

Study Questions
Ephesians – Part One Revisited
Sunday June 21st

1). Eph 1:1 ¶ *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

a). In Paul's opening address, who is he clearly writing to and what two things are said about them?

b). Should the word 'faithful' necessarily include all those in Ephesus?

c). What would it mean for them to be 'faithful in Christ Jesus'?

c). Should we conclude that the Church in Ephesus had received a firm scriptural foundation on which they could build?

2). Ac 20:29 *"For I know this, that after my departure savage [in the sense of burdensome, applying a heavy weight] wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse [misinterpreted / corrupted] things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*

a). What are the two warnings that Paul gives to the Elders of Ephesus here?

b). What would seem to be the motivation behind these two groups of people?

c). What do you think the reality of this would have looked like for those in the Church in Ephesus?

d). What could it look like for us? And how would we guard against it?

3). 2Ti 1:13 *Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. 15 ¶ This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.*

a). Why do you think that Paul says what he does to Timothy in v13-14?

b). What is the Holy Spirit saying to us through these same verses?

c). What do we then learn in v15? And who would 'all those in Asia' be?

d). Phygellus is derived from the word 'pheugo' = to run away / shun

Hermogenes = Born of Hermes, the Greek messenger god

Do you think the use of these two names adds anything to our understanding of what took place in Asia? Can you think of a scripture that would substantiate this?

e). Is there anything in this that we may draw on for ourselves?

4). Re 2:4 *"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*

5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent.

a). In the Lord's words to the Church of Ephesus here, what does it mean that they have left their first love? And from where have they fallen?

b). *2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

c). What will take place at the Lord's appearing?

d). What has Paul done so that he will receive the crown of righteousness?

e). What does the name 'the crown of righteousness' suggest to you? What does it mean to be righteous? Do you have any scripture for this?

f). What is the promise given here in v8?

g). What does this mean for you personally?

h). What are the three things the Lord tells the Ephesians to do because they have left their first love?

i). What would 'the first works' be?

j). How would this relate to our 2 Timothy scripture?

k). How would you connect this to Matthew 6:33?

l). What would these ‘first works’ look like for us?

m). What would it look like to ‘fight the good fight’? – What scriptures would we look to for this?

n). What would it look like to ‘finish the race’? What scriptures would we look to for this?

o). What does it look like to ‘keep the faith’? What scriptures would we look to for this?

5). The Lord Himself spoke about the situation that begins with Ephesus and ends with Laodicea in the Matthew 13 parables.

a). Mt 13:24 ¶ *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.*

b). What is the subject matter of the Matthew 13 parables?

c). Who are the ‘good seed’?

d). What would ‘but while men slept’ describe?

e). Who is the enemy and who are the tares?

f). What would be the purpose of the tares?

g). Mt 13:33 *Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."*

h). What is leaven always a picture of in scripture?

i). Who would the woman be? And who is responsible for producing the leaven?

j). What do we know about the symbolism of the 3 measures of meal?

k). Within the context of the Matthew 13 parables what specifically would the 3 measures of meal represent?

l). What connection would you make between our Matthew 13 scriptures and what happened in Ephesus?

m). What connection would you make between 'it was all leavened' and the Laodicean church?

n). What does this mean for us as we now look to the Kingdom?

o). What will be the challenge for us in this? And for you personally?