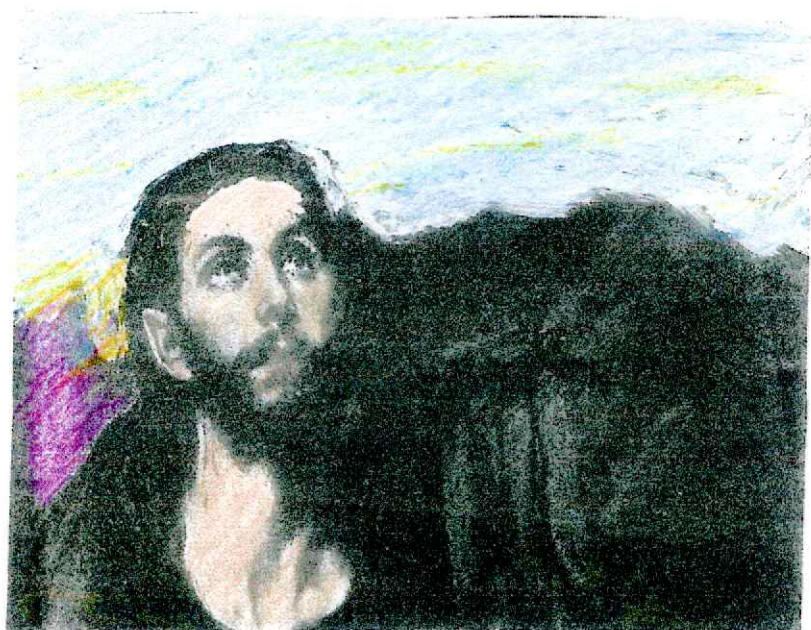


OUR PAST CONDITION

OUR PRESENT POSITION

OUR FUTURE TRANSITION



A BIBLE STUDY

PROCEDURE

1. Read through the book of Ephesians.
2. Read through the textbook provided.
3. At the end of the textbook are a series of questions. Answer all the questions to the best of your ability. Try to use simple logic when answering your questions. Do not rely on what you have been taught when doing your study.
We do imply what you have been taught is error, we only recommend you use your own judgement using simple logic and the Word of God.
4. Always go to the Lord in prayer asking for wisdom in his word.
5. Always remember that the Bible answers the Bible.
6. After completion of all the required questions and answers, mail the completed test to Christian Bible Institute for grade.

EPHESIANS

INTRODUCTION

This book is not a verse by verse commentary on the book of Ephesians. Rather, it is a Bible study on the basic doctrines found in Ephesians. It is an attempt to lay the foundational truths found in the book.

The Bible is a book of promises and blessings. Some of those blessings are conditional and some are not conditional. To the born again child of God, there are blessings given by God which are non conditional. They are a promise made by God and he cannot lie. (Numbers 23:19)

Ephesians was written by Paul the Apostle, (Ephesians 1:1) and sent to the church at Ephesus by Tychicus. (Ephesians 6:21,22)

Paul wrote the epistle (letter) to the Ephesians in an attempt to remind them of three important truths concerning their relationship to the Father. These truths belong to every christian throughout the church age.

1. OUR PAST CONDITION .. Lost without Christ. Dead to sin and eternally separated from God.
2. OUR PRESENT POSITION .. Forgiven by faith in Christ. Part of the body of Christ, which is the church and the family of God. This is eternal and will never be taken away.
3. OUR FUTURE TRANSITION .. Being part of the church, we are blessed forever in Christ. The church is his body and the bride. It will never suffer separation from itself or from the Lord.

Therefore, Ephesians shows our standing in Christ. The New Testament church of Christ is both individual and a unit. When I trust Christ as my Savior, I am personally saved. I have a personal relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I also become part of the church. I have a relationship with the entire church and am a partaker of the blessings that are promised to the church as a whole. The New Testament church is not a denomination with man made rules and doctrines, it is part of the promise of God.

NOTE: There are some who claim that Ephesians was written to the Colossians. However, these claims do nothing but harm the word of God. Instead of arguing over such trivial matters, we must accept the fact that God gave us the whole Bible as his Word.

Our so called fundamental churches of today have a man made doctrine of works mixed with grace. Therefore, we believe we are living in the last days. In light of this, the christian should be aware of the promises and blessings that God has in store for his own.

The Apostle Paul visited Ephesus on his second and third missionary journeys. (Acts 18:19-20:38)

Because of Paul and the Word of God, there was an uproar in Ephesus over the money being made selling trinkets in honor of the goddess Diana. (Acts 19:23-41)

Paul spent almost three years in Ephesus teaching the Word of God. (Acts 19:8-10) Upon his departure, he called the elders of the church from Ephesus to Miletus for a farewell get together. (Acts 20:17-38)

The Lord Jesus Christ, in his message to the seven churches in Revelation chapters two and three, Ephesus was the first church mentioned. (Revelation 2:1-7)

Often called the "Apostolic Church," Ephesus represents the church in it's beginning with a zeal for service. As most churches do, it often ends with the church of Laodicea, and a watered down gospel message.

Today, Ephesus is in ruins, and little exists of the once glorious city. When the church of Jesus Christ loses it's zeal for the gospel, it is left in ruin.

EPHESIANS

PART ONE - OUR PAST CONDITION

Ephesians 2:2,3 In which in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Ephesians 2:11,12 Wherefore, remember that ye, being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands --

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.

(ref. also Ephesians 4:18,19 5:8)

Paul reminds the church at Ephesus of their past condition. This condition is called being lost and unsaved. It is called enmity with God. (*Ephesians 2:15,16*)

We should all remember our past condition. That does not mean we should dwell on our past sinful nature, however we should rejoice in our new life.

There is more to my past than just enmity with God. The word enmity (*Ephesians 2:15,16*) means enemy, hatred, the opposite of agape love. We may be moral, religious, good upright people, yet without payment for our sin, we are enemies of God. That does not mean God hated us, he hated our condition. He loved us enough to die on the cross for us. (*John 3:16 1 John 2:2 4:7-10*)

My sins separated me from God. It was a wall of separation. (*Ephesians 2:14 Isaiah 59:2*)

WHO IS A SINNER

Everyone who is born is a sinner. There are no exclusions. (*Psalm 14:1-3 Psalm 53:1-3 Isaiah 53:6 Romans 3:10-23*)

That is the reason Christ died for the sins of the world. The entire world has a chance of having their sins wiped away. Everyone throughout history, without exception, is a sinner, and separated from God.

I may be a moral, religious, upright and decent person, yet the Bible says I am a sinner. Being a member of a church or being born into a religious family will not save me from my sin. Being blessed by some religious minister, or being water baptized as an infant will not save me from my sin. I was born into sin. (*Psalms 51:1-5*)

RESULT OF SIN

When I look back upon my past condition, I should be reminded of the result of sin.

acknowledged this fact. (Romans 7:14-25)

Because of Adam all are born into sin. (Romans 5:12-21 1 Corinthians 15:21,22)
Therefore, there is no escaping the fact that all are sinners.

Since sin separates us from God, and we are all sinners, then we are separated from God at birth by sin. If I am separated from God, he is not obligated to call me his child, and is not obligated to offer his divine intervention in my life. He is not obligated to answer my prayers and requests. He is not obligated to offer me his protection, his mercy, and his grace. Yet, he does offer his grace by his death on the cross, to those who believe.

Ephesians 2:12b having no hope, and without God in the world.

There is no hope for those who are lost in their sins.

This is the first type of a sinner. Lost without Christ. The second type of sinner is those who have trusted Christ as Savior. This includes every saved, born again christian. Since we are still living in the flesh and blood body, we are still sinners by nature. This is what Paul was trying to stress in Romans chapter seven.

The apostle John made it very clear in 1 John 1:6 - 2:2. The difference is however, that we have no wall of enmity between us and God. We have Christ our advocate, our intercessor.

Ephesians 2:14b .. and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.

The final result of unforgiven sin is eternal separation from God. If I have not received forgiveness of sin upon death, separation will be eternal. (Romans 6:23 11 Peter 2:17 Revelation 21:27)

Therefore, the reminder to the saints at Ephesus. Remember your past condition. To often, the christian takes his salvation and his position for granted. He continues to live the life of a worldly person and ignores the Cross of Calvary. He thinks of the here and now instead of the by and by.

*Wherefore, remember that ye, being in time past Gentiles in the flesh
That at that time ye were without Christ ... having no hope, and without God in the world.*

EPHESIANS

PART ONE - OUR PAST CONDITION

We must always be aware (or be made aware) how fortunate we are to have eternal life through Jesus Christ. We must be aware of his sacrifice for mankind. We are now children of God. Therefore, we need to be reminded of our past condition because.....

A. Ephesians 2:1 who were dead in trespasses and sins.

Before we trusted Christ as Savior we were considered as dead by God. We thought we were alive. Physically and mentally we were alive. Yet, God considered us as dead. (read John 11:25,26)

In Matthew 8:22 The Lord said, " ... let the dead bury their dead." How can the living be called dead unless they are spiratually dead in their sins.

There are two types of dead in the Bible. One is physically dead, which everyone must go through. The other is spiratually dead, which everyone is born into. There are no exceptions. We were born into sin. (Romans 3:9 8:2 1 Corinthians 15:20-22,54)

B. Ephesians 2:3 b ... and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Since we were spiratually dead, and without God as our Father, and not yet born into the family of God, we were considered children of Satan. We were children of the devil. (read John 8:34-47)

Not only were we considered children of the devil, we fulfilled our desires of the flesh without even thinking about it. We probably thought we were good, moral, and decent people. Yet, without salvation, by faith in Christ, we are children of the devil.

Matthew 8:32 I Am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead but of the living.

Christ said that God was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who were dead. Then he said, "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." When we trust Christ as our Savior, we are now considered alive, and children of God.

C. Ephesians 2:2 a In which in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air.

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.....

Notice the words of Paul in verses 2 and 3

PART ONE - OUR PAST CONDITION

Ephesians 2:2b according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience;

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of the flesh.....

Please notice that in our past we were among the children of disobedience. The word conversation in verse 3 means lifestyle. Our lifestyle, our way of life, was among the children of disobedience.

In our past condition, without Christ, we were children of the devil and were counted among those who rejected Christ.

D. Ephesians 2:2 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.

Dead in trespasses and sins has more meaning than people realize. It means I am considered eternally dead. Without faith in Christ for forgiveness of sin, I must pay for my own sin for eternity.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power,

Revelation 20:11,12,14 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Without salvation by faith in Christ we are .. A. Spiritually dead and lost in sin. B. Children of the devil, outside of the family of God. C. Our nature and our way of life reflected our lost condition. When we are in this condition, God is not obligated to answer prayers, bestow blessings, or protect us.

However, even worse than all of that, is the second death. We would be subjected to standing before the Great White throne, being condemned as not having forgiveness, and cast into the final abode of all who are lost; The lake of fire.

Ephesians says, "having no hope, and without God in the world." This is the past condition of all who were lost without Christ.

"Wherefore remember ..."

EPHESIANS

PART TWO - OUR PRESENT POSITION

When a person hears the gospel and trusts Christ as their Savior, a change takes place in that persons life. Although a person may never show an outward change, there is an inward change, that God is responsible for.

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

The one change that takes place is the NEW BIRTH. This one change is the guarantee of the believers present position and future transition. In Acts chapter one it is called the promise of the Father. It is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard from me.

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days from now.

The promise of the Father was the baptizm of the Holy Spirit. That is the promise Christ said they heard from him. (ref. Luke 24:49 John 14:15-20,26 15:26 16:7,13,14,)

When we trust Christ as Savior we are baptized by, or in, the Holy Spirit. This is called the new birth. (ref. John 1:32,33 3:3-7)

The word baptized means to immerse. The Holy Spirit immerses the believer. Because the Holy Spirit baptizes every believer he is called the promise of the Father because the Father makes many promises to his church and the Holy Spirit is our guarantee that God keeps his promise.!!!!

THE HOLY SPIRIT OUR SEAL

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 1:14 Who is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The Holy Spirit seals every believer. Notice how salvation works.

1. We hear the word of truth which is the gospel.
2. We believe the gospel and trust Christ death on the cross as payment for sin.
3. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit. (born again)

It is that simple. We do not do anything but believe the gospel and we are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise.

EPHESIANS

PART TWO - OUR PRESENT POSITION

The Holy Spirit is our seal and our guarantee of eternal security. He is our guarantee that we cannot lose our salvation. Jesus Christ said the Holy Spirit would be in and with us forever. (read John 14:16,17,26)

That is why Ephesians 1:13,14 can say, "ye are sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise ... who is the earnest of our inheritance.."

When we trust Christ as our Savior we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, who is the earnest of our inheritance, and the promise of the Father. (Acts 11:15-18 Ephesians 1:13,14 1 John 2:24-27)

PROMISES AND BLESSINGS

Ephesians is a book of promises and blessings. Most of the New Testament is promises and blessings to the child of God. Some of those blessings are future. We will take a look at those blessings in part three. However, there are blessings for the present. Most of those blessings will never be seen by some christians because they are not looking for them, or, they do not deserve them.

PAST CONDITION WITH PRESENT POSITION

Remember our past condition. Sinning was our nature. Sin was built in. We were born into sin. **THAT HAS NOT CHANGED.** We are still sinners, and have a sinful nature. Therefore, in this life, we have a mixture of our past condition and our present position.

OUR PRESENT POSITION ... This is the way God looks at us through his Son Jesus Christ. God looks at us in an eternal sense. We have eternal life and forgiveness of sin that guarantees entrance into heaven. (1 Peter 1:3-5) Since God looks at me through the blood and in my present position he has blessed his children with ...

Eternal life .. Ephesians 1:7,8 2:4-8 2:13,14

The right to be called saints .. Ephesians 1:1,15,18 2:19 3:8,18 4:12 5:3 6:18

Blessed in heavenly places .. Ephesians 1:3 2:6 3:10

We become part of the body of Christ which is his church .. Ephesians 1:22,23 2:6 2:19-22 3:1-6 3:14,15 4:1-6 4:11-16 5:30

We have access to all wisdom and knowledge .. Ephesians 1:8,9 1:17,18 2:18 3:4,5 3:14-20 6:10-17 (with 1 Corinthians 2 -)

We have access to the Father .. Ephesians 2:11-18 (ref. John 14:6 1 Timothy 2:5)

We have peace with God .. Ephesians 2:14

NOTE: Since the Holy Spirit dwells in us, so does the Father .. Ephesians 2:22 4:6

EPHESIANS

PART TWO - OUR PRESENT POSITION

Since we have access to the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ, we know he hears our prayers. There is only one way to get prayers answered. There is only one way make my requests and desires known to God, and that is through Jesus Christ the Lord. Praying to a so called dead saint does nothing but hinder our prayers. Jesus said he is the only link to God the Father. (John 14:13,14 16:22-28 1 Timothy 2:5 1 John 2:1)

Our present position is the way God looks at us after we trust Christ as our Savior. He sees us as eternally forgiven and eternally sealed by the Holy Spirit. We have a home reserved in heaven, and it is kept by the power of God. (1 Peter 1:4,5)

HERE AND NOW

There is still one small problem. Myself. Me. I am the problem. I am still a sinner. We are all sinners as long as we live in these flesh and blood bodies. The body craves and desires and lusts after worldly things, no matter how small the thing may seem.

To deny this is to deny the word of God. We know that 1 John 5:18a states that, "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not,..." However, this is how God looks at us in our present position and future transition.

The saved, born again, christian, really has two natures. He has the old sinful nature, (Romans 6:6 7:14 7:17,18 7:23,24)

He has the new nature. This is called the promise of the Father, and the rebirth. It is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (we have already covered this subject)

Since I still live in the flesh and the here and now, I have the choice of serving the old nature, or the new nature. If I serve the old nature, God is not obligated to protect me and bless me in this life. This is the battle Paul mentioned in Romans. (Romans 6:11-16 7:15-25)

Therefore, the warnings throughout the New Testament. It begins with two basic things the Lord would have us do.

1. Witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. ref. Acts 1:8 Romans 1:16 Colossians 4:3
2. Study the Word of God which makes us suitable for service. ref. Matthew 11:28,29 Acts 17:10-12 1 Timothy 2:15 3:16,17 1 Peter 2:2 1 John 5:13

Studying the Bible makes us suitable for service. It is the yoke of matthew 11:29. Christ said it is easy and it is light. In Ephesians 6:11 it is called "the whole armor of God..."

EPHESIANS

PART TWO - OUR PRESENT POSITION

Since we do live in the here and now, and our past condition is mixed with our present position, we are warned throughout the New Testament to be on guard. We must be on guard against falling into the trap of serving the world instead of serving Christ. We are of no use if we do not serve Christ.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

This is where many people get the word of God all fouled up. They cannot distinguish between salvation and service. We call it works. Many claim I must do some sort of works or I am not saved. The same people who say that are the ones who quote one of the most used verses in the Bible.

Ephesians 2:8,9 For by grace are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God -----

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Either salvation is free or it is earned. God said it is free. (Romans 3:24 5:15 6:23 Revelation 21:6)

NOTE: IF A DOCTRINE SEEMS TO MAKE A CONTRADICTION IN THE BIBLE, THAT DOCTRINE NEEDS TO BE STUDIED UNTIL IT IS UNDERSTOOD. The Bible does not contradict itself.

Salvation is free without works. It is the gift of God. A gift is free. It is free by simple faith in the finished work of Christ. (Ephesians 2:8,9 Titus 3:5)

Jesus said in John 6:29, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

Jesus said ..

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

That is the rest of salvation. Christ said to give up your works righteousness. It is labor and heavy laden. Salvation is free.

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

This has to do with our service. It is a sign of work (yoke). Christ said learn of me. My service to Christ begins by learning of him. Bible study. Get into the word of God.

Salvation is free without works, service is work. However, Jesus Christ said his burden was easy and light. (Matthew 11:30)

EPHESIANS

PART TWO - OUR PRESENT POSITION

False doctrine usually begins with not understanding the difference between salvation and service.

Many teach if you do not have good works, you are probably not saved. That is false doctrine. Christ said, "whosoever believes in him," would have eternal life. He did not say whosoever believes and maintains good works. There are also many verses used to try to teach that doctrine. Any time we add works to the doctrine of salvation it becomes a works righteousness. The following verse is quoted by many in order to try to prove we must have good works in order to be saved.

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

This is just one of the many verses used to try to prove that works has some part in my salvation. We agree that faith without works is dead, but that is for our service to Christ, not our salvation.

The New Testament was written to the saved, born again, christian, in order to show a need for service.

Therefore, Paul reminds the new christians in Ephesus that they were once lost. (past condition)

They are now saved by faith in Christ. (present position) However, because we still have the old sinful nature, God gave us his word to prepare us to serve him. Our past condition is mixed with our present position and hinders us from our service to Christ.

EXHORTATION TO SERVE IN EPHESIANS

2:11 Wherefore remember (our past)

4:1 *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation to which ye are called.*

4:3 *Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

In the following portion of Ephesians, Paul tells the church at Ephesus they must strive for perfection. They must set a goal. Then Paul tells them 1. How to strive toward that goal. 2. Why strive toward that goal. 3. The result of striving for, and reaching that goal.

HOW TO SERVE

My service to Christ begins with Bible study. That is why we have the Bible. The Lord said in Matthew 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me...." The Bible prepares us for service.

EPHESIANS

PART TWO - OUR PRESENT POSITION

The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us the ability to serve Christ. Because of the new birth, which is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, I am capable of service.

Because of the Holy Spirit we may

A. Have the ability to learn the Bible and acquire any knowledge we may need to defend the Bible. This includes science, math, english, or field we may desire if we use that field to glorify Christ. (Ephesians 1:17-21 2:18 3:16-21 4:23,29 5:10,17 6:10-17 ref. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 John 16:13)

Since it is the Holy Spirit that gave us the Bible, (ref. John 14:26 15:26,27 16:13 11 Timothy 3:16,17 11 Peter 1:20,21)

It seems only logical the same Holy Spirit will teach the Bible. (same ref. as above)

The Holy Spirit teaches us the word of God so we may be better able to serve him by faith. Without faith it is impossible to serve Christ. When the obstacles enter our life, we need to have faith in God through Christ in order to deal with those obstacles.

We call this the circle of faith. By simple faith in Christ I am saved. Then, as we study the Bible our faith is increased. The reason is, as we study the word of God, the Bible proves the reality of the faith of God. We are more able to rely on him. (read 1 John 5:13) The more we study, the more we are assured of eternal life, and the more our faith is increased.

B. The Holy Spirit is our assurance of access to God. Because he dwells in us, so does the Father and the Son. (Ephesians 2:18 3:12)

C. Because of the Holy Spirit, we are dwelt in by the Father and the Son. (Ephesians 2:22 4:6 Philippians 2:13 Colossians 1:27 1 Corinthians 6:19 11 Corinthians 6:16)

D. The Holy Spirit teaches us about the mystery of the church, which is, that Jew and Gentile alike are made part of the family of, which is the New Testament church. (Ephesians 3:1-9 Colossians 4:3 Romans 10:12,13)

E. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to completely understand the church, the church age, and the plan of God for his church. (to be discussed later) Because of this, the Holy Spirit enables us to have the peace of knowing God's will for his church.

F. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to overcome our old sinful nature. Just because we are saved does not automatically change our lives. It is up to us to change our lives, and the Holy Spirit gives us the help we need to do that. It is called strength. (Ephesians 3:16) This strength gives us the ability to allow Christ to dwell in our hearts (vs.3:16) so we may be rooted and grounded in love (vs. 3:16) comprehend and understand (vs. 3:17) to know the love of Christ so we may be filled all the fulness of God (vs. 3:19)

EPHESIANS

PART TWO - OUR PRESENT POSITION

G. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us the ability to serve God. It is the Holy Spirit who determines what type of ministry we will have. We would like to think it is all our own choosing. However, the Holy Spirit gives the gift of service, and the ability to pursue that gift. (Ephesians 4:11-14 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Romans 12:6-8)

Because the Holy Spirit gives the gifts and the ministry, the church has the ability to work in unity. (Ephesians 4:1-3) The reason the church does not always work in unity is the fault of man, not the Holy Spirit.

H. The church is not a building or a denomination. Nowhere in the Bible did God institute a denomination. The church is people. Anyone, at anytime, anywhere in the world, becomes part of the church the second they trust Christ as Savior. When they do they are baptized in the Holy Spirit. (John 3:3-7 Acts 1:4,5,8)

This baptism makes them part of the church. Every person who trusts Christ as their Savior is baptized by the Holy Spirit and made part of the New Testament church.

The church is called the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:4-6) When this body is complete it will be taken to be with the Lord.

I. The Holy Spirit is our intercessor. He intercedes as we pray in order to help us pray. There are times when we are hurting so bad emotionally, we do not know how, or even have the desire to pray. It is times like this the Holy Spirit intercedes. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray for others. (Ephesians 6:18-20 Romans 8:26,27)

J. Since the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, he is also our comforter. Life can be hard, difficult, and sometimes impossible. It is the Holy Spirit who is there to help us in time of need.

Of course someone will say it is Christ who does that. We agree, it is Christ who does that. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee of a channel to God the Father, through God the Son, by the Holy Spirit. It should not be hard to understand since they are one.

NOTE: This writer does not claim to understand how God can be three, yet one. We just believe it by faith. This flesh and blood body limits our ability to comprehend the complete spiratual realm.

Christ said the Holy Spirit would be our comforter, and our teacher, and our strength. (John 14:13-18 14:26 15:26 16:7-15)

CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT ... We may
Be filled with .. Acts 6:3 Ephesians 5:18
GrieveEphesians 4:30
Lie toActs 5:1-11
Pray inEphesians 6:18

There is much more the Holy Spirit does for the child of God. The thing we need to do is realize that and lean on the Holy Spirit.

EPHESIANS

PART TWO - OUR PRESENT POSITION

DUAL IDENTITIES

Since we have the old sinful nature, and the nature from God, we are almost two people. We are born again into the family of God, but we are still in the flesh and blood. That is where our old condition, which is lost and without Christ, is mixed with our new position.

Therefore, one of the reasons for the New Testament. To remind us who we were, who we are, and who we will be. In the meantime, who we are today, should serve God. It is impossible to serve God without faith. It is difficult to serve God with faith, but without faith it is impossible. When the obstacles come into our life we would be helpless without faith.

YIELDING TO

I will be whatever I yield to. I may yield to the old nature and be offensive to God, or I may yield to the new nature and serve God. If I yield to the new nature and begin serving God, there is a starting point. That starting point is Bible study! Bible study! Bible study!

Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Verse 30 is salvation. It means to give up working our way to heaven by some false religion and trust Christ as Savior. Verse 31 tells us to take up the yoke of Bible study. "Learn of me," Christ said. He also tells us that it would be easy.

There are those who go to church without a Bible. There are those who go to church with a Bible that never gets open. There are those who never go to church, and those who do not even own a Bible. They will never be prepared for anything in life.

Bible study allows me to yield to the Holy Spirit. Because the Bible is the Word of God, it is the same as talking to, and listening to God. It is the mind of God and Christ.

WHAT DOES BIBLE STUDY DO?

1. It helps us to grow as christians .. 1 Peter 2:2
2. It prepares people for their service to God .. 11 Timothy 3:16,17

The book of Ephesians is a book of exhortation. Paul pleads with the church at Ephesus to study the word. He reminds them of their past, and their future. Then he spends a lot of time reminding them of their present and the need for learning more about Christ.

EPHESIANS

PART TWO - OUR PRESENT POSITION

In Matthew 11:29 Christ said learn of me. In 1 John 5:13 we have what we might call the CIRCLE OF FAITH verse.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

The Apostle John told them he had written to those who were saved by faith to assure them they had eternal, and that they may believe on Christ. That is what Bible study will do. When we study the word of God we can rest assure in our salvation and rely on and trust the Lord Jesus Christ with our lives.

WITNESS FOR CHRIST

Along with Bible study we are told to witness for Christ. That is to spread the gospel. Tell people how to be saved. The Bible gives us the knowledge to do that. The Bible gives us the strength to do that. (Acts 1:8 Romans 1:16,17 Colossians 4,3,4)

As we witness for Christ, we should be examples. If not our message will be rejected as we appear to be hypocrits.

Since our present position (new nature) is still mixed with our past position, (old nature) the New Testament writers urged us to serve the new nature. If we do not try to serve the new nature we will not be able to witness for Christ. (ref. Ephesians 2:11-13 2:19-22 3:16-21 4:1-3,14,15,20-32 especially 4:22-24)

Ephesians chapter five through six tells us how to act as christians. We are told how to treat our family, how to treat those we work for, and how to treat those who work for us.

Then Paul sums it all up in chapter six when he says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

In Ephesians 6:1 through 6:17 we are told how to be strong and where that strength comes from. It comes from the Bible, which is the Word of God.

Then, in 6:18-20, we are told to pray always. That is our second source of strength. Prayer and Bible study. Through both, we gather strength to serve Christ.

Can I fail as a christian? Yes! Can I make Christ look bad by serving the old nature? Yes! Can I still sin? Yes! Should I sin? No! God hates sin, yet he will allow his child to sin. We have a free will. We are not puppets. 1 John 1:3 through 2:2 has to do with our past, present, and future sins.

In 1 John 5:16 John says there is a sin unto death. That is physical death, which is usually premature death, and is brought about by sin in the christian life. (ref. also 1 Corinthians 11:28-32)

EPHESIANS

PART THREE - OUR FUTURE TRANSITION

We do have a future as children of God. We have a future while we are alive on this earth, and more than that, we have an eternal future in heaven. Our future on this earth, in this life, is up to us. Since we have the ability to make decisions, we must decide if we will serve Christ or not. What we do with that decision will determine if we receive the blessings and protection of God through Christ. That is the meaning of 11 Timothy 2:11-13.

11 Timothy 2:11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him;

2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us:

2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful; he cannot deny himself.

Since my sins have been forgiven by faith in Christ I am dead with Christ. As far as my eternal future is concerned, it is finished. Since I am dead to sin, I will live with Christ for eternity.

However, serving him in this lifetime will be my decision. If I do not acknowledge Christ as my Savior publicly, (deny him) he will not acknowledge me before the Father (deny us). People get saved when we acknowledge Christ. It is a simple matter of service. If we deny him, and refuse to acknowledge him, it is because we are ashamed to be identified with him. That is what Peter did. (John 18:15-27 with John 13:36-38)

We may even go all the way back to unbelief, yet Christ remains faithful. He cannot deny himself. When we are saved by simple faith in Christ, his blood, the Holy Spirit, and his Word guarantees our eternal salvation. "He cannot deny himself."

OLD AND NEW

However, we are still in our sinful flesh and blood bodies. Therefore our present position, which is saved but still in the flesh, is mixed with our future transition. We must endeavor to live our life in the present with a view to the future.

We must confess Christ on this earth today so that others will be saved. This does some very important things for us. It shows Christ we are not ashamed of him. It guarantees he will confess us before the Father. If the Father sees we are faithful he will protect and bless us in this present life. And our service to him guarantees our fellowship with the Father and the Son.

I John 1:1 -2:2 has to do with our fellowship with Christ. If we confess our sins he will forgive our sins. This has nothing to do with our eternity, that is done and finished. It has to do with our here and now. We must ask forgiveness on a daily basis because we are still in the present, even though we are guaranteed a future, we must live out the present.

EPHESIANS

PART THREE - OUR FUTURE TRANSITION

Our home in heaven will wait until we arrive, yet, if I just sit on the future, I will neglect my present.

NOTE: We cannot emphasize enough the importance of making a distinction between salvation and service. Salvation is free, it is permanent, and it is sealed. Service is what we do because we are saved, and it may cost something. (like a little effort)

REMINDERS

Because those who trust Christ as their Savior are still living in this world of calamity and problems, we are reminded throughout the New Testament of our future transition. Christ said in John 16:33 that we might have peace in him, but in the world there would be tribulation. He also said he overcame the world.

Therefore, those who trust him as their Savior, have also overcome the world and it is by his blood. (Revelation 1:5 12:11)

Christ also said to rejoice because our names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:17-20) While we are rejoicing, we are living in the here and now, and we must be prepared for tribulations. We may do that by being reminded and assured of our future in heaven. This assurance comes from the word of God, the Bible.

The book of Ephesians dedicates the first chapter to our future home in heaven. In this chapter, when compared to other portions of Scripture, our future is sealed and we may rest assured on the faithfulness of God.

In verse one Paul calls them saints. A saint is not a sinless person, but a person who is saved by faith in Christ.

In verse three they are reminded of their blessings in heavenly places.

Verses thirteen and fourteen tell us it is sealed by the Holy Spirit, who will never leave us. (ref. John 3:5,6 14:16,17,26 15:26)

1 Peter 1:4,5 tells us we have a home in heaven, it is reserved, and it is kept by the power of God.

NOTE: Those who think they can lose their salvation are relying on their own power to be saved. Actually, it is in the hand of Christ, we are kept saved by his faithfulness, not ours (read Galatians 2:16)

The following is a study on the first chapter of Ephesians. We must compare Scripture with Scripture. This portion of Ephesians must be studied with Romans chapter eight. Both chapters deal with the same subject, which is the rapture of the church.

At the rapture, the entire church will be gathered together. Those who have died and went home before us, and those who are still alive at the time.

EPHESIANS

PART THREE - OUR FUTURE TRANSITION

THE WHOLE CHURCH

In Acts chapters one and two we have the account of the beginning of a new dispensation, or time period in God's time table. It is called the church age, or the age of grace. In Ephesians 3:2 Paul calls it the, "dispensation of the grace of God."

That event took place some two thousand years ago, and we are still living in the church age. The church age, the dispensation of grace, will end when God gathers all of his saved people together. Many call this event the rapture of the church. A good Bible term would be "translation." (Hebrews 11:5)

There are various teachings concerning the rapture. People disagree on when, how, how many will be raptured, and so on. Therefore, it is important for the Bible student to be able to prove their position.

Part three is dedicated to answering these questions. Since the Bible has the answers, we must go to the Bible for the answers. ~~We cannot rely on~~

The church is made up of people. It is not a building or a denomination. It is people who trust Christ as their Savior. When a person trusts Christ as their Savior they are made part of the New Testament church. The church is one. It is world wide and it spans the gap of time. The church began on the day of Pentecost and will end at the rapture. At the rapture the church will be complete. In the meantime we wait for the coming of the Lord for his church. As christians, or part of the church, we are told to look for his coming. (Titus 2:13) While we are waiting for his return, we are told to live a life that reflects our new life in Christ, (Titus 2:12)

When Christ gathers his church together it will be the complete church, not the partial church. In Ephesians chapter one and Romans chapter eight we are given a description of the gathering of the church. In these two chapters the word predestinated and predestinate are used. These words are in relation to the gathering of the church. God has already pre-determined that he will gather his church together at some time in the future.

This future event is also called the redemption of the body and the adoption. It is also promised and sealed by the Holy Spirit. It is the future event when the church will stand before the Lord and each individual member will give account of themselves. It is not the Great White Throne judgement, it is called "The Judgement Seat of Christ." (Romans 14:8-12 1 Corinthians 3:11-17 11 Corinthians 5:8-10)

In this present dispensation, when we die and leave this earth, we go to be with the Lord. (Philippians 1:20-24 11 Corinthians 5:1-8)

When this dispensation ends, those who have died, and those who will be alive, will be gathered together and receive their new glorified bodies all at the same time.

EPHESIANS

PART THREE - OUR FUTURE TRANSITION

Titus 2:11,12,13 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ,

In these words to Titus we see our past condition as we needed saved. Christ the Savior appeared to all men. Those who see the Savior and acknowledge him as their Savior are transformed into children of God and are now living in their present position, waiting for their future transition. While we are waiting, we are admonished to live a godly life, and look forward to the coming of the Savior for the church.

FUTURE TRANSITION

In Ephesians we are given a picture of the reality of our future. It is a promise made by Christ, and written for our comfort.

Ephesians 1:3-7 In these verses we are told we are blessed in the heavens. (vs.3) God has chosen beforehand that we should be holy and without blame before him. In the Greek the words mean literally in his presence. (vs.4) God has pre-determined that the entire church is waiting for the adoption, which is the redemption of the body. (vs.5)

NOTE: For adoption see Romans 8:23. The adoption takes place at the rapture when the entire church will be gathered together. God did not pre-determine who will be saved, he pre-determined that those who are saved will be gathered together at one time.

Ephesians 1:8-12 In verses 8 through 12 we are told that we not only have a future in heaven, we are given the wisdom to know that through the Bible. (vs.8,9) When this present dispensation ends, Christ will gather together all things in heaven and earth in him. (vs.10)

NOTE: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 tells us that the dead in Christ will rise first, then those who are alive at his coming will go to meet them in the air. The church will be gathered together. The adoption will be complete. When this takes place the church will be glorified with Christ. (ref. Ephesians 1:12,14 Romans 8:17,18)

Ephesians 1:13,14 In these verses we are given the assurance that our eternity is sealed by the Holy Spirit. We also see that the church is the purchased possession. It is purchased by the blood of Christ.

NOTE: We must repeat this again. Our salvation and future transition is guaranteed by the Word of God, the blood of Christ, and the Holy Spirit. God cannot go back on his word. When he said, "He that believeth on me hath everlasting life," he meant what he said.

In Ephesians the word "heaven, heavens, or heavenly," are used eight times. In each case the Greek word means literally in heaven, or high places.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiratual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

Ephesians 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

Notice, if you will, that Christ is set at the right hand of the Father in heaven, and the saved child of God is blessed with spiratual blessings from the same place.

In Ephesians 2:6 we are told that we are already raised up and made to sit in heaven. Our future transition is finished. It is sealed.

However, we are still living in the flesh and blood body with the old nature. We must be careful to maintain our life in a way that would reflect Christ.

Ephesians 3:10 tells us that we have at our disposal the ability to know the wisdom of God. (ref. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16)

Since we are blessed in the heavens, and Christ sits in the heavens at the right hand of the Father, they must be the same place. Eph. 2:6 says we are raised up and made to sit together in heaven in Christ. Of course, this is the entire church, because of the word "together."

God has determined (pre-destined) that the entire church has been blessed in the heavens. The entire church is blessed because we cannot lose our future transition. When the church is gathered at the rapture, we will be, "holy and without blame before him in love." (Ephesians 1:4)

EPHESIANS

FALSE DOCTRINE CONCERNING OUR PAST CONDITION

1. God is in all of us, or, we are all children of God.

This doctrine assumes that everyone must be good enough to be a child of God. It says we must all be moral since we are all God's children.

This doctrine must be refuted or no one will see their need of a Savior.

- A. The Bible teaches that we are all sinners and need to be saved. (Romans 3:10,23
Since I am a sinner and need to be saved, the Bible says I am separated from God.
(Ephesians 2:12,13 Romans 5:10 Isaiah 59:2)
- B. The Bible also teaches that in my separated condition I am not a child of God.
(Romans 8:16,17)

Romans 9:8 tells us the children of the flesh are not the children of God. The children of the promise are counted as the seed. We become children of the promise when we have the faith of Abraham. The faith of Abraham is faith in Christ as our Savior. (Galatians 3:6-9)

- C. Christ told those who did not believe in him they were the children of the devil.
(John 8:44,45 Ephesians 2:1,2)
They claimed to be children of Abraham. Thinking that being children of Abraham would give them special recognition. (John 8:33,37,39,41)

However, they were only children by genealogy, not by faith.

2. If I belong to a certain denomination I will be in the favor of God. My parents were Baptists, or Catholics, or Presbyterians, or some other denomination. Perhaps I was baptized or annointed as an infant. Or maybe I was blessed by a preacher.

- A. There are no denominations in the Bible. Every denomination is man made, and There are no exceptions. People will go to great lenghts to prove their church denomination is of biblical origin, yet it will always fall short.

No matter which church I belong to, or to whom I pray, or who will intercede for me, I am still a sinner that needs saved by faith in Christ.

3. Death and cessation of existence. In other words, these people claim there is no heaven or hell, and man ceases to exist upon death. Some claim there is a type of a reincarnation, where I will come back in another form.

EPHESIANS

FALSE DOCTRINE CONCERNING OUR PAST CONDITION

3. Death and cessation of existence cont.

- A. In Luke 16:19-31 The rich man died and found himself in torment. Lazarus died and found himself in Paradise with Abraham. This is not a parable because literal names are used, and Christ did not call it a parable.
- B. According to Christ in John 5:29 there is the resurrection unto life, and the resurrection unto damnation. There is a resurrection. (Daniel 12:2,3 1 Corinthians 12:12-58)
- C. In Revelation 4:8,9 6:9-11 7:9-17 11:15-18 14:13 15:1-8 19:1-10 are pictures of those in heaven who are saved out of the earth. We also have scenes of the judgement of those who reject Christ.
- D. The beast and the false prophet of Revelation chapter thirteen are cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 19:20) In Revelation 20:10 the devil is cast into the lake of fire 1000 years after the beast and false were cast there, and they still existed. We are told that the devil, along with the beast and false prophet, will be tormented day and night forever. They did not cease to exist. It is eternal.
- E. There are too many references to eternal judgement to deny a resurrection into eternity. We just enter eternity into a different place. Some to eternal life, others to eternal death.

FALSE DOCTRINE CONCERNING OUR PRESENT POSITION

1. Some claim that God is a loving God and would not send anybody to hell. Therefore, we do not have to worry about being saved. Not only that, Christ's atonement was for everyone.

- A. If that were true there would be no white throne judgement. (Revelation 20:11-15)
- B. There would be no reference to a resurrection to damnation. (Daniel 12:2 John 5:29)
- C. There would not be so many references to the word believe. (especially John 3:15-18 Acts 16:30,31)

2. Believing is not enough. We must show some kind of proof of our salvation. This doctrine is carried to the extreme by many churches in various different ways. Some will have a person walk an aisle in conjunction with their salvation. Others claim we must show that we do not sin anymore. Still, others claim that the word repent means to turn from sin and that is part of the salvation process.

All of this is nothing new. Paul the Apostle had problems with this sort of thing during his ministry and most of his letters were written concerning this type of false doctrine.

EPHESIANS

FALSE DOCTRINE CONCERNING OUR PRESENT POSITION cont.

2. When we mix anything with the word believe in connection with salvation it becomes a works salvation. The Bible states we are saved when we believe the gospel of Christ. The gospel is...Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin to everyone that believes. (not turn from sin)

- A. The word believe means exactly that. It means to entrust. When I believe in Christ as my Savior it means I am entrusting him and him alone for my eternal future.

If I add anything to the word believe it becomes a works salvation. My present position, and my future transition are in the hands of Christ.

- B. The word repent, when used in connection with salvation, means a change of the mind. I change my mind about the fact that I am a sinner and need a Savior, and believe the gospel of Christ, I am saved.

Repent does not mean to turn from sin. If turning from sin had anything to do with my salvation, it would become a works righteousness.

- C. The problem is not knowing the difference between salvation and service. Salvation is absolutely free without any works. (Ephesians 2:8,9 Titus 3:5 Matthew 11:28,29,30 Romans 6:23)

When it comes to my service for Christ, another word for repent is used. It means a change that would show a reversal, or, a change that would show a change of mind.

- D. The saved christian is just as capable of sinning as he or she was before they were saved. It is called the old nature, or the old man. We will have the old man with us until we die. (Romans 6:6-16 7:15-25)

That is the reason we are exhorted to serve throughout the New Testament. If we were not capable of sinning, we would not need to be reasoned with. (Galatians 3:1-3 4:9 5:1,16 Ephesians 4:14,17-32 5:15 1 Thessalonians 3:10 4:3-8 plus many more)

3. Some claim we may lose our salvation. The result would be a loss of our present position and our future transition.

- A. If that were true, then the Lord Jesus Christ would be a liar, and he is not. Christ promised us eternal, and everlasting life. He never said temporary everlasting life.
- B. The Holy Spirit dwells in and with every believer. He is the promise of the Father and our seal unto redemption. (John 14:16,17 15:26 Ephesians 1:13,14)
- C. If we were to lose the Holy Spirit, it would be the opposite of the new birth and would be the equivalent of a spiritual abortion.

EPHESIANS

FALSE DOCTRINE CONCERNING OUR FUTURE TRANSITION

There are various doctrines, or theories, concerning the transition of the saints, and specifically, the church as a whole. We have already discussed the cessation of existence theory promoted by some false doctrines. Listed below are some of the teaching concerning the transition of christians.

1. No one receives their home in heaven until the entire church is received into heaven.
 - A. Paul the Apostle stated that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. (11 Corinthians 5:1-9)
 - B. He also said to depart (this world) is to be present with the Lord. (Philippians 1:20-23)
 - C. If the Holy Spirit lives in every christian, and so does the Father and the Son, then it is only logical that the trinity would not live in a dead body.

Concerning the church as a whole, there are various doctrines concerning the transition of the church.

2. The church will be divided. Some will be taken at the beginning of the seven year tribulation, while others will be taken in the middle or at the end of the tribulation.
 - A. Christ said a house or a kingdom divided will not stand. (Matthew 12:25,26 Mark 3:24,26 Luke 11:17,18)
Since the church is called the Bride, (Ephesians 5:25-32 Revelation 21:2 22:17) and the body, (1 Corinthians 12:12-14,18,19,27) and the household and the building of Christ,(Ephesians 2:19-22) it is only logical that Christ will not divide his church.
 - B. In 1 Corinthians 15:51,52 we have a picture, or rather a prophecy concerning the rapture of the church. Two words are used in the original Greek describing that future event. One word is the Greek word *pas* and it means "the whole complete thing." The other word is *moment* and it comes from the Greek word *atomos* which means indivisible, or unsplittable.

NOTE: That is where we get the english word atom. Originally, scientists thought the atom was not splittable.

- C. 11 Thessalonians 2:6,7 tells us the Holy Spirit will be removed before the man of sin, the antichrist, will be revealed. If the Holy Spirit is removed, so will every saved, born again, child of God.
 - D. In Revelation chapter four and five we see the church in heaven receiving their crowns, or rewards, before the first seal of Revelation is opened.

EPHESIANS

FALSE DOCTRINE CONCERNING OUR FUTURE TRANSITION cont.

Furthermore, many times in the New Testament, when dealing with the subject of the rapture of the church, the word phrase gather together is used.

In Ephesians 1:10 the Word states, "he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth,"

This is in reference to the rapture and is in perfect harmony with 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The dead in Christ will come with him from heaven and their new glorified bodies will be raised incorruptible. Then, those who are alive at the time will meet them in the air.

11 Thessalonians 2:1 uses the term, "our gathering together unto him."

The words predestinate and predestinated are used in conjunction with the entire church. God has pre-determined that the entire church will be gathered together at one time. The word predestinate does mean that some are predestined to be saved, it means that everyone who is saved will be gathered together at one time.

4. Determine which verses pertain to God the Father, which to God the Son, and which to God the Holy Spirit. Explain why this is an important doctrine to defend.

5. Do a brief essay on the Holy Spirit. Explain the importance of the role of the Holy Spirit the world, and more expressly in the life of the christian. Listed are some Scripture references. However, you may use as many Scripture references as you like. (John 14:16,17,26 John 15:26,27 John 16:13,14 Acts 1:4,5,8 Romans 8:9-17 1 Corinthians 2:9-13 Ephesians 1:13 4:4 4:30

In a Strong's, or any concordance, look up and define the Greek translation of the following words.

1:3 heavenly

1:4 chosen, before (him)

1:5&11 predestinated

1:5 adoption

1:10 fullness, dispensation, gather (together)

2:12 aliens, world

3:3,4 mystery

6. Using Ephesians and whatever Scripture works best for you, answer the following questions.

A. Are we all God's children?

B. Do Christians sin?

C. Can one lose their salvation?

D. Does God chose, or predestinate, some to be saved while others remain lost?

Some Scripture help..... John 8:44 1 John 1:6-2:2