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Daily Bible Notes/Highlights Genesis through Revelation 2014

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Ephesians

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C1-3

C1 Vss 1-23. No church is left without spiritual blessings. We can see early that a God in advanced adopted each of us.

God at the right time will bring everything under a His authority. This is to encourage believers under Roman rule and constant threats.

No matter what the circumstance, no matter how treacherous or unjust, God will work it out (1-11).

Jews has the opportunity first Paul records, but the Gentiles have their opportunity now. He calls The Spirit God's guarantee that God will provide what He promised.

He desired two major things for the believers: Light! His desire is for them to be flooded

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with truth. 2. The other is to know or understand the power on their behalf. The same power that resurrected Jesus. He's far above anything that has existences or to come.

C2 Vss 1-22. God has raised us from destinies of death to futures of living. We have moved from natures causing God's anger to a reality of life in Christ because of God's mercy. Paul who comes to know grace more and more, articulates the reality. It is and always has been a gift. Where mercy is a reprieve, but adds nothing, grace adds favor in spite of our condition.

Paul calls us a masterpiece as a result. Speaking with a fellow who committed an offense of child porn he never repeated, we expressed to him the glorious work Christ has done in us.

It's difficult in our culture that God loves what we deem the most vile of sinners The Lord loves. God's view is that we all are vile without Christ. We are bound for eternal damnation. It's only by God's grace that any of us are saved (1-10).

Paul reminds them they were once seen as uncircumcised heathans. We are never to forget what God has done in making us heirs. Christ through the cross broke every kind of barrier. It is well said the cross bridges vertically from God to man, and horizontally man to man. Jesus through the cross has done it (11-17).

Therefore Gentiles are in the household built on the foundation of prophets and apostles and Jesus is the cornerstone

C3 Vss 1-21 Paul reminds them of his ministry to them (Gentiles). Paul reveals what has been a secret or mystery. Both Gentiles and Jews are to share in God's inheritance as children of God.

Paul calls service to The Lord, privilege. This is missed so often. It is a privilege to be in his service. Often this is not the case and ministry is seen as a right, or entitlement. We need The Lord. He does not need us.

If anyone knows it is a privilege it is Paul. He has this treasure of telling the Gentiles about Jesus. Paul was selected to articulate the mysteries of heaven hidden from the beginning.

Paul selected by Jesus himself was unveiling Jesus and the concepts of faith, grace, salvation, and so much more in a way unknown before him. As a result of such clarity he provides the result. Now we can go boldly before The Lord.

It's apparent the Ephesians were becoming discouraged because of Paul's condition. He encouraged them to hold-on (1-12).

He falls in his face that they would be deepened in their knowledge and understanding of

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all Jesus has done for them. Paul was exceptional at keeping the focus off him and on Christ though he often shared his many crisis (13-21),

C4-6

C4 Vss 1-32. Some believe that beginning with Chapter four it is actually a second letter. Nevertheless, unity is always a concern with every church. And it is not easily maintained. It has to always be in front of all parties, and Paul let's them know they have to work hard to maintain unity. By the way unity does not mean everyone must have the same view. But the diverse views must give way to decisions. And when decisions are made there needs to be complete support. As long as the objective is the same and the method will reach the objective, everyone must be united (1-8)

This is what should be the focus of developing people in Christ. Paul speaks of making them complete in every area of God's work with the goal of reaching maturity. He's given specific gifts in the church to accomplish this task. Paul gives functions to these gifts. Their job is to equip God's people to do the work. If people only sit, they are not doing the work. They are not mature.

Paul's buttress is that believers not be tossed by every wrinkle of something that has come their way. He wants them to be solid in what he has taught them (9-15).

He encouraged all Gentile believers and Jews alike to live as enlightened children. They are to as an act of their will out on their new nature.

This is a reality. Believers will always have the opportunity to comit corporal sins. No power is going to make them operate like robots. Believers by their will demonstrate their love and family ship by choosing not to involve themselves in sin (16-31).

C5 Vss 1-33. Paul continues by telling them to be imitators of a God by their acts. He provides additional sins to avoid.

Paul also calls for vigilance. There are those who attempt to downplay sins. The Gnostics represent a group who did not believe they could sin.

But there are those who are considered acceptable who also build elaborate schemes of acceptable sin. Terms such as sin is sin is an effort to equate all sin as being the same. Therefore committing adultery is the same level of sin as a slip of the tongue. They are not the same. And the leader or teacher trying to propagate these consents are likely involved on debauchery (1-7). He calls on the Ephesians and all believers not to be caught in relationships with these people. They will be exposed. Clearly during this writers decades in ministry. False prophets are exposed. Those involved on debauchery are exposed. Unfortunately they do not teach people about staying away from them knowing they may ultimately be caught (8-14).

Paul wants them to seek wisdom. And he has a special word concerning drunkenness. Be

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filled with the Spirit or even drunk on the word. Load up on it.

Then Paul speaks about the spirit filled life. He gives the manifestation of people spirit-filled. Remember this is not a narrative book like Acts where the writer Luke does not provide detail and is not writing policy or instructions. Here Paul is specifically writing instructions.

Spirit filled people sing songs and hymns to each other and they submit to each other regardless of gender. Submit is the Greek word *Hupotasso* (place one's self in a lower position). This is a manifestation of the spirit filled person (15-20).

Paul turns his attention to family with the same principle in mind, manifestation of spirit fullness. A spirit-filled wife submit to her husband knowing The Lord will honor her for doing it. The spirit-filled man loves his wife based on the standard Jesus set. That is, he gives himself for those who cared nothing for him. Again, these are not acts of people who are not controlled and filled by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, one has to ask how am I filled. Paul gives the key to how one becomes filled in Colossians 3 (see Colossians 3:15-).

Being pragmatic Paul says love her as you love your own body to every man. He calls on the woman to respect. This is this giving to him as a leader. Again we emphasize there must be two people thoroughly focussed on The Lord (21-33).

C6 Vss 1-24 Paul continues with all of the essential family and community relationships. He moves to the children. A child who did not honor his parents was worthy of one thing in the law, death. While the law was never instituted to save anyone. It was instituted to show our sinfulness and need for Jesus.

Then a word to over bearing parents. They are not to be raised with wise tales and old traditions. But raised and disciplined with love. They should learn about grace and mercy through their parents discipline system.

The same goes for work relationships. The believer is to be a good and trustworthy employee. This also has the additional value to those in indentured or even slave relationships. Joseph was a servant at Potiphers. He was a convict in prison, but he still performed to the highest degree. Believers do all with a sense of joy as into The Lord (1-9).

Paul turns his attention to reveal something never given clarity throughout Scripture. He reveals the mystery of spiritual entities and their effect upon human functioning. The real war is against these entities. He reveals there is a hierarchy of spiritual agents of darkness.

Paul is so marvelous. He explains an issue, then explains how to defeat this enemy. The enemy projects darts (thoughts) to the mind. The thoughts are thermo-nuclear. they spread to impact others. The woman eats a piece of fruit. It spreads to her husband and then all of humanity.

They are defeated when the believer arms from head to toe with faith, God's word and

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prayer. These are the battle gear of the believer.

Unfortunately far too many are unarmed, and they are without strength and little use in the war against Satan and his emissaries (10-18).

Paul calls on the Philippians to pray for them. He's in chains for the cause of Christ. It may be what Jesus has called him to endure, but it is yet a condition he does not desire.

He introduces Tychicus and informs them he will bring them up to date 19-24.

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