

Lesson 3 – Ephesians 1:18-23 and Ephesians 2:1-3

Introduction

This week's lesson will continue to examine the last paragraph of Ephesians 1 and then begin Ephesians 2. Do not miss what God has revealed in His word. Have you been thinking about what the Lord is saying to you from His word? Perhaps there is an area in your life that you have not been willing to "deal" with? Maybe God wants you to share with someone about your struggle with these biblical challenges. Are you willing to place yourself before Almighty God and trust Him with His plan and provision for your own life? Pray that God's truth would be very clear to you, and do not give up on what you have begun!

As you move through the lesson this week see what verse you could commit to memory. An excellent way to learn something is to read the verse over and over again, as the recitation will help you store the words in your mind. If memorizing is hard for you, keep trying, it will always be worth the effort!

Days 1 and 2 – Ephesians 1:18-23

1. In the next two days you will finish Ephesians 1. This portion of Paul's letter includes his prayer on behalf of the people of Ephesus. Open by **praying** Paul's prayer as your own prayer for yourself. Begin with these **observation questions**.

- What are the three truths that you may know according to Paul's prayer?

- How is it possible for believers to know these three truths?

- How did Paul describe the greatness of God's power and for whom is this power available?

- In Ephesians 1:20-23 Paul taught some amazing truths about Jesus Christ. Write out the truths about Jesus from these verses.

Lesson 3

2. Please examine these word studies for some of the **key words** used for this passage.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance unless written in <i>italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
2588 kardia kardias Ephesians 1:18	Heart , the thoughts or feelings of the mind. <i>The reasoning, understanding, will, judgment, designs, affections, love, hatred, fear, joy, sorrow and anger. These emotions affect one's physical heart.</i> ¹	Romans 6:17,18
1680 elpis elpis Ephesians 1:18	Hope (to anticipate, usually with pleasure), expectation or confidence. <i>The desire for some good with a certain expectation of obtaining it.</i>	Ephesians 2:12,4:3-6
2821 klesis kleseos Ephesians 1:18	Calling , an invitation, chosen, vocation	Ephesians 4:1,4
1411 dunamis dunameos Ephesians 1:19	Power , specifically miraculous power, usually by implication a miracle itself, ability, abundance	2 Timothy 1:7
2479 ischus ischuos Ephesians 1:19	Strength , forcefulness, ability, might (-ily), power	Acts 9:19
1849 exousia exousias Ephesians 1:21	Authority , privilege, force, capacity, competency	Ephesians 2:2
2963 kuriotes kuriotetos Ephesians 1:21	Dominion , mastery, rulers, government, lordship	Used four times in the New Testament. Colossians 1:16
4138 pleroma pleroma Ephesians 1:23	Fullness , repletion or completion, what fills (as contents, supplement, copiousness, multitude) or what is filled (as container, performance, period)	Ephesians 3:19,4:13

3. Please take some time to look up the verses below that use the word heart, and determine how Paul used the word heart in his writings.

a. Ephesians 3:17

b. Romans 2:14-16

b. 2 Corinthians 4:6

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, Chattanooga, AMG Publishers, 1990, p. 1845.

After reading these Scriptures how do you think Paul is using the word heart in Ephesians 1:18?

4. In our society, one way the word hope is used is that we “hope something will happen,” and yet we might have no assurance of that taking place. In other words, it might happen, but it might not. Look back to Question 2 and the way the Bible used the word hope. What does the word hope mean in the context of Ephesians 1:18?

To be encouraged about your calling, please read Romans 11:28,29 and see what these verses teach about the calling of a Christian.

5. In Paul’s phrase, “the riches of his glorious inheritance” he also referred back to Ephesians 1:11. Read that verse again and ask God to help you understand your inheritance. Stop and meditate on this truth that this may truly encourage your heart.

6. In Ephesians 3 Paul made several references to power. Please read Ephesians 3:7,16,20 and summarize what this says in support of Ephesians 1:19.

7. Ephesians 1:22 is also explained by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:20-28. Read this passage and jot down notes about what was taught in this passage about Christ. (Paul quoted Psalm 8:6 in both of these passages; “You gave Him dominion over the work of Your hands, You put all things under His feet.”)

8. The epistle of Ephesians contains teaching about the Christian church, and Paul’s teaching on the church will be studied in a later lesson. For now look at the definition of the word fullness (in Question 2) and read that back into the text of Ephesians 1:23.

Lesson 3

A number of interpretations are shared concerning the expression, the fullness. One is that the church is intended to express Christ to the world and by being filled by Him the church is enabled to fill everything in every way. Please read Ephesians 5:15-20 to determine how Paul says believers can be filled with the Spirit.

9. What a praise we can express for the truths in Ephesians about God and His gift of His Son for our salvation. The realities of life can sometimes weaken and discourage us. A verse that encourages me when I'm feeling weak is Isaiah 41:10. Read this truth and allow it to encourage you concerning a particular problem in your life where you need help. I was challenged years ago to memorize this verse and it has helped me countless times. This is also a passage I often pray on behalf of others. You could write it out here and read it over several times!

We have read of some very significant promises of God in Ephesians 1:18,19. Think about what gets in the way of you knowing Christ more fully. What should you do so that obstacle is not allowed to remain in your life or be an influence upon your spirit?

When Paul was writing to Timothy he shared God's gift to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:7. Read this and list what those who follow after Christ have been given and what they have not been given.

Please close by claiming God's truth concerning a situation that is challenging you today.

Day 3 – Review of Ephesians 1

1. You will spend today reviewing Ephesians 1. Some would rather skip over this part of the inductive study because they do not "want to" spend time reviewing. Some find this part of the study difficult because it is hard to determine the theme of the chapter! The only way I can do this is by **praying** and continually asking God the Holy Spirit for help.

- Start by reading Ephesians 1 and as you do determine what are the five main **key words** in Ephesians 1.

2. The goal will now be to reflect back on the message of Ephesians 1. Look back at your Scripture Worksheets and your marking of the **declarative statements and**

exhortations from Ephesians 1. Using some of the **key words** written in the text, you will now consider a **theme** for each of the sections you studied in this chapter. It might help to write out several summary statements of each section, and then try to limit your statement to no more than five words, and list these statements here as well as on page 155 in the Appendix, in the sections for Ephesians 1 Summary Statements.

Ephesians 1:1-2	Ephesians 1:3-10
Ephesians 1:11-14	Ephesians 1:15-23

3. The next part of the lesson is to ask God to show you the **themes** for Ephesians 1 based on the main points of each paragraph. Is there one **theme** that the separate paragraph **themes** would “fit” under? Sometimes you can take some of the **key words** from the paragraph **themes** and write those into a **theme or title** for the chapter. Pray and ask for help with this part of the lesson, and then read through these paragraph **themes** you listed to do this. Now list your **title** for Ephesians 1 here as well as on the **Themes and Titles** chart in the Appendix on page 155.

4. My prayer continues to be that these words in Ephesians, written so long ago would be very meaningful in your life today. Please close by praying Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 1:18-23 allowing these words to minister to your own spirit.

Day 4 – Ephesians 2, Comprehensive Chapter Study

1. Today the lesson will **observe** the Scripture Worksheets for Ephesians 2. Always begin with **prayer** for help. Remember to refer to the Appendix pages 149-153 for help with the inductive observation process.

- Read Ephesians 2 paying attention to any **key words** that are repeated. Mark the **key words** in Ephesians 2. Write the **key words** for the chapter here.

2. As you read the chapter, you can also look for **contrasts and comparisons** that Paul used. Refer to Appendix pages 151 and 153, and then write the **contrasts and comparisons** here in the space provided, or mark your Scripture Worksheets in some way to show these.

Lesson 3

Contrasts (to show differences/opposites)

Comparisons (to show similarities and connections, using the words as or like)

3. Remember one way to understand the message of a book is to look at the different means that the author used to express truth. You will be looking at the following means of communication: **declarative statement, instructions, exhortations, warnings, and admonitions.**

Declarative statements that teach truth to inform and equip those who follow after Christ are found in Ephesians 2:1-3 and 12. Read these verses and mark them in some way as **declarative statements.**

Exhortations are personal messages to encourage and Ephesians 2 contains many exhortations. Read Ephesians 2:4-10, and 13-22 are examples of **exhortations.** As in Ephesians 1, Paul is telling Christians what God has done for them through Christ Jesus. These truths were written to encourage. Have these encouraged you in your faith? Mark these verses as **exhortations.**

Paul tells his audience to remember something in Ephesians 2:11 and this is an example of an **instruction.** Mark this in some way. You will see more **instructions** later.

4. Look for **terms of expression** that help you understand time, with words like “now, then, later,” etc. and mark these in a consistent way.

Another means of understanding language is to examine the way verbs are used in writing. A simple explanation of verbs is that they are words that express action or the state of being, and they relate the words communicated within a framework of time. Verbs *communicate* that something *is happening* at the moment, or *has happened* in the past, or *will happen* in the future. (The verbs in the preceding sentence are in *italics.*) Verbs can also announce that an event has already taken place and the results of that event are continuing at the present time. Please take the time to read Ephesians 2 looking for the different verb tenses that were used, noting in the left hand margin references to the future, the present, or the past. This can add another dimension to your study, not because you will be studying verbs, but this will help you see what God has done in the past, what He is doing in your life today, as well as show you what the future holds.

5. Mark words that express **conclusion** or show **results or purpose** with words like “for,” “for this reason,” “so that,” and “because.” Words that express **conclusion** are important to note because they show why the author wrote what he wrote and help you see the promises or consequences that will come.

6. How has God encouraged your heart through this reading of Ephesians 2?

Continued on the next page.

How has God challenged your heart through this reading of Ephesians 2?

Please quiet your spirit toward God and thank Him for what He is teaching you, and for the blessing of His Word.

Day 5 – Ephesians 2:1-3

1. Remember when you were asked to state a goal for taking this Bible study? Before you begin today's lesson, remind yourself of your goal for working on these lessons and **ask** God to help you realize that desire through the time you will spend in the word today. Begin with these **observation questions**.

- Closely examine the truths expressed in Ephesians 2, so that you might see the many blessings you have from God the Father in Christ Jesus. In Ephesians 2 the apostle Paul began by explaining a contrast between who the people of Ephesus used to be and who they had become in Christ. Paul referred to the unbeliever as being dead in Ephesians 2:1, and most biblical scholars believe that Paul meant that they used to be spiritually dead. How did Paul describe what it is like to be spiritually dead in Ephesians 2:1-3?

- Did you notice that Paul changed the pronouns he used in this paragraph? In Ephesians 2:1,2 he used the words you and your, but in Ephesians 2:3 Paul said all of us, our, and we. Paul wrote in Romans 3:23 that "all have sinned and continue to fall short of God's glory." Some do not believe this, but would rather think that people are inherently good and not sinners in need of a Savior. According to Ephesians 2:3 what did each of us deserve, and why?

Lesson 3

2. Please examine these **word studies** for some of the key words in this passage.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance unless written in <i>italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
3900 paraptoma paraptomasin Ephesians 2:1	Offenses <i>ISV</i> , trespasses <i>NASB</i> , transgressions, lapses, false steps, deviation from the right path	Ephesians 2:5
266 hamartia hamartiais Ephesians 2:1	Sin , offense, sinful. " <i>Missing the mark, " short comings, either the commission or omission of sin.</i>	Romans 6:23
543 apeitheia apeitheias Ephesians 2:2	Disobedient , disbelief, obstinate and rebellious, unbelief	Ephesians 5:6,7
1939 epithumia epithumiais Ephesians 2:3	Lusts , a longing, especially for what is forbidden, to lust after	Ephesians 4:22 (desires)
4561 sarx sarkos Ephesians 2:3	Flesh , literally refers to the flesh of an animal. <i>That part of us that has the natural propensity to sin.</i>	Galatians 2:20

3. Paul opened Ephesians 2 with a declaration of the believer's spiritual state before coming to Christ. Paul wrote similar truths to the new Christians in Colossae, Corinth, and Rome to exhort them in their faith. Read these references and record how each of Paul's writings share the change that came to all who believe.

a. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

b. Romans 5:8,9

c. Colossians 2:13,14

What do these passages say about the spiritual condition of those who do not believe in Jesus Christ?

4. Paul wrote instructions to the people in Galatia concerning the choices that would influence their lifestyle in Galatians 5:16-21. How were they told to relate to others and how were they to walk?

5. Paul also wrote to the Christians in Rome concerning their attitudes and lifestyle. Read Romans 2:4-11 and list what is expected of believers and what is promised to those who obey.

a. The responsibility of the believer:

b. The promises to those who obey:

6. One time while Jesus was sharing about His coming death and the world's judgment, He mentioned the ruler of this world. Compare the expression used in Ephesians 2:2 and what Jesus said in John 12:31.

7. Before you close for the day, please read the first paragraph of Ephesians 2 and then spend some time thanking God for the relationship He has provided through Jesus Christ. Praise God for His gracious plan of redemption that included you.

Is there someone you could share your faith with? A missionary once shared about his burden for the lost, and asked the question, "How lost are the lost? Do you really believe in the coming judgment for the lost?" Some Christians do not share with others the joy of their salvation. Would you ask God who He would have you share your faith with before the end of this study of Ephesians?

Continued on the next page.

Lesson 3

You might close by singing the beautiful hymn “Come Thou Fount.” I would like to provide an explanation of two of the words in this song that might not be familiar to you. The name Ebenezer was given by the prophet Samuel to the stone he erected in recognition of God’s help in defeating the Philistines, as recorded in 1 Samuel 7:12. The word fether is an old English word for a chain or shackle for the feet to prevent escape.²

“Come Thou Fount”

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, turn my heart to sing Thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount I’m fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer – hither by Thy help I’m come; and I hope by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger wand’ring from the fold of God; He to rescue me from danger interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be! Let Thy goodness like a fether bind my wand’ring heart to Thee. Prone to wander - Lord, I feel it - prone to leave the God I love; here’s my heart - O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

By Robert Robinson and John Wyeth

² Clarence L. Barnhart and Robert K. Barnhart, editors, *The World Book Dictionary*, Chicago, World Book, Inc. 1985, p. 789.