

Charisma in Christ

Chapter 4

Audio Lesson: New Testament #58



Objective: To understand freedom in Christ as Paul mentioned in Galatians, and to introduce our study of Ephesians by talking about our spiritual blessings in Christ in the heavenly places.



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery.

– Galatians 5:1

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

– Ephesians 1:3

In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul rebuked the church for believing religious teachers who said that they had to follow the law in order to be saved. Paul asked if he had become their enemy for telling them the truth about the apostate gospel they had accepted. In 4:19, Paul wrote that he wanted Christ to be formed in the believers at Galatia. Paul finished his letter by talking about freedom in Christ. Paul wanted to make sure the Galatians stayed free and did not get chained again into slavery to Jewish laws and ceremonies, because Christ had set them free.

The letter to the Ephesians is Paul's masterpiece on the Church of Jesus Christ. Like Paul's other letters, the first half of the letter (Ephesians 1:1 - 4:16) is the doctrinal section and the last half (4:17 - 6:24) is the practical or application section of the letter. The heart of the letter is found in 1:3, where we read, "*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.*" We have all the spiritual blessings we need to live as born-again, Spirit-controlled believers.

In the first three chapters of the letter, Paul often reminded the Ephesians to remember the truths he had taught them. Later, starting in chapter 4, Paul often used the word "walk." He wanted his readers to walk worthy — to walk in such a way that they demonstrated the truths he had taught them when he was in Ephesus. Paul was reminding them that it is possible to live here in this world but actually be living in Christ in the heavenly places, in a heavenly dimension.

In chapter 3, Paul wrote about the great mystery of the Church. Mystery means "a secret that is sooner or later revealed." Until Pentecost, no one had known that, one day, both Jews and Gentiles would be made one through Christ and be gathered together in His Church. In chapter 4:1-16, Paul taught great truths about how Christ's Church is supposed to function.

1. True or False? Paul said that his thorn in the flesh was a skin disease.



2. True or False? Paul spent more time in Ephesus than in any of the places where he had planted a church on his missionary journeys.
3. True or False? Paul taught daily in a seminary in or near Ephesus for over two years.
4. True or False? The church at Laodicea was the mother church of others in the area.
5. True or False? Heaven is not only a place where followers of Christ go to be with God, but it is also a dimension we can live in today.
6. True or False? Paul says it is impossible to live in Christ eternally until we die.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

7. What is the message of Galatians? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. Christ has made us free from the bondage of the law.
 - b. Paul was defending his apostleship.
 - c. Test yourselves to see if you are saved.
 - d. We cannot stop living under the power of the flesh.
8. Paul's concern for the Galatians is evident in his letter. Why was he so concerned? (Choose all that apply)
 - a. The church's joy had disappeared.
 - b. They were turning back to legalistic bondage.
 - c. The false teachers prevented Paul from coming to visit.
 - d. The church was filled with illness and disease.
9. Which of the following is not the message of Ephesians?
 - a. We have all the spiritual blessings we need to live as Spirit-controlled believers.
 - b. If we live in Christ, we can live in the heavenly dimension.
 - c. Christ has set us free from pain and suffering.
 - d. We can live in Christ as holy people even in the middle of the world's filth and sin.

10. What does Paul mean by the word “eternal” in his letter to the Ephesians? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Since Christ is eternal, we are eternal to the degree that we are living our lives in Christ.
- b. If we are in Christ, we have eternal life because we are united to Him and He is eternal.
- c. To be eternal means that you will not live forever.
- d. We can enjoy eternal life only after we die.

11. What is the great mystery that was revealed at Pentecost and that Paul discusses in Ephesians?

- a. The Church
- b. Eternal life
- c. The hope of glory
- d. The fruit of the Spirit

12. What are two key words in Ephesians? (Choose the word pair that applies)

- a. Repentance and the Second Coming
- b. Justification and Sanctification
- c. Freedom and Bondage
- d. Walk and remember



As followers of Christ, how is Paul telling us to live? Since we are one body – the Church of Jesus Christ – we are to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit. What can you do this week to walk worthy of the calling you received?



Praise God for His Word and for Paul’s letters. Thank Him that you have eternal life through Jesus Christ. Ask God to open your spiritual eyes so that you can learn to live in the heavenly places. Ask Him to help you remember the truths you have learned and to walk worthy of your calling every day.



Going Deeper

1. How can you personally apply the teaching of Paul that all the spiritual blessings you need to live as a devoted follower of Christ are in heavenly places, and in Christ? _____

2. Give five examples of what Paul means by spiritual blessings. _____

3. How can you dwell in heavenly places? _____

4. What does it mean to live in Christ? _____

5. How can you personally relate to and apply Ephesians 1:3 to Joshua 1:3 and 2 Peter 1:3?

6. Based on Ephesians 2:8-10, relate to and apply what God's objective was in your salvation.

7. Based on the same passage, how can you personally apply the reality that the grace and faith that saved you were not coming from you, and you should therefore not boast about your salvation as though it came from you as a result of your good works? _____
