

## STUDIES IN EPHESIANS #94

4:30

## NEW TESTAMENT OUTLINE

AND GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD. WHERE-  
BY YE ARE SEALED UNTO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION.

This follows the exhortations to put away the lie, to speak truth, not giving place to the devil, to put away putrid talking, and to be constructive as members of the body.

In the next 2 verses may be found some of the things that grieve the Holy Spirit: bitterness, wrath, anger, voice-raising, evil speaking, and malice. Also included are lack of kindness, tenderheartedness, forgiveness, and the like. These we will take up later.

Here in verse 30 the Holy Spirit is the Giver, one of the manifestations of God. Yet, as in 1:13, it is at times difficult to distinguish the Giver and the new nature that is given. In this epistle to the Ephesians the church is likened to a temple that grows and in which God dwells by the Spirit (2:20-22). Now the Scriptures also tell us that the Holy Spirit dwells in each and every believer. He can dwell only in believers for the simple reason that they are the only ones who have the new nature in which the Spirit can dwell. The Spirit cannot dwell in the old nature, the old man, which came from Adam and is under death.

Now the word GRIEVE can mean *give pain* to or to *anger*. But the word grieve is about as expressive of the meaning as any. What a shame it is that we fail in some of the Christian graces and so put to pain the Spirit that dwells in us. And many a man has done this very thing, who would not do anything to grieve his wife; and likewise many a wife has grieved the Spirit who would not think of grieving her husband. There is a great need to realize the reality of the indwelling Spirit.

This seal spoken of is a mark on a purchased property. It is so marked and laid aside until the day of redemption, that is, resurrection. Then this valuable vessel will be taken into the heavenlies and there put to use by the Master of the household. What a joy that will be! We say that this property is valuable, not for what itself is worth, but because of the price that was paid for it. It cost the Lord His blood.

We may not be able to see this seal. But the Lord knows them that are His. Satan also knows who they are and that seal is a sign for him to keep hands off. His only approach is by the old nature, the old man.

Each believer is a chosen vessel in which dwells that Spirit of promise. Some may be to honor and some to dishonor, but all belong to the Master's house and have their place. May we be conscious of these things and try our best to take our proper place and perform the duties assigned. The workman must know his job and what is required of him.

And how can one rejoice when he has grieved the Spirit? How can one have the peace that passeth understanding if he neglects this exhortation? There are many things about which we are not to be careful (full of care), but here is one thing to which we should give heed. Let us walk worthy of our great calling. Let us be very careful not to grieve the Holy Spirit.

1. John the Baptist begins the NT account by proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. This is recorded in the first 3 gospels. He is followed by Christ, the 12, and the 70 who proclaim the same good news. This offer is to Israel of Jerusalem and Judaea, and also to those of the dispersion who come up to Jerusalem for the feasts. When this Man of Galilee is rejected, He gives His disciples parables of the mysteries of the kingdom and prepares them for His death and the postponement of that kingdom. This period ended with Calvary.

2. But the rejected King prayed for Israel at Calvary, that they might be forgiven. So they were given another chance and the book of Acts was made possible by the answer to that prayer. The Acts is in 2 parts. The first part is the ministry of the 12 to Judaea and Jerusalem and ended with the murder of Stephen.

Then Paul steps in and ministers to the Jews of the dispersion thruout Asia minor and also in Europe, ending at Rome. But even tho Gentile believers were grafted in to provoke these Jews to jealousy, they rejected the gospel and so God rejected them at the end of Acts. From then till now there has been no kingdom gospel. During Acts there were 14 epistles written, 7 by the apostles of the circumcision, Peter, John, James and Jude. There were also 7 by the apostle of the uncircumcision; to the Romans, Thessalonians, Corinthians, Galatians, and the Hebrews.

3. The end of Acts marked the end of the purpose of Israel to make known the name of Jehovah to the nations. For the time being the promises and covenants have been set aside. There are two lines of endeavor today. First are those who believe unto life everlasting and who will constitute a part of the nations of them that believe in the new earth. John's Gospel is where the message concerning eternal life is found. Then there is an outcalling of those chosen before the overthrow who have something to do with a purpose in the heavenlies, a purpose which had been kept hid in God from ages and generations till revealed to the apostle Paul for us Gentiles. After Acts Paul wrote 7 more letters, 4 of which are mainly concerned with the great mystery. They are Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and 2 Timothy. Also written in the same period were 1 Timothy, Titus and Philemon. So that makes 8 books of the NT that are especially for and about today.

4. The last period of the NT is put forth in one book, the Revelation. It is concerning the acceptance of the King and the kingdom by the nation Israel. It is the day of the Lord, the Lord's day. We now live in man's day. The promises and the covenants come to their fruition in the end times, and the beloved disciple sees the New Jerusalem, the place prepared for the apostles, with their names engraved on its 12 foundations. Then follow the new heavens and new earth wherein dwell righteousness. Peter spoke of these. So the King, once despised and rejected will come again as King of kings and Lord of lords and His people will receive Him at last.

## STONES AND GIANTS

## WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

We dare not be careless in the reading and study of the Scriptures. There is nothing that is irrelevant. It may seem so. But every jot and tittle is there for a purpose. We cannot lightly pass anything over and say that it does not matter. Even the genealogies are a study in themselves. Noword or phrase should be slighted. Each has its place and is a message to us. God is not careless with words.

I have often wondered about the last 4 words of the prophecy of Jonah. Just what do they mean? How does MUCH CATTLE fit in with the message of this book? I am not yet sure of the answer. Some day I may find it.

Now in 1Sa 17:40 we read that the lad David picked up 5 smooth stones from the brook as he went forth to fight Goliath. Why pick out 5 stones when one did the job? Of course some think that he took extra ammunition in case he should miss the first shot. But that is not too likely. In the first place it is not likely that he would have had much time to get in the second shot if the first had missed. Also David had practiced and slingers of that time hit much more than they missed. For instance, during the time of the judges, there were 700 chosen men from the tribe of Benjamin that could sling stones at an hair's breadth (It does not say here's breadth!). But David was not depending on his skill in this matter, altho he had it. He was counting on God. It was unthinkable that this big brute of a Philistine could taunt God's chosen people and blaspheme God openly as he did.

So David did not take along extra stones in case he might miss. But we do find later on in 2Sa 21 that this giant had 4 sons. All 4 were later killed by close associates of David, one by David's nephew. Also we find that one of them had determined to kill David. So David must have known about this giant and his family. He was willing to take care of the whole bunch, if necessary. He was not afraid of all of them! So the provision was not foolish.

It is also to be noted that one of these sons of the giant had 6 fingers on each hand and 6 toes on each foot. Six is the number of man and there is more than one relation of this to the image in Daniel with its 6's. For further study about the giants, see Kitto's Cyclopedia.

There is a contrast too in the figure of the giant and the image. The image in Daniel was struck on the feet by a little stone and was destroyed. But David hit Goliath in the forehead with a little stone and finished him.

The giants we have to deal with today are described in Eph 6:10-13. We are told just what to do about them. We are not to take up stones, as did David, but to put on the whole armor of God. David had tried to put on the armor of Saul, but it was no good. Second hand armor is no use. There is no fighting to be done in this armor, for our David (Beloved) has gone before and taken the ground. We are to stand on that which has been taken. David was fighting with flesh and blood. We are not. We have spiritual foes and we cannot compete with them in the flesh. It is a spiritual warfare.

138. Did Paul's faith fail? Ac 19:12 cf 1Ti 5:23 and 2Ti 4:7

139. Why were signs given to Israel? M't 11:2-6

140. If the signs were for Israel, then why did Gentiles have them? Ro 10:19; 11:11

141. If the olive tree were cut down, then what about the branches? Could they still stand?

142. If Israel were to be the channel of blessing to the Gentiles, and they failed at the end of Acts, then what happened?

143. How did God make known His new plan after Israel had failed?

144. Where in God's Word do we find the truth concerning the mystery?

145. Does God have churches today, or just a church?

146. What is this church called?

147. Is it different from the churches of the Pentecostal period? How?

148. What is the threefold constitution of this church? Eph 3:6

149. In what way does this new revelation complete the Word of God? Col 1:24-26

150. What blessings are in store for this church? Where? Eph 1:3,4

151. What is the nature of this church? Eph 1:22,23

152. What is peculiar about the one who was the chief apostle of this new dispensation? Eph 3:1; 4:1; 6:20. Ph'p 1:7. Col 4:3. 2Ti 1:8

153. What event marked the end of the former dispensation and the beginning of the new? Ac 28:17-31

154. Is there any connection between Acts 28:28 and John 10:16?

155. How long did Israel have the hope? Ac 28:20

156. How long did Israel's signs last? Ac 28:1-9

157. What change has been made in sphere of blessing from that of the kingdom? Eph 1:3

158. Who now are the chosen people? Eph 1:4

159. When was this choosing or election made? Eph 1:4

160. How does this term overthrow link with Ge 1:2?

161. Where was the mystery hidden? Eph 3:9

162. From whom was it hidden? Col 1:26

163. Was this new church a transition from the old to the new? Eph 2:15

164. Is this church made up of masses or classes? Eph 2:19; 3:6

165. Why are there no rituals for this new church? Col 2:10,17

166. What is the one baptism? Eph 4:5

167. Why is not this new church linked in any way with the Lord's Supper so-called? Je 31:31

168. Have we cut the Bible down to 4 epistles in right division? 2Ti 3:16,17.

169. What sacred trust is connected with this new calling? Eph 4:3-6

170. What does Paul mean by, WHICH THOU HAST HEARD OF ME. in 2Ti 1 & 2?

171. What is the GOOD DEPOSIT? 2Ti 1:12,14

172. What was Timothy to do with it? 2Ti 2:2

## THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES #3

## THE QUICK AND THE DEAD #23

DENTON C. ABBEY

These studies are not an exposition of Acts, but rather an approach to a study of the book. The main trends and purposes are to be looked for and then the details will fit in.

Our question suggested last month was how Gentiles got into the Acts church, and when.

Our Lord plainly told the Samaritan woman that salvation was of the Jews (John 4:22). This means that salvation was the property or possession of the Jews. But at the end of Acts we read that salvation at that time is sent to the Gentiles. This is the outline of a very interesting story and you should investigate it. But it is evident that salvation was still of the Jews at Pentecost, for no Gentiles are mentioned in connection with what happened there. Those present were Jews and proselytes.

It was about 8 years after Pentecost that a very unusual thing happened. The church council in Jerusalem had a special meeting and called Peter to account for his going into the house of a certain Gentile and preaching to him. Since salvation was of the Jews and the Jews had no dealings with Gentiles, this was a very strange situation. Peter explained how it all happened and the Jews were satisfied that God had indeed begun a work among the Gentiles. This is the last we ever hear of Peter (or any of the 12) preaching to Gentiles.

But what Peter had begun was the very thing Paul took up. He was an apostle to the Gentiles, having the Gospel of the uncircumcision. The council at Jerusalem gave Paul the right hand of fellowship and recognized his calling.

But still we have not found why Gentiles got into the church when salvation was of the Jews.

Let us go back again to Pentecost. There was a great revival at Jerusalem. Before this John had preached at the Jordan and probably baptized 3 million people. So all was ready for our Lord's ministry and that of the apostles which followed. Great multitudes believed at Jerusalem. But as in the parable of the sower, thorns and thistles, the cares of this world caused many to wither. Finally apostate Jews got hold of Stephen and stoned him to death. After that we hear of no more revival in Jerusalem. There was only a handful of believers left by AD 70 and they fled to a nearby city when Titus besieged Jerusalem.

So when Jerusalem and Judea had been evangelized by the 12, their work was practically done. We have no record that any of the 12 ever preached outside the confines of the land that was promised to Abraham.

So to Paul was given the task of preaching to the dispersed Jews outside the promised land. This he did, and it was always to the Jew first that Paul preached during Acts.

But the Jews of the dispersion outside the land did not respond any better than those in it, so Paul grafted in Gentile believers, proselytes, to the Olive tree, Israel, with the hope that it might revive and bear fruit, that is, come to repentance (see Ro 10,11). This grafting began in Acts 10 by Peter and was resumed in Acts 13 by Paul. Now you have the story.

We must hurry on. We dare not spend too much time on these rebuttals, or we will never finish. Neither is it our desire to convert some to our way of thinking by the use of long involved arguments. But rather that we may give a few hints, whereby you can study and arrive at your own solution, apart from dogma, current thinking, and what certain sects give as proof of their particular interpretations.

We have said of 2Co 5:8 that there is little in this whole discourse to support the theory of man's natural immortality, or that this verse preaches that we go to heaven or some other place immediately upon death. As I have said time and again and will continue to do so, *One verse does not make a book, neither does it make a doctrine.*

We have another earlier epistle written by the same author and to the same people. Now I wonder if Paul, who had worked unceasingly to convert these people, who had endured all sorts of hardships for their sake, would in turn be so ambiguous as to teach different doctrines in different letters? Of course those who feel that Paul was a disgruntled Jew, discredited by his own people, who turned to heretical preaching to save his own ego, and that he might have done just that. However we reject this, as do most Christians.

In his earlier letter, Paul has this to say (1Co 15), FOR AS IN ADAM ALL DIE EVEN SO IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE. BUT EVERY MAN IN HIS OWN ORDER: CHRIST THE FIRST FRUITS: AFTERWARDS THAT THAT ARE CHRIST'S AT HIS COMING. Now if Paul has specifically taught the Corinthians in this epistle that we are raised at Christ's coming, each in his own order, how then do we manage to use 2Co 5:8 as a lever to pry out the whole of chapter 15 in 1Co, along with a goodly part of the Bible as a whole?

In 1Co 15 Paul is talking of resurrection. It seems that the Corinthians had been led to believe there was no such thing. So Paul, in this letter spends considerable time in correcting their thinking as to the resurrection, use of gifts, etc. If 1Co was a letter of correction to those people, perhaps it might be useful today for some to re-read for the same reason.

Then in verse 26 Paul says, THE LAST ENEMY THAT SHALL BE DESTROYED IS DEATH. So death still reigns. It will reign until all enemies have been put under His feet. This will not take place until long after the millennium. For in the last chapters of Revelation we have the assurance that this same enemy will be destroyed along with the *proverbial* hell.

WE ARE CONFIDENT, I SAY, AND WILLING RATHER TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY, AND TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD.

Yes, we are confident. Confident that all those things spoken and written by Paul will come to pass, each in its own order. We are willing to depart from this body, and to be with the Lord, each in due time and in due season. But let us not mock the Lord by setting our own times and seasons. Job wanted a time set (Job 14:13).

Next time we will take up Re 20:15, D.V.

## INTERROGATIONS

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

16. What does the believer have that the unbeliever does not have? Just what is the difference between the two?

No doubt one could name scores of things that are the possessions of the believer and which the unbeliever does not have. But there is one main thing and upon this all else depends. The true believer has eternal life (Joh 3:16). This is also called the new man, the new nature, the spirit, etc. If one does not have this, HE IS NONE OF HIS. See Ro 8:9. HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE. AND HE THAT HATH NOT THE SON OF GOD HATH NOT LIFE (1Joh 5:12). The Lord knows them that are His, and to many He will have to say that He never knew them. All mankind today is divided into 2 classes regardless of race, age, or position; there are those who have life and those who have not life.

17. In the light of Ph'p 3:11, is it not probable that those who belong to the dispensation of the mystery go to be with the Lord immediately upon death? Was it not possible that Paul went to be with the Lord at his death?

I believe that Joh 3:13 answers the latter question. This gospel was written after the death of Paul, we can be quite sure. If so, then no one had ascended up to heaven yet at that time. If the dispensation of the mystery is at all parallel with that of the kingdom, then it is quite likely that some will have an earlier resurrection than others. Overcomers will be in the first resurrection, but others who will live with the Lord (but not reign with Him) will not be raised till the thousand years is finished. We have no details given for today.

18. What about divorce today?

The part of the Bible that is about and for us today does not mention the word *divorce*. It has no place in the household of the mystery. Read Eph 5:22-33; Col 3:18,19.

19. Is it likely that Christ will come at any moment now?

It is not possible. He will come after a great many things prophesied are fulfilled. See 2Th 2 for some of the details. There will have to be a temple in Jerusalem and an image set up in it and 3½ years of tribulation before the Lord comes. If it is signs that you want, watch for that temple in Jerusalem.

20. Will any members of the dispensation of the mystery go thru the great tribulation?

No. The great tribulation is the time of Jacob's trouble. We have no information that any but Israel will have this tribulation. The church of the dispensation of the mystery is made up of Gentiles, not Jews. If a Jew gets into it, he must become a Gentile first, just as at one time a Gentile had to become a Jew in order to share his blessings.

21. Who started making idols?

We do not know. Aaron was the first among Israel when he made the golden calf. Another idol maker of note was Demetrius of Ephesus. The latest we know of is Sallman. The second commandment has something to say about this business of making idols. Naaman had a question about idols, too. See 2Ki 5:17-19.

Truth For Today is published monthly by Truth For Today, Inc. It is sent to anyone anywhere free upon request. The telephone is under the name of Oscar M. Baker, (Atwood exchange) ULyssees 8-2684.

Bible Discussions each Sunday morning 10:30 to 11:30, and each Tue. nite 7:30 to 9. The place is the home of your editor on county Rd. 100S, first house west of 600W (¼ mile back a lane). Follow these directions carefully.

Berean Bible Fellowship of Phoenix, Ariz., began meeting in their new building July 9th. It is located at North 52nd Street and East Virginia Avenue. Congratulations to this fine group and their pastor, Arthur C. Lambourne.

Companion Bibles, in maroon buckram binding, \$15 each. In green ¼ leather, \$19 each.

Arthur P. von Deesten, 357 South Curson Ave., Los Angeles 36, Calif. looks after the tape recording library. Tapes to lend and tapes to sell. A tape has been prepared to send to Mr. C. H. Welch for the 18th anniversary of the Chapel in London. There are greetings from about 32 members of the tape chains. This is just a sampling of the great number who get the tape recorded messages. Those who would like to hear this tape may borrow a copy.

Volume 13 of Truth For Today has been bound. If you would like a copy for your library, just ask for it. It is free.

**BAGSTER PUBLICATIONS ON HAND**

Englishman's Heb. & Chald. Concordance.	\$17.50
Englishman's Greek Concordance. . . . .	8.50
Both of the above, making a set. . . . .	25.00
Interlinear Gr. NT (Nestle text). . . . .	8.00
Interlinear Pocket Gr. NT (Stephens text)	4.25
LXX With English Translation. . . . .	7.00
The Analytical Greek Lexicon. . . . .	5.00
Hebrew English Lexicon to OT. . . . .	2.10
Greek English Lexicon to NT. . . . .	2.10

Alphabetical Analysis, volumes 1,2,3,4,8 and 9 by C. H. Welch are available at \$2.50 each.

Thank. We appreciate all the fine letters and also the visitors we have had lately.

TRUTH FOR TODAY, Inc.  
R 2, Warsaw, Indiana.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Warsaw, Ind.  
Permit No. 20