

## *Ephesian Prayer Warriors: Flying through Ephesians*

**Eph 6:18–24 Dr. John Niemelä Grace Chapel 12-6-06: Finland's Independence Day**

### **REVIEW**

Gbels should praise the Father for what the Trinity did for Jbels first in regard to the inheritance (1:3–14) Paul [a Jewish bel] thankfully prays for enlightened EphGbels to know their calling in hope, their rich inheritance, & the Father's powerful working for bels w/ His power that raised & seated Christ (1:15–23)

Despite Jews & Gentiles being dead, God made alive, raised, & seated Jbels & Gbels w/ Christ (saving separated-from-God people by-grace-thru-faith) so they cannot boast; but that His created Church would do the prepared good works (2:1–10)

These now alive & near-to-God Gbels are to remember their former alienation & that the cross brot them near to God (2:11–13)

Christ made peace between JBels & GBels when he made both one & broke down the divisive Law & reconciled both to God, so Gbels are no longer aliens, but citizens w/ JBels, (both) having been built into a holy temple—the Church (2:14–22)

Paul [requests that they not lose heart at his imprisonment] on behalf of the GBels, because he assumes that they know his God-given spiritual gift: namely that God revealed the previously unrevealed mystery to the apostles & NT prophets [e.g., that some Gbels would be fellow heirs, of the same body, & fellow partakers (w/ some Jews)] (3:1–7,13)

Paul rec'd a grace (gift) to announce the Church's inheritance & mystery dispensation—the Church—hidden from creation by the Creator—God's great eternal plan accomplished thru Christ. Thus, Paul's imprisonment should not discourage them, because (his message resulted in) imprisonment is their glory (3:8–13)

In light of God uniting Jews & Gentiles Paul prays to the Church's Father to strengthen the EphGbels that Christ might indwell their assembly in order that they (who were established in God's love) would know the extent & depth of Christ's love w/ goal that they would manifest God's character in its fullness (3:14–19)

Bels should praise the Father who works exceedingly [for Church] doing what we never could have thot or asked for (3:20–21)

[In light of God joining JBels & GBels in one body] bels ought to live in a way worthy of God calling them into His Church by humbly bearing w/ one another in love, i.e., by preserving the unity that the HS effected thru a jointly-bound peace [treaty, the peace-treaty that created the Church] is because the one body corresponds to the one triune God who called the church in one way (4:1–6)

[In mild contrast w/ the body's unity] the Spirit gave spiritual gifts in proportion to the gifted people given to the Church by the ascended Christ, based upon Christ (as the divine Victor who descended to earth before ascending to heaven) having the right to give them to the church; & (specifically) Christ gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, & teachers to equip the saints, so the saints will minister to edify the body until its maturity in faith matches Christ's mature stature; & the purpose for the body maturing is that (rather than being childishly unstable & subject to trickery) its maturity (resulting from body speaking doctrinal truth lovingly) would match its head (Christ); the whole body, because of being joined to Christ by every part effectively doing its role, causes body to grow (into the head) to edify itself in love (4:7–16)

[In light of Christ designing each part of the positionally unified body to cause it to grow to a maturity matching its head, Christ] GBels ought not live within the futile mindset (unenlightened-alienated-ignorant-blindness causing lewd & greedy uncleanness) of GUnbels; but the EphBels did not learn Christ thru a futile mindset, but learned Christ by Him teaching them [thru gifted APEPTs He gave] non-futile Christ-centered knowledge, namely that [when they were joined to Christ] (1) re their old conduct, they (corporately) put off their being-corrupted old-man position [in Adam], (2) their mind was renewed, & (3) they had corporately put on their new-man position (created according to God in +R & holiness) (4:17–24)

Bels are to please the HS (because He sealed us); e.g. speak God's truth w/ bels, because we are of the same body; resolving righteous indignation before it becomes sinful & allows Satan to divide the body; working laboriously to have something to give to needy bels (rather than stealing); speaking what edifies, rather than what destroys, to give grace to hearers; kindly forgiving rather than venting destructively because Christ thus forgave us (4:25–32)

[Based on need to walk worthily (4:1)] bels should imitate God [by pleasing HS] & should love fellow-bels because JC died for us, but should not converse re immorality nor covetousness, nor speak filthily/foolishly, nor coarsely joke; but should thank (God & bels) because idolaters—e.g., immoral, unclean, & coveters—have no reward, so bels should not view rewards as guaranteed, because wrath comes on idolatrous unbels, so enlightened bels ought not link w/ unbels (5:1–8a)

Bels should live as God's enlightened children by showing *as approved* (to selves) what He likes; not fellowshipping w/ fruitless dark deeds (because HS is source of all goodness) because unbels' secret deeds are shameful conversation, but light exposes darkness as darkness], so lethargic bels should arise from the corpses, so JC will shine [His word] on them (5:8b–14)

[Based on the fruitfulness of living as God's enlightened children] bels should seek to live wisely & know God's will; specifically, rather than being drunk, they ought to let the (Holy) Spirit fill them [w/ the Word] that they speak to one another in psalms, sing to & thank the Lord, & mutually submit to each other (5:15–21)

Wives are to be in submission to their husbands as [part of] submitting to the Lord because the husband is her head as [a feature of] Christ being the church's head & the body's Savior; so a correspondence exists between the church's submission to Christ & wives submission to husbands in all things; 5:25–28 Husbands are to love their wives in the manner as Christ loved the church & gave Himself for her to sanctify her [now] w/ a water-type-of-washing that He might present to Himself a glorious church—a holy & unblemished bride; so each husband (as head of his wife under Christ's headship) ought to love his own wife as he loves self—indeed, loving one's wife is a way of loving self; thus husbands are to submit [to their wives] by loving them sacrificially, because no one ever hated his own flesh, but each nourishes & cherishes his flesh in the same way as Christ [nourishes & cherishes His body] the church, because we are members of His body, e.g., His flesh & bones; thus a husband is to leave his parents & cleave to his wife & become one flesh w/ his wife; now, the mystery of a husband & wife becoming one flesh is great, but Paul [also] speaks [of an even greater mystery] Christ's union w/ the church, but each husband is to love his own wife to the degree as [he loves] himself & each wife is to respect her husband (5:22–33)

Children are to obey their parents because it is right, as proven by the Law saying, "Honor your father & mother," the foremost-in-promise commandment that they may live long on earth; parents are not to provoke their children to wrath [via unreasonable demands], but are to bring them up in training & admonition that comes from the Lord [thru His word] (6:1–4)

Slaves are to obey human masters as [part of obeying Christ], not just with men-pleasing eye-service, but diligently doing the Lord's will w/ goodwill to the Lord, because He will reward whatever good slave or free does; Masters ought also to deal graciously

with their bondservants as part of their bondservice for Christ] by (in part) giving up the threat, because they know that their own heavenly master is impartial (6:5–9)

[As the concluding summary of the letter] bels ought to be strong in the Lord, by putting on God's panoply to withstand Satan, for we battle against powerful demonic rulers in an evil day; bels are to stand because they are ready (for battle); thus bels are to stand because they are already girded w/ truth & +R & because the reconciling gospel has prepared them, above all, bels are to believe [God's word] which equips them to resist Satan, & take hold of their (by grace) salvation & take hold of the word (6:10–17)

#### **NEW EXPOSITION**

**6:18–20 link directly with the panoply, even though Paul does not designate prayer as part of the panoply itself**

**6:18–19a [The Ephesian bels are to put on the whole panoply] accompanied by consistent prayer for all bels and for Paul**

**6:19b [The content of prayers for Paul should include] that he would boldly make known (to Jews and Gentiles alike) the previously unrevealed [provisions of the gospel, namely, that Christ makes Jews and Gentiles alive together in one body]**

**6:20 [The reason for Paul wanting to boldly proclaim the previously unrevealed provisions of the gospel, namely, that Christ makes Jews and Gentiles alive together in one body] is because he is an imprisoned ambassador who is responsible to speak boldly**

**The Epilogue: 6:21–24**

**6:21 Tychicus (the letter carrier) will update the Ephesians about Paul so that they will know how he is doing**

**6:22 The purpose for Tychicus updating the Ephesians about Paul's condition is that he might comfort them [so they would not lose heart]**

**6:23–24 Paul wishes peace and love bounded by faith to believers and grace to those who sincerely love Jesus Christ**

**CONCLUSION**