

Ephesians 6.21-24

God's Glory is our Greatest Good

WHAT is Your Greatest GOOD for Your Life? What do you REALLY Want?  
 Different OPINIONS for Most Money, Respected Degree, Eligible SPOUSE,  
 Whatever will make me Most FAMOUS, Most FULLFILLED  
 Because at END OF THE DAY > We all Know > It is ABOUT ME!! Right??!!

Jesus Christ LAUNCHED an UPSIDE DOWN Kingdom  
 SURPRISING Ideas – Want to GAIN your Life?? > Must GIVE IT AWAY!  
 Want to REALLY LIVE?? > Find out How to GIVE YOUR LIFE AWAY!  
 NO PROFIT to even GAIN the ENTIRE World – IF you LOSE your SOUL!

Paul > KINGDOM Citizen - Learned CONTENTMENT from CHRIST  
 Paul giving PRAISE from PRISON – AFFLICTIONS led him to ADORATION  
 Believed DIFFICULTIES of his SITUATION were DESIGNED by the SAVIOR

Kingdom Citizen learns - God's Glory is our Greatest Good  
 Whether we're PRISON or PALACE – Slave or a Student – Pastor or Politician  
 IMPRISONED PAUL – LOST IN WONDER and PRAISE – Glory of Christ  
 Writes Letter – Possibly CIRCULAR Letter to Churches of ASIA MINOR  
 Many of Earliest MSS do NOT have word "EPHESUS" – Some do...  
 To the saints who are (in Ephesus) Ephesians 1.1

Letter to WHOLE Church – from 1<sup>st</sup> Century to FINAL Century – ALL Nations  
 DIVINE Author > Holy Spirit ETERNAL Word > Timeless, Powerful  
 Jew & Gentile, Servants & Masters, Wives & Husbands, Children & Parents  
 TRUTHS for Every Believer > God's Glory is our Greatest Good

End of Letter: Ch 6: We should be aware of the devil, but impressed with God...

## 1. God's Plan

### a. All Loving

MARVELOUS Truth of Bible > GOD so LOVED World GAVE His Son  
Christian Faith MORE than DOCTRINE and DUTIES > Heart of DEVOTION

Jesus calls us FRIENDS – God calls us His CHILDREN

Ephesians begins with PLAN of God from Eternity – Plan BIRTHED in LOVE

“In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons” Ephesians 1.4,5

“his great love for us” Ephesians 2.4

“being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love” Ephesians 3.17-19

Our Love is FICKLE, His love is FAITHFUL

Our Love is TEMPORARY, His Love is TIMELESS

Our Love is CHOOSY, His Love is UNCONDITIONAL

“as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us” Ephesians 5.1,2

### b. All Wise – ETERNAL and OMNISCIENT – Nothing He does Not Know

“before the creation of the world” Ephesians 1.4 > Creation declares His GLORY

“all wisdom and understanding” Ephesians 1.8

“the Spirit of wisdom and revelation” Ephesians 1.17

“the truth that is in Jesus” Ephesians 4.21

“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2.10

God COULD NOT make a MISTAKE if He TRIED – but He WON'T!!

### c. All Powerful

People may have LOVE and WISDOM but NOT ABLE to DO Anything

God does NOT Have that Problem – ALL Loving, Wise and OMNIPOTENT

NO POWER SHORTAGE in HEAVEN > NOTHING He cannot DO

“his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead”  
Ephesians 1.19,20

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”  
Ephesians 3.20

“be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”  
Ephesians 6.10

### d. So, Christians have Confidence We can have FULL CONFIDENCE in X

Paul’s TRIBULATIONS put his THEOLOGY to the TEST

Satan taunted Jesus in Wilderness – “IF you’re Son of God, why Abandoned?”

Paul thrown into ROMAN Prison – Satan or Caesar – thrown away KEY

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God”  
Ephesians 1.1

FAITH not defined by PROBLEMS of Situation but PROMISES of Scripture

CERTAINTY in what he CAN’T SEE > CLARIFIES what he CAN SEE

Yes, TUNNEL is LONG and DARK > Daylight of Gospel seen in DISTANCE

“Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus”  
Ephesians 3.1

“a prisoner for the Lord”  
Ephesians 4.1

TRUST is MODELED by Paul and is the MESSAGE of Paul to the Church

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”  
Ephesians 5.21

Only CONFIDENTLY Submit to Man > Know Ultimately led by MAKER

All Loving, Wise, Powerful GOD has ORDAINED > Steps & Structure of Life

NOT Always told WHY or WHEN or HOW – but we Know WHO Father God TRUST in God was so CERTAIN that Paul can urge...

“Slaves, obey... like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.”  
Ephesians 6.5-8

After WALKING with God for MANY YEARS, Paul could Testify...

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8.28

## 2. God’s Person – His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

PLAN of God has a FACE – MAN – from HEAVEN – His NAME is Jesus

### a. God’s Plan Accomplished through Him

“the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ”  
Ephesians 1.9,10

“God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church”  
Ephesians 1.22

“his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” Ephesians 3.11

Jesus Death, Resurrection, Ascension, and Exaltation is CENTER of God’s Plan

“He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.”  
Ephesians 4.10

“we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ” Ephesians 4.15

CELEBRATION is based on EXALTATION of Jesus > Ground of Confidence

“always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”  
Ephesians 5.20

## b. God’s People United to Him

1) Everything God does for us is because of Jesus

27 times in this letter Paul uses a phrase like “in Him”

“every spiritual blessing in Christ” Ephesians 1.3

“he chose us in him” Ephesians 1.4

“he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ” Ephesians 1.5

“grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves” Ephesians 1.6

2) Everything Changes when we Know Christ

“you were dead in your transgressions and sins” Ephesians 2.1

BLUNT Assessment of HUMAN CONDITION > Contradicts our Observation

We may appear as SCULPTED as TRAINED ATHLETE

Or as BRILLIANT as LEARNED PROFESSOR

Or as VIVACIOUS as MOVIE STAR – at least that’s what people say about Me!

But from God’s Viewpoint – ALL of us are SPIRITUALLY DEAD

DEAD to God – Don’t Care – Never THINK of Him – No FEAR of God

Instead of OBEYING God we OBJECT to His RULE

Instead of PRAISING Him we have PROUD HEARTS

That’s why the GOSPEL is such GLORIOUS NEWS...

“God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ” Ephesians 2.4,5

“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints”  
Ephesians 1.18

“you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household”  
Ephesians 2.19

### 3) Wondrous Union

“This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.”  
Ephesians 5.32

Most INTIMATE Human Relationship > POINTS to our Life with God in Christ  
When we LEAVE this EARTH – we will Leave Earthly Marriage Behind  
All who BELIEVE will become BRIDE – Bride of Lord Jesus – Beloved Savior

### 4) Eternal Union

v. 24 “Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.”  
Our LOVE for Christ will be UNDYING because Nothing Separates us from His  
Christ our LOVER, LIVES FOREVER – We will LOVE Forever in His Love

### c. God's People must be Like Christ

“become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”  
Ephesians 4.13

“forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” Ephesians 4.32

Saved by GRACE ALONE but Saving Grace is NEVER ALONE

POWERFUL REDEMPTION leads to PERSONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

“walk in love, as Christ loved us and himself gave himself up for us” Ephesians 5.2

SALVATION leads to SANCTIFICATION

Jesus work FOR US begins the Holy Spirit's work IN US

If Christ is Really your SAVIOR He must then become your STANDARD

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church” Ephesians 5.25

“Slaves, obey...just as you would obey Christ... like slaves of Christ” Ephesians 6.5,6

Ephesians Begins and Ends with Love - Last verses focus on LOVE 3 X's

vs. 23,24 Peace be to the brothers, and *love* with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who *love* our Lord Jesus Christ with *love* incorruptible.

### 3. God's People

#### a. Revelation of the Mystery

“This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”  
Ephesians 3.6

I hope you're WORSHIPPING here with your EYES OPEN

NOT Everybody here LOOKS like YOU! God's Family is Beautifully DIVERSE  
Wonderful REMINDER this past week in KAIROS COURSE – God is Working  
Whole WORLD – All UNIVERSE – MADE & OWNED by SOVEREIGN God

“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier”  
Ephesians 2.14

“you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone” Ephesians 2.19,20

#### b. Relationship with the Master

“walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called”  
Ephesians 4.1

“you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do” Ephesians 4.17

“walk as children of light” Ephesians 5.8

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise” Ephesians 5.15

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” Ephesians 5.19,20

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Ephesians 6 <sup>21</sup> So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. <sup>22</sup> I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts. <sup>23</sup> Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.