

Ephesians

Lesson Nineteen Brotherhood in the Church

6:21-24

Introduction:

1. The first part of the book of Ephesians detailed the essential nature of the church – the body of Christ.
2. Then, Paul emphasized the kind of life that is to characterize one who is a member of that church.
3. As his epistle drew near its end, Paul emphasized that the Christian must fight against all things that would seek to lure him away from the Lord's church.
4. Now, Paul concludes this letter with a brief emphasis on the love, care, and concern that exists among members of the Lord's church.

6:21 But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things

- A. Paul ended the discussion of the Christian Armor by emphasizing the power and importance of prayer.
- B. He encouraged his brethren in Ephesus to pray for him, that he might continue to proclaim boldly the Gospel of Christ.
 1. This illustrates the idea of the brotherhood of all believers.
 2. Christians pray for one another.
 3. Christians pray for the cause of Christ and for the labors of their brethren – even if they are separated by many miles.
- C. Thus, Paul understood that the Ephesians would be concerned about him and about how he was faring during his imprisonment.
 1. Paul cared about what was happening in Ephesus.
 2. He was concerned about the welfare of the church and of the individual members.
 3. Naturally, they also would be concerned about him.
- D. In order to inform them in more detail of his situation, Paul sent Tychicus to Ephesus.
 1. This speaks to the inspiration of the Bible.
 2. Paul did not fill his letters with personal details about his life, experiences, and imprisonment.
 3. What details were given always served a higher purpose of preaching the Gospel.
 4. Paul's letter to the Ephesians was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- E. Tychicus was a faithful and trustworthy child of God.
 1. The name Tychicus means, "Fortunate or fortuitous."
 2. He is first mention as accompanying Paul in Acts 20:4, just before Paul met with the elders of the church at Ephesus.
 3. He was from Asia, the province in Asia Minor of which Ephesus was the capitol – so, he was possible from Ephesus.

4. He is called a beloved brother – a Christian, dearly loved for his faithful work and service.
5. He is called a faithful minister – trustworthy in carrying out works of service.
6. He is called a fellow servant (Col. 4:7) – laboring with Paul in the Gospel.
 - a. He was with Paul on his third Missionary Journey and apparently traveled with him to Jerusalem (Acts 20:4).
 - b. When Paul was in prison in Rome, Tychicus was there with him.
 - c. He was entrusted by Paul to carry a letter to Ephesus and one to Colossae (Col. 4:7).
 - d. It is possible that he went to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus (cf. Col. 4:9; Phm. 1:10).
 - e. He was with Paul between the two Roman imprisonments (Titus 3:12).
 - f. And, he was sent to Ephesus during Paul's final imprisonment – in hopes that Timothy could journey to Rome (2 Tim. 4:12).

6:22 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts

- A. Tychicus had the primary duty of delivering the inspired epistle to the church at Ephesus.
- B. However, he also would be able to inform them in more detail about Paul's condition and experiences in Rome.
- C. By so doing, their hearts would be comforted.

6:23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

- A. Paul concludes this epistle in the same way it began – with a prayer for peace (cf. 1:2; 2:14-17; 4:3; 6:15).
- B. Peace is possible only when one is at peace with God.
- C. Peace with God is possible only by the blood of Christ – in the church of Christ.
- D. Love is vital to the health of the church; but it must be love with faith.
 1. This is more than the emotion of love.
 2. It is true love that is based in faith – built on the truth of God's Word.
 3. True love seeks what is best for another, based upon the teaching of Scripture.
- E. As with all blessings for the Christian, they come from the Father and the Lord.

6:24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

- A. Finally, he wishes for grace – the favor of God – to be upon his brethren.
- B. This grace is for those who love the Lord in sincerity.
 1. Those who hate, despise, and reject Jesus will not receive the grace of God.
 2. Those who love Him must do so in sincerity – with incorruption and unending perpetuity (cf. 1 Cor. 15:42, 50, 53, 53; Rom. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:10).
 3. This means to continue to love and obey Him, faithful unto death (John 14:15; Rev. 2:10).
- C. Amen. Let it ever be so.