

## Living to God's Glory



MEMORY VERSE: "You have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love."  
Ephesians 4:1-2

### DAY 1 EPHESIANS 3:1-13—Paul Is the Messenger to Non-Jews

1. What did God, Himself, reveal to Paul? vv. 3-6
2. Read verses 7-9. How amazing that God gave Paul His plan and used Paul to spread this Good News. What does this tell you about God?
3. What was God's eternal plan that was carried out through Jesus for all the angels to see? vv. 10-11
4. What can we do? Why? v. 12  
Do you come to Him this way? Explain.
5. Read verse 13. Paul was being used in a greater way than he ever imagined. In the same way, each of us has a place in the service of God's eternal plan. How can knowing this and working towards it help you guard against losing heart while facing hard things?

### DAY 2 EPHESIANS 3:14-21—Paul Prays for the Ephesians

6. What does Paul do as he considers God's great eternal plan, his place in that plan, and how God's work is unstoppable even when Paul is imprisoned? v. 14

7. What does he pray?

v. 15

v. 16

v. 17

v. 18

v. 19

8. Which part of this prayer speaks most to you? Why?

9. What does Paul say that God is able to do? How? v. 20

10. Read verse 21. What we do in His power today will glorify Christ *“through all generations forever and ever.”* What does this mean to you?

### DAY 3 EPHESIANS 4:1-6—A Call for Unity

11. Paul has been spelling out in detail all that God did for us, freely by His grace. Now he brings a call to live rightly. How does Paul want believers to live?

v. 1

v. 2

v. 3

12. What does Paul tell us is important in verses 4-6?

13. Why is spiritual unity with believers so important?  
What happens if believers do not have spiritual unity?

## DAY 4 EPHESIANS 4:7-16—The Way God Works Unity

14. Paul tells us we have each been given a special gift. (verse 7) What are ones listed that Christ gives to the church? What is the responsibility to the one that receives one of these? vv. 11-12
15. What will not and what will happen when we come to unity and become mature in the Lord?  
vv. 13-15
16. Read verse 16. Do you see certain spiritual strengths/gifts you have? How can you use them?

## DAY 5 EPHESIANS 3:1-4:16—Wrap Up

17. Do you ever live without hope? How does Ephesians 3 encourage you to step out and see God move in big ways in your life.
18. How does chapter 4 speak to you about living with family and friends?

### TAKE AWAY

The only thing that can bring you the peace and fulfillment you need is Jesus. He's called you, so live a life that's worthy of that calling. Choose everyday to not be distracted by other things and choose instead to lean into Jesus.

### BLESSING

God is able to do more in our lives than we can ask or think!

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Chapter 3 speaks again of the mystery God revealed Paul (Ephesians 3:1–13). The second part of this chapter details the new relationship between the Jews and Gentiles as one body (Ephesians 3:14–21).

Chapter 4 describes both the unity of believers and the new hope which Christians have in Jesus. Paul appeals to Christians to live in a way which reflects the grace we've been given by God (Ephesians 4:1-16).

The first part (Ephesians 3:1–13) includes Paul mentioning himself as a prisoner on behalf of the Gentiles (Ephesians 3:1). His attitude is that prison is nothing compared to what God has done for him and will do for him. The gospel was revealed to him as he had previously mentioned (Ephesians 3:3). It was given to him for the purpose of passing it on to others. The application for our lives is obvious: if God has given us something, it is for the purpose of our giving it away.

The mystery he spoke of was that Gentiles are now fellow family members of the church in Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:6). He uses the word mystery deliberately because he is refuting the notions current in his day in the pagan religions. But now, as then, God's revelation are available to all.

Paul was a minister of this gospel according to God's grace (Ephesians 3:7). Though he was the least likely to be in this role, God gave him this calling to share Christ with the Gentiles (Ephesians 3:8). When Paul writes in verse 10 of "unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places," he refers to angelic beings as well as demonic powers. And revealing this was part of the eternal plan of God (Ephesians 3:11). Paul makes clear in verse 12 that Christians have free access to God and may approach Him with

confidence.

Paul also asked that his readers not be discouraged by his imprisonment (Ephesians 3:13). The imprisonment Paul described was his first Roman imprisonment, which took place between approximately AD 60 and 62. During this time, Paul was under house arrest while awaiting trial. Despite the confinement, he was able to freely preach the gospel to all who came to him. As a result, even some among Caesar's household came to faith (Philippians 4:22).

The second part (Ephesians 3:14–21) of this chapter includes a personal prayer by Paul. He bowed on his knees (Ephesians 3:14), asking God to give the Ephesians strength through His Spirit (Ephesians 3:16). He desired for Christ to dwell in the hearts of the church of Ephesus by faith (Ephesians 3:17). His desire was for them to know the depth of Christ's love that surpassed all knowledge (Ephesians 3:18–19).

Paul concludes the chapter with a doxology describing God as one able to do far more than we can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). God deserves all glory for all things at all times (Ephesians 3:21). This concludes the first half of Paul's letter, with the remaining chapters transitioning to new themes and more practical matters within the church.

The first part of the chapter (Ephesians 4:1–6) begins with Paul urging his readers to live according to the calling they have received as believers (Ephesians 4:1). This includes humility, gentleness, patience, and love (Ephesians 4:2). Unity and peace were essential (Ephesians 4:3), with Paul noting the importance of one Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, God, and Father of all (Ephesians 4:5–6). Grace is given to each as Christ desires (Ephesians 4:7).

Paul then quotes from Psalm 68:18 (Ephesians 4:8) as the basis for his next teaching. He contrasts ascending and descending. The references are obscure, but the application is clear: victory and gifts. Christ, who has now triumphantly ascended, is giving gifts for the purpose of building up the body and equipping God's people for service. He wants His body to function properly. And He wants the members to be able to stand firmly in the face of false, deceptive teaching that could easily confuse. Maturity and stability are inseparable, and both are essential if Christ's body is to grow.

Verse 11 begins a discussion of church leaders. Paul includes apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. These leaders have one main purpose: to equip believers for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12). This work builds up the church, and increases unity, knowledge, and maturity (Ephesians 4:12–13).

Maturity is important because it keeps believers from being “up and down” in their walk with God. It also helps us avoid being deceived by false teachings (Ephesians 4:14). Instead, mature believers can speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), focusing on Christ who keeps the body of Christ together (Ephesians 4:16).

We are united through Christ into the family and fellowship of all believers. We are the body of Christ. We have much diversity within our unity. God has given each of us gifts that complement and enhance the gifts of others. We glorify God by using our unique interests, abilities, and talents in the body of believers. Recognize your uniqueness in the body of Christ. Respect another's uniqueness. Radiate love for each other. Realize harmonious living. Rejoice in the unity we have in Jesus Christ.

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