *the* Lord.

Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth), <sup>10</sup> proving what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> And do not participate in the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather also expose *them*. <sup>12</sup> For even to speak the things being done by them in secret is shameful. <sup>13</sup> But all the things being exposed by the light are made visible, for everything which is

made visible is light. <sup>14</sup> Therefore He says, Get up, one who is sleeping, and rise out from the dead, and Christ will shine for you.

#### SPIRITUALITY DETERMINED BY SPIRIT CONTROL

15 Watch, therefore, that you walk carefully, not as unwise, but as wise <sup>16</sup> buying up the season, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Because of this, do not be senseless, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*. <sup>18</sup> And do not become drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be filled by *the* Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to yourselves with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to our God and Father for all things in *the* name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> while subordinating yourselves to one another in *the* fear of Christ.

#### SPIRITUALITY DETECTED BY GODLY MARRIAGE

22 Wives, be subordinate to your own husbands, as to the Lord, <sup>23</sup> because *the* husband is *the* head of the wife as also Christ *is the* head of the church, and is Himself savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> In fact, just as the church is subordinate to Christ, thus also the wives *are subordinate* to their own husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as also Christ loved the church and gave himself on behalf of it, <sup>26</sup> in order that He might set it apart, having cleansed it by the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> in order that He might present it to himself *as* the glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such things, but that it might be holy and faultless. <sup>28</sup> So ought the husbands to love their own wives as their own bodies. The one who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but feeds and takes care of it, just as also the Lord does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of His body, from His flesh and from His bones. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, *a* man shall depart from his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two will be joined into one flesh. <sup>32</sup> This mystery is great. But I

4 Genesis 2:24.

stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand, therefore, having your waist girded about with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> in all things having taken up the shield of the faith with which you will be able to quench all the arrows of the evil one which have been set aflame. <sup>17</sup> And *you are* to take the helmet of the means of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is *the* utterance of God, <sup>18</sup> praying through every prayer and supplication in every season in *the* Spirit, and watching for this same thing with all perseverance and supplication concerning all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and on behalf of me, in order that to me might be given speech by *the* opening of my mouth with boldness to make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> on behalf of which I serve as an ambassador *bound* with *a* chain, in order that in Him I may be bold when it is necessary *for* me to speak.

speak concerning Christ and concerning the church. <sup>33</sup> Even so, let each of you individually so love his own wife as himself; and *I say* that the wife should respect her husband.

## Chapter Six

### SPIRITUALITY DESCRIBED BY BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> Honor your father and mother, which is *the* first commandment with *a* promise, <sup>3</sup> in order that it might be well with you, and that you might be on the earth a long time. <sup>5</sup> <sup>4</sup> And fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but nourish them in *the* child-training and admonition of *the* Lord.

5 Slaves, obey your masters according to the flesh with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as to Christ, <sup>6</sup> not according to eye-service, as men pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, performing the will of God from the soul <sup>7</sup> with *a* good attitude, serving as slaves to the Lord and not to men, <sup>8</sup> knowing that if each person does anything good, he will receive *it* back from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

9 And masters, do the same things to them, ceasing the threatening, knowing that also your own master is in heaven, and *there* is no partiality with Him.

### SPIRITUALITY DETERRED BY SATANIC ATTACK

10 Finally, my brothers, be powerful in *the* Lord and in the might of His strength. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the craftiness of the devil, <sup>12</sup> because our fight is not against blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual beings of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

13 Therefore, take up the whole armor of God in order that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having made all things ready, to

### CONCLUSION – 6:21-24

21 And so that you may also know the things concerning me, what I am accomplishing, Tychicus, my beloved brother and faithful servant in *the* Lord, will make known to you all things, <sup>22</sup> whom I sent you for this same reason, in order that you might know the things about us, and *that* he may comfort your hearts.

23 Peace and love *be* to the brothers with faith from God *the* Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Grace *be* with all the ones who love our Lord Jesus Christ without corruption. Amen.

5 Exodus 20:12; SA Deuteronomy 5:16.