



Ephesians

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...whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and *that* he may comfort your hearts. Ephesians 6:22

“Whom” is speaking of Tychicus of the previous verse. The words, “for this very purpose,” relate to what Paul just said to them – “...that you also may know my affairs *and* how I am doing.” He had sent Tychichus to Ephesus with his epistle, entrusting him to fill in all of the information about him which was unstated in the letter. This then explains why the book of Ephesians lacks the usual personal greetings, general well-wishes, and other such messages which are found in some of his other epistles.

Tychicus was obviously faithful in his ability to recount anything that Paul passed on to him. If there was a personal greeting, he would relay it. If there was a note of commendation, he would relay it. If someone needed correction, Tychicus was competent and faithful to ensure it was passed on. For the most part though, the duties of Tychicus were to relate how Paul and those with him were faring, “and *that* he may comfort your hearts.”

They certainly would want to know how Paul was getting along while in prison. They would want to know about his care, any visitors, how he was treated, and so on. With this knowledge, their hearts would be comforted.

It appears that Tychicus was eminently suited to this task, because a word for word parallel of this verse is found in Colossians 4:8. The whole thought concerning him and his special duties says –

“Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. ⁸I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may

know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, ⁹ with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They will make known to you all things which *are happening* here.” Colossians 4:7-9

This then is a statement of complete confidence in Tychicus which stands as a personal commission concerning him.

Life application: It is always good to know that a person can be completely trusted. Is this how others see us? Are we willing to conduct our lives with such high integrity that we can be relied upon with even the most sensitive or personal material? Let us endeavor to be such people at all times.

Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 6:23

Paul’s final words are given verses 23 and 24. He begins with “Peace to the brethren.” The subject of “peace” seems heavy on his mind during his time in prison. He seems to have found an understanding of peace which filled his life in a way he didn’t fully realize until he was bound with his chain. This is most especially expressed in Philippians 4 –

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6, 7

He wishes this peace to those in Ephesus, and to any who would read his letter and apply its contents to their continued walk with Christ.

He next says, “and love with faith.” Peace with God come first, through receiving the work of Christ. In that moment, a propitious relationship with God is restored, and peace and harmony are realized. When that occurs, God can then pour His love out on us in a way which was not previously possible. And this will grow as our faith grows. Thus he says, “and love with faith.” His words are a petition to continually grow in faith, and thus receive the love which comes “from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

God the Father is the Source of these good blessings; Christ is the One through whom they come. There is no hint of subordination noted in Paul’s words, but rather a logical process by which the love with faith is lavished upon us. To grasp this, we could look at the love as a future anticipation (the source). When the moment comes that we exercise faith (which is in the present), the love is received. The present then would be the logical progression of time from future to “here and now.” There is no subordination of the present to the future. Rather, one follows logically after the other, coequal and yet having a different aspect. Such is true with the nature of God towards us.

Life application: Let us be grateful to God for the perfect Gift which is Christ Jesus our Lord, and through whom come all of the many blessings which God sends upon His favored children.

Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen. Ephesians 6:24

We have arrived at the last of 155 verses of marvel and wonder. The book of Ephesians has been a beautiful presentation of Christ and our expected conduct in Him. Paul has opened up treasures of knowledge never before presented to the human mind. The mysteries have now been made known, and the prospects of eternity in the presence of the Lord, shaped as living stones in His building, have been revealed. These and many other wonderful truths have been unveiled to us. Now he closes out the epistle with words to those at Ephesus (and thus to us!) which are intended to grant us a special blessing as we pursue Christ, ever going forward in the love and knowledge of Him.

He ends the epistle here as he ends all of his epistles, by penning a request for grace. What is of note is that the epistle to the Hebrews also ends with grace, but none of the letters from James through to Jude state it. However, the Bible finishes with the same note of grace –

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.” Revelation 22:21

As Paul’s letters are doctrine for the church age, the age of grace, it is appropriate that this expected blessing would be given. However, he qualifies the anticipated bestowal of grace by adding in the thought that it is to be “with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.” Anyone can claim to be a follower of Christ, but not all truly are. There are countless people who are under the control of the power of the devil, and who fill and infect churches around the world. His qualifying words are meant to exclude them, and they are certainly given as a reminder to his readers that this is exactly why we are to “put on the whole armor of God.”

We need to be prepared to defend ourselves against such perverse people, and we are also expected to go on the offensive, challenging them concerning the false teachings and cutting apart their heretical words. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, and thus Christ’s spokesperson to us, would have us do no less. Those who are insincere in their hearts towards Christ are not included in the grace He bestows upon those who love Him in sincerity.

Finally, he closes with “Amen.” The word signifies “truth,” or “so be it.” And may it be so in our lives as we seek after, and even pursue, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Life application: As you go back and reread the epistle to the Ephesians in the future, remember that the words which are written are directed to you as well. Hold fast to the

promises, be careful to ponder and apply the exhortations, and be pleased to share the wonderful marvels of this word with others – to the glory of Christ Jesus our Lord.