

Through the Bible Course

**May 2, 1948**

**Ephesians**

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

Key Thought: God's Masterpiece

Key Verse: 2:10 – The word “workmanship” in this verse really means “masterpiece.”

Author: Paul. One of epistles written from prison.

Time: AD 62

Purpose: Someone has said this epistle contains the deepest spiritual truth revealed to man. Here Paul sets forth the believer's position in Christ.

- I. 1:1-22 – Who Produces the Masterpiece – The Trinity
  - 1. 1:1, 2 – Salutation
  - 2. 1:3-5 – Work of Father
    - a. verse 3 – chosen in Christ
    - b. verse 4 – how called in love
    - c. verse 5 – predestined to sonship
    - d. why called
      - 1. according to His pleasure – verses 1, 5, 9, and 11
      - 2. verse 12 – praise of His glory
  - 3. 1:6-12 – Work of Son
    - a. verse 6 – made accepted
    - b. verse 7 – have redemption
    - c. verse 9 – have made known mystery of God's will – i.e. verse 10, gather all things together in Christ
    - d. verses 10, 11 – have inheritance in saints
  - 4. 1:13-14 – Work of Holy Spirit
    - a. verse 13 – sealed
    - b. verse 14 – earnest – i.e. assurance, down payment
  - 5. 1:15-23 – Parenthesis – prayer for Ephesians
- II. 2:1-12 – Out of What Masterpiece is Made
  - 1. Verse 1 – Dead in trespasses and sins
  - 2. Verse 2 – Walked according to prince of power of air
  - 3. Verse 3 – Children of wrath
  - 4. Verses 4-10 – God rich in mercy raised from death of sin and creates into masterpiece
  - 5. Verses 11-12 – Gentiles, without Christ, strangers from covenant, without hope
- III. 2:13 – 3:21 – What is Produced

1. Verse 13 – Made high
2. Verses 14-18 – Have peace; middle wall of partition broken down
  - a. verse 15 – made new man – i.e. new type
3. Verses 19-20 – Live under changed relationship
  - a. fellow citizens of saints
  - b. of household of God
  - c. built upon foundation of Christ
4. Verses 21-22 – Built into holy temple in Lord
5. 3:1-6 – The mystery of masterpiece revealed
  - a. made known by revelation
  - b. mystery was Gentiles and Jews; should be of same body – i.e. the Church
6. 3:7-12 – Paul, one chosen through whom revelation was to come in order that manifold wisdom of God (verse 10) should be made manifest.
7. 3:13-27 – Paul's second prayer

#### IV. Masterpiece Unveiled

1. 4:1-16 – The unity of the Church
  - a. 4:1-2 – walk worthy – lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing, all in love
  - b. 4:3-6 – keeping unity in bond of peace
  - c. 4:7-16 – unity of church manifested by body fitly framed together but each member having various gifts with different purposes
2. 4:17-32 – Walk not as other Gentiles – i.e. the unsaved. Here are listed certain things which are marks of a new man which we have become according to 2:15 and are now to act accordingly, 3:24. (While reading this section you would do well to list these.)
3. 5:1-14 – The new man will walk as children of God and as walking in the light.
4. 5:15-20 – The new man will walk circumspectly buying up the time. Notice will do this by being filled with spirit (verse 18).
5. 5:21 – 6:9 – Submission to others in fear of God.
  - a. 5:22-33 – Husbands and wives. This is illustration of Christ and Church.
  - b. 5:1-4 – Parents and children
  - c. 5:5-9 – Masters and slaves

#### V. 6:11-24 – Satan's Attempt to Ruin Masterpiece

1. Verse 11 – Put on whole armor of God
2. Verses 12-18 – Of what armor consists. Each portion of this armor is to protect us against the wiles of devil which would convince us we are not saved and therefore lead us into old life of sin out of fellowship with God. We must hold on to our assurance of salvation.
3. 6:19-24 – Conclusion of epistle