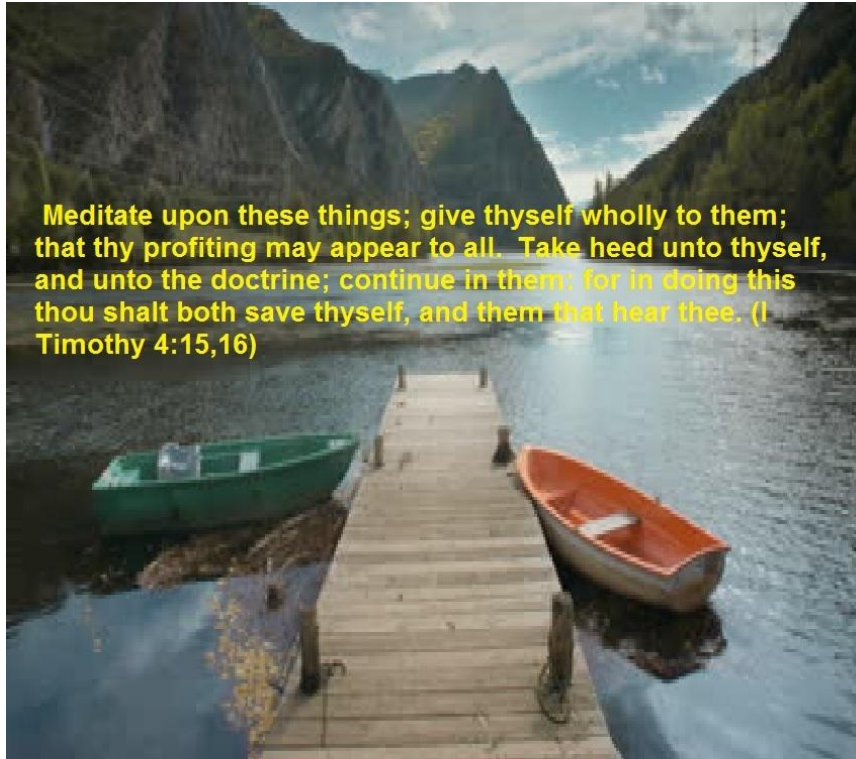


ONE COMMENTARY ON EPHESIANS



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Ephesians is short and powerfully packed: in it everything in the universe is One; it is history, the history of a local church at Ephesus and of the total One body of Christ, the Church; and it is also the history of the Christian Life.

One is Promoting Inherent Peace and Unity: "Spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives..." (Ephesians 4:3)

One is Ultimate Integration of Life (Philippians 3:13,14 and Philippians 1:21)

One in the seven One's of Ephesians 4:4-6 identifies the legitimate Bible basis for peace and unity

One, without all the answers, keeps seeking after Ultimate Truth

One as Integration has: Purpose, Justification, Security, and Christian Vocation

PREFACE

"Promoting Inherent Unity" was the primary theme for years in the preaching and teaching on the book of Ephesians. It is inherent, not a unity that comes from external organization; but one, that once it exists, can be built on or promoted. When in Algeria I wrote the book CHRISTIAN CONCEPTS FROM AN AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIST ON GOD'S FOUNDATION FOR PEACE with the book of Ephesians as the continuity, Ephesians was a letter that clearly lays the foundational criteria for peace and unity. And even in 1984 with the first complete writing of ONE COMMENTARY and registration in the Library of Congress, while ONE was obviously the dominant subject of Ephesians, it was not fully apparent until 1984-85 after a teaching and preaching interim pastorate at Oakridge Baptist Church in Mineral Wells, Texas and before the publication in 1986, that the gist of ONE is ultimate integration.

The more you think on the word "one" in the Bible, the more you see this ultimate integration. Paul expressed it in Philippians:

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this ONE thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (3:13,14 KJV)

Paul could have as sincerely said "this ONE thing I am" as well as "this ONE thing I do..." In fact, he did in other words when he wrote, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21 KJV)

Paul picked up this theme from Jesus Himself, and in particular from Jesus' prayer for all Christians before His crucifixion. It expresses

the ultimate in ultimate integration: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be ONE..." (John 17:20,21 KJV)

The book of Ephesians identifies the essential criteria that must be present before peace and unity can exist, before they can be promoted. These are the integrating factors for peace and unity. "There is ONE body, and ONE Spirit, even as ye are called in ONE hope of your calling; ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism, ONE God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Eph. 4:4-6 KJV)

Even a precursory look at a concordance in the back of a King James Version (KJV) of the Bible under the word "ONE" attracts the attention:

Job 9:3	one of a thousand
Eccl. 7:27; Isa. 27:12	one by one
Mk. 10:21; Lk. 18:22	one thing thou lackest
Lk. 10:42	one thing is needful
John 9:25	one thing I know
17:11,21,22	that they may be one
Gal. 3:28	all one in Christ
Eph. 4:5	one Lord, one faith, one baptism
Deut. 6:4; Mk. 12:32; I Tim. 2:5	

We never have all the answers; but like Paul, we keep seeking after ultimate truth as recorded in the pages of the Bible, the Word of God, and under the illumination of the Holy Spirit, progressing:

"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:12 KJV)

In the reading of this commentary you will encounter some technical illustrations. A friend from high school days that teaches at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary after reading portions of the manuscript in 1984 remarked, "Why the technical material?" "It is my chance," I replied to make a real creative contribution."

Outline of the EXEGESIS

An outline of the exegesis to follow will demonstrate the flow and the conciseness of Ephesians.

- I. Ephesians 1: IN CHRIST.
 1. Count Your Blessings.
 - a. Justification/Redemption in Christ.
 - b. Grace and Peace.
 2. Outlines of Ephesians 1.
 3. A Prayer for All Christians.
 - a. Attitude of Ephesians.
 - b. Our Share in the Heritage.

- II. Ephesians 2: BEFORE AND AFTER.
 1. The Contrasts.
 - a. Time.
 - b. Memory.
 - c. Christ.
 2. With all the Rest, Inclusive Again.
 3. More about the Contrasts.
 - a. Another Contrast?
 - b. Other Scriptures on the Contrasts.
 4. Living Doctrines in Ephesians 2.

- III. Ephesians 3: WITH THIS IN MIND.
 1. An Attitude of Worship.
 - a. A Prayer about the Prayer of Ephesians 3.
 - b. A Preface to Prayer.
 - c. Prayer with Preparation.
 2. The Special Prayer.
 - a. A Prayer for Heart.
 - b. The Dimensions of Love.
 - c. Origin of the Love Vector.
 3. Benediction.

- IV. Ephesians 4: PEACE, UNITY, AND ONENESS.
 1. Unity in Diversity.
 - a. Disharmony in Uniformity.
 - b. Mastering Notes that Mutilate.
 2. Peace and Unity.
 - a. Unity from the Spirit.
 - b. Focal is Peace in the Church.
 3. Oneness.
 4. How To Promote?

(continued, Outline of the EXEGESIS)

- V. Ephesians 5: THE MYSTERY OF THE IDEAL BODY.
1. Ideal Characteristics.
 2. Application of Ideals.
 3. A Great Mystery.
 - a. The Body of Christ.
 - b. The Church.
 4. What God Hath Joined.
- VI. Ephesians 4-6: GOD'S PSYCHOLOGY.
1. Implementation of the Teachings.
 2. Behavioral Modification, Walking.
 - a. Walk Worthily.
 - b. Walk Differently.
 - c. Walk in Love.
 - d. Walk Circumspectly.
 3. Fighting Sandals.
 4. Proverbs from Ephesians.
 5. Bad Attitudes.
- VII. Ephesians 4,5: ESSENCE OF EPHESIANS.
1. The Ten Commandments of Ephesians.
 2. Specifics of the 4:17 thru 5:9 Passage.
 3. A Liar?
 4. Love's Engredients in Ephesians.
 5. Some Finals on the Exegesis.
 - a. Things to Do.
 - b. Things to Think.
 - c. Things to Do and Think.
 - d. ONE and Evangelism.

Note from the outline above that not only does this ONE COMMENTARY let Paul, or God through Paul, speak; but let's them speak in the words and in the outline of Ephesians itself. Momentary departures from the main flow are made only to demonstrate the contemporary applicability or to illustrate the consistency of the whole book of Ephesians and the Word of God, remembering the place of Ephesians in the total New Testament Canon and the sixty-six books of the Word of God and that the study is functional, not academic, to know God through Christ and peace.