# Ephesians 1:15-2:10

# Extra Questions

As you read through the letter to the Ephesians, list personal things that you learn about Paul and the recipients of this letter that give you an insight into who they were and their relationships.

Paul	Ephesians
1:16 "do not cease giving thanks for you…in my prayers"	1:15 "the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints"

# "Wisdom" (1:17)

- What do the following say about wisdom?
  - Proverbs 2:6-13
  - Proverbs 9:10

#### **Food for Thought:**

#### **Wisdom** (1:17)

"Human cleaverness or education cannot give this apprehension...The natural mind can learn a lot of facts about the Bible, but of itself can never perceive its spirtiual wealth. This comes only from the enlightenment of the One Who wrote it."

- Stuart Allen (37)

"The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.' (Charles Spurgeon)

'For philosophy comes to man with the message, *Know thyself*, the Gospel meets him with the far more glorious and fruitful watchword, *Know thy God.*' (Alford)" - David Guzik

(1:19) Power – Strong's #1411 NT:1411 dunamis, force (literally or figuratively); specially, miraculous power

Working Strong" NT:1753 energeia; efficiency ("energy"): KJV - operation, strong, (effectual) working.

*Mighty* Strong's NT:2479 *ischus*; forcefulness...KJV - ability, might, power, strength.

Power/strength Strong's NT:2904 kratos, vigor ["great"]...KJV - dominion, might, power, strength.

### "Fullness of Him" (1:23)

Read Ephesians 1:23, 3:19 and 4:10. What do you think Paul means by "the fullness of Him?" (See also Colossians 2:10)

**FYI:** "The church is **'the fullness** [that is, the complement, or that which fills] of Him who fills everything [the entire universe] in every way.' How can this be? How can Jesus, who created the universe and is the Head and who fills it in every way, be filled by the Church? After all, as God He is totally without need and independent of anything...Our Lord Jesus Christ has an inexplicable, unfathomable love for us so that He sees Himself...incomplete without us! What a lofty position this gives to the Church. Even in eternity we will never get to the bottom of this. Those who are hurting in ways no one else can understand must conclude from this that Jesus does understand and care!"

- R. Kent Hughes (63)

"Christ provides all the resources his body needs to sustain it. He quickens that which was dead. He recreates that which was in ruins. He regenerates that which has been deadened by the power of the flesh. He restores that which has been exhausted and impoverished. He nourishes that which has been starved and withered. He pours his life into his church. So that the church becomes the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way."

- Africa Bible Commentary (1428)

"The conception of the Church as the body of Christ is peculiar to the Pauline epistles in the New Testament...In earlier epistles Christ is not viewed as the head of this body. (See 1 Corinthians 12:21)...It is Colossians and Ephesians...in which Christ appears as the head from whom the other parts of the body derive life and power...In the present epistle Paul draws out...the implications of Christ's exaltation for those who are members of his body. 'the fullness of him that filleth all in all'....The church, the body of Christ, is the complement of Him who fills the entire universe."

- F. F. Bruce

# "Dead in trespasses and sins" (2:1,2)

➤ What does Romans 3:10,23 teach about man apart from the Lord?

**FYI:** "It has been often noted that these verses in Ephesians are a three-verse summary of the first three chapters of the Book of Romans, which teach the total depravity and death of humankind." - R Kent Hughes (67)

- ➤ How would Paul's description in 2:2,3 fit the Ephesians? Acts 19:11-41
- ➤ What does scripture say about "the world?" 1 John 5:19
- > Why does the flesh (2:3) cause such problems?
  - Romans 7:18
  - Galatians 5:17
- > How did Paul describe the "deeds of the flesh" in Galatians 5:19-21

#### "By grace you have been saved" (2:8)

- ➤ Underline how we are saved and double underline what fails to save us.
  - Romans 4:5 However, to the man who <u>does not work</u> but <u>trusts God</u> who justifies the wicked, his <u>faith</u> is credited as righteousness. NIV
  - Titus 3:5-6 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, NAS
  - Galatians 2:16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified. 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. NAS
  - 2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, NAS

➤ How would you explain the difference between not being saved by works (2:8,9) but for good works (2:10)?

## "His Workmanship" (2:10)

- > Underline other titles or descriptions God gives us.
  - Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. NAS
  - Philippians 2:15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe. NIV
  - Romans 6:13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. NIV
  - Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. NIV
  - 2 Corinthians 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. NIV
- What did Jesus say was the mark of a true disciple?
  - John 15:8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. NAS
  - John 8:31-32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." NAS
  - John 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." NAS
- > Since God prepared His works for you beforehand, what does that say about the purpose/value of what you do?

Mark the word "formerly" in 2:2,3. Make a list of the things that were true of a person's life before Christ (2:1-3) and a list of the things that God gives us in Christ through faith (2:4-10).

"And you were"	"But God…"

.