

THE “EPHESIAN” LETTER: OUTLINE

I. GOD’S ULTIMATE PURPOSE UNVEILED (1:1–3:21)

- A. Paul’s Salutation and Greeting (1:1–2)
- B. God’s Ultimate Purpose for the Ages (1:3–14)
 - 1) Praise for Spiritual Blessings through God’s Calling and Redemption (1:3–8)
 - 2) Praise for God’s Revealing His Will, that His Eternal House Is Headed-Up in Christ (1:9–12)
 - 3) Praise for Being Sealed in Christ through the Holy Spirit of Promise (1:13–14)
- C. Paul’s Prayer in Light of God’s Ultimate Purpose (1:15–3:19)
 - 1) Paul’s Continual Thanksgiving for the Readers’ Part in God’s Eternal Plan (1:15–16)
 - 2) Paul’s Petition for God to Give the Readers Wisdom and Revelation in Knowledge of God (1:17)
 - 3) Paul’s Petition for the Readers’ Knowledge of Various Spiritual Realities (1:18–2:22)
 - a. What Is the Hope of God’s Calling upon Their Lives (1:18a)
 - b. What are the Riches of Christ’s Inheritance Reserved for Them (1:18b)
 - c. What Is the Greatness of God’s Power toward All Who Believe (1:19–2:22)
 - 1. Power Manifested in Christ’s Exaltation on Their Behalf (1:19b–23)
 - 2. Power Manifested in the Transformation of Their Lives (2:1–10)
 - 3. Power Manifested by Joining Jew and Gentile into One Body (2:11–22)
 - 4) Paul’s Petition Resumed (3:1–13)
 - a. Prayer Resumed (3:1)
 - b. Prayer Interrupted to Reflect on the Nature of the Mystery of Christ (3:2–6)
 - c. Prayer Interrupted to Reflect on Paul’s Part in Proclaiming the Mystery of Christ (3:7–13)
 - 5) Paul’s Petition Concluded (3:14–19)
- D. Paul’s Concluding Doxology (3:20–21)

II. LIVING IN LIGHT OF GOD’S ULTIMATE PURPOSE (4:1–6:24)

- A. The Priority of Unity Amidst Diversity (4:1–16)
 - 1) Exhortation to Preserve Unity in the Body (4:1–3)
 - 2) Example of Unity in Several Illustrations of Oneness (4:4–6)
 - 3) Ecclesiastical Unity Accomplished through Diversity (4:7–13)
 - 4) Ecclesiastical Growth Accomplished through Diversity (4:14–16)
- B. The Priority of the New Self Being Manifested in Daily Life (4:17–5:21)
 - 1) New Self to be Manifested in a Renewed Mind (4:17–24)
 - 2) New Self to be Manifested in Many Areas of Life (4:25–5:5)
 - 3) New Self to be Manifested by Separation from Darkness (5:6–5:17)
 - 4) New Self to be Manifested by Filling Up with Spiritual Things (5:18–21)
- C. The Priority of Submission (5:22–6:9)
 - 1) Concerning Wives and Husbands (5:22–33)
 - 2) Concerning Children and Parents (6:1–4)
 - 3) Concerning Servants and Masters (6:5–9)
- D. The Priority of Empowerment for Spiritual Battle (6:10–20)
 - 1) Reason for Putting on the Whole Armor of God (6:10–13)
 - 2) Equipment that Comprises the Whole Armor of God (6:14–20)
- E. The Conclusion of the Letter (6:21–24)
 - 1) The Sending of Tychicus (6:21–22)
 - 2) The Final Benediction (6:23–24)

Douglas Petrovich

dp@exegesisinternational.org

(Revised from the outline of Donald G. McDougall)