

The Book of Ephesians

Chapter 4

Review

- Written by Paul around 60 A.D. while he was imprisoned in Rome (see Acts 28:30-31)
- Can be divided into two sections
 - The Blessings for Christians – Doctrinal – Chapters 1-3
 - The Behavior of Christians – Practical – Chapters 4-6

Chapter 4

I. Walking in Unity – vs. 1-16

- vs. 1-3 – we now see Paul make application of the doctrinal foundation he has laid.
 - B.H. Carroll – “From doctrines come morals. The relation is philosophical and the bond is indissoluble. All the modern hue and cry against dogma is really against morals. The more we reduce the number of creed-articles, the more we undermine practical religion.”
- vs. 3 – Christians should walk united in peace with God and one another
- The Great Unities
 - vs. 4 – one body – the church, neither Jew nor Gentile but unified
 - vs. 4 – one Spirit – Holy Spirit
 - vs. 4 – one hope – the glorious future for the saints
 - vs. 5 – one Lord – Christ alone
 - vs. 5 – one faith – “the system or body of truth taught by Christ and the apostles”, compare to vs. 13-14
 - vs. 5 – one baptism – believer’s baptism, immersion in water
 - vs. 6 – one God and Father of all – Deuteronomy 6:4
- vs. 7 – God has given “gifts” to men to help them have the unity He desires for them
 - vs. 8 – these gifts are from Christ and His redemptive power. Paul quotes Psalm 68:18 to prove this and defends the application in the parenthetical section in vs. 9-10
 - vs. 11 – part of the gifts is the men Christ empowered and commissioned to care for His followers
 1. Apostles – commissioned witnesses of the resurrected Christ
 2. Prophets – received revelation from God for others
 - a. These first two appear to have now ended
 3. Evangelists – a travelling preacher aiding many congregations

a. Only mentioned here, in Acts 21:8, and II Timothy 4:5

4. Pastors and teachers – leaders in local congregations

- These work among the saints (vs. 12) to grow them into mature faith and knowledge (vs. 13), to ground them in the truth (vs. 14), and for them to serve Christ as a unified body (vs. 15).

II. Walking in the New Life – vs. 17-32

- vs. 17 – Paul presupposes a change is made at salvation that should change the heart and actions of a regenerated individual.
- vs. 20-24 – Through the power of Christ’s Gospel we can have victory over sin, not only the penalty of hell, but the power of sin we struggle against in our lives.
- Paul tells us to “put on the new man” in vs. 24 and “put away” sinful actions in vs. 25 and following. This is the daily struggle of the believer.
 - Sinless Perfection is not taught in the Scriptures. Saved men and women still struggle against sin through the world, the flesh, and the devil. We are truly free from sin when graduate to Heaven.
 - These are constant, and not one-time, actions commanded here.
- vs. 25-32 - The contrasts between the actions of the “old man” and the “new man” are as distinct as night and day