

OUTLINE OF PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

1. THE THEOLOGY OF THE CHURCH

A. *THE GLORY OF THE BELIEVER IN THE CHURCH* (Ephesians 1)

- (i) The believer is privileged (Ephesians 1:3-14)
 - (a) The believer is now an heir to the riches of God through Christ (Ephesians 1:3-6)
 - (b) The believer has been redeemed by the inexhaustible riches of Christ (Ephesians 1:7-10)
 - (c) The believer is predestined and sealed by the Holy Spirit to receive an inheritance of glorious riches from God (Ephesians 1:11-14)
- (ii) The glorious Christ has provided glorious riches as our inheritance (Ephesians 1:15-23)
 - (a) Thanks for the growth of the church (Ephesians 1:15-16)
 - (b) Prayer for revelation that the believers may understand the implications of their inheritance for now (Ephesians 1:17-19)
 - (c) Christ, our benefactor has been supremely exalted (Ephesians 1:20-23)

B. THE IMPLICATIONS OF SALVATION (Ephesians 2)

- (i) Salvation is an undeserved gift (Ephesians 2:1-10)
 - (a) Mankind is dead, disobedient, and deserving of wrath (Ephesians 2:1-5)
 - (b) But God has lavished His grace upon mankind (Ephesians 2:5-9)
 - (c) Salvation is just beginning of what God has for us (Ephesians 2:6-7, 10)

- (ii) God has made united Jew and Gentile into one new people (Ephesians 2:11-22)
 - (a) Christ has brought outsiders (Gentiles) into the Commonwealth (Ephesians 2:11-13)
 - (b) Christ has reconciled both Jew and Gentile together, and with God (Ephesians 2:14-18)
 - (d) Christ is building His people into a glorious temple (Ephesians 2:19-22)

C. GOD'S PLANS FOR THE CHURCH WERE A MYSTERY (Ephesians 3)

- (i) God's mysterious purpose for the Church has been revealed (Ephesians 3:1-7)
 - (a) God's grace has revealed His mystery to the Church (Ephesians 3:1-3)
 - (b) The Scriptures reveal the mystery of Christ and His Church (Ephesians 3:4-5)
 - (c) The mystery involves Christ bringing Jew and Gentile into becoming the Church (Ephesians 3:6-7)

- (ii) The implications of the mystery (Ephesians 3:8-13)
 - (a) This mystery is now revealed and proclaimed (Ephesians 3:8-9)
 - (b) The Church is the mystery of God, confounding principalities and powers (Ephesians 3:10-11)
 - (c) The mystery reveals that believers can boldly access God (Ephesians 3:12-13)

- (iii) The mystery reveals the glory of Christ in the Church (Ephesians 3:14-21)
 - (a) Understanding the mystery gives the believer inner strength (Ephesians 3:14-17)
 - (b) Understanding the mystery reveals God's incredible love (Ephesians 3:18-19)
 - (c) Understanding the mystery reveals God's abundant source of supply to the believer (Ephesians 3:20-21)

D. THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH (Ephesians 4:1-16)

- (i) Ministry within the Church (Ephesians 4:1-10)
 - (a) The call for unity (Ephesians 4:1-6)
 - (b) Christ has gifted the Church since His ascension (Ephesians 4:7-10)

- (ii) The diversity of ministry within the Church (Ephesians 4:11-16)
 - (a) The ascension ministries (Ephesians 4:11)
 - (b) The goal of the ascension ministries (Ephesians 4:12-13)
 - (c) The benefit of the ascension ministries to the Church (Ephesians 4:14-16)

2. PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BEING IN THE CHURCH

E. REPRESENTING CHRIST IN OURSELVES, OUR FAMILY, THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD (Ephesians 4:17 - 6:9)

- (i) The Church's ministry in the world (Ephesians 4:17-32)
 - (a) Live differently to the world (Ephesians 4:17-19)
 - (b) Live like a new person (Ephesians 4:20-24)
 - (c) Don't sin in word, thought or deed (Ephesians 4:25-32)

- (ii) Living in the light of God (Ephesians 5:1-14)
 - (a) Follow the example of the Light (Ephesians 5:1-2)

- (b) The consequences of not living in the light (Ephesians 5:3-6)
 - (c) Though once full of darkness, believers are now full of light (Ephesians 5:7-9)
 - (d) The light of Christ within a believer exposes darkness (Ephesians 5:10-14)
- (iii) Living in the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-20)
- (a) Live wisely (Ephesians 5:15-17)
 - (b) Don't become drunk (Ephesians 5:18)
 - (c) Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-19)
 - (d) Be thankful (Ephesians 5:20)
- (iv) The influence of Christ in the home (Ephesians 5:21-6:4)
- (a) Wives, submit to your husbands (Ephesians 5:21-24)
 - (b) Husbands, love your wives (Ephesians 5:25-30)
 - (c) The Church is like marriage (Ephesians 5:31-33)
 - (d) Christ's effect upon parents and their children (Ephesians 6:1-4)
- (v) The influence of Christ in the work place (Ephesians 6:5-9)
- (a) Work for your employer as you would for Christ (Ephesians 6:5-8)
 - (b) Treat employees right (Ephesians 6:9)

3. THE CHURCH'S BATTLE STRATEGY

F. THE POWER OF THE CHURCH'S PRAYERS

- (i) Be clothed with the armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)
 - (a) Our real fight is spiritual (Ephesians 6:10-12)
 - (b) Why we need God's armour (Ephesians 6:13)
 - (c) Descriptions of the armour (Ephesians 6:14-17)

- (ii) Pray (Ephesians 6:18-20)
 - (a) Pray persistently (Ephesians 6:18)
 - (b) Pray for clarity (Ephesians 6:19)
 - (c) Pray for bold fearlessness (Ephesians 6:20)
 - (d) Conclusion (Ephesians 6:21-22)
 - (e) Benediction (Ephesians 6:23-24)