

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS; A BOOK CONCERNING THE CHURCH

(Scripture quotations are from the *Recovery Version of the Bible*.)

Scripture Reading: Eph. 1:22-23; 4:13; 2:15; 2:19; 2:21-22; 5:25-27; 6:10-13

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Ephesians 4:13

13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Ephesians 2:15

15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,

Ephesians 2:19

19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Ephesians 2:21-22

21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Ephesians 6:10-13

10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength. **11** Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil, **12** For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

I. The Subject of the Book of Ephesians is the Church

- A. Ephesians covers seven aspects of the church.
- B. The first aspect of the church is the Body of Christ, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. In order for a living person to be complete, he must have a body as his expression. The Body of Christ is the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
- C. Secondly, the church is the new man (2:15). In the universe there is just one new man; hence, the church is *the* new man.

- D. In 2:19 we see that the church is the kingdom of God. The term fellow-citizens indicates a kingdom, for being a fellow-citizen refers to being one with certain civil rights, and civil rights are always related to a nation or kingdom.
- E. Fourthly, the church is the household of God (2:19). The household is not a matter of civil rights, but a matter of life and enjoyment.
- F. In 2:21 and 22 we see that the church is also the dwelling place of God. Verse 21 says that all the building is growing into a holy temple in the Lord. This refers to the universal building. Verse 22 says that the saints in Ephesus are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit. This is the local building.
- G. In chapter five we see the church as the bride, the wife, of Christ. A man's wedding day is a day of satisfaction and rest. Because Christ loves the church, the church is His rest and satisfaction.
- H. Finally, Ephesians 6 reveals that the church is the warrior, a corporate fighter. An army is composed of many soldiers, but a warrior is simply one person. The church is the new man, and this new man is a warrior. As the warrior, the church deals with God's enemy and defeats him.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How is the church related to the purpose of God that was covered last week?
2. How do the seven aspects of the church mentioned here touch you as His believers?
3. What should our response be to the Lord in seeing how significant the church is to God?
4. What is your personal experience related to the church?