**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS: THE WEALTH AND WALK OF A BELIEVER**

“Utilizing Your Wealth”

**REVIEW:**

Two prayers in the book of Ephesians…

Eph. 1:15-23 Emphasis on **enlightenment**

Eph. 3:14-21 Emphasis on **enablement**

**TODAY**

* **THE POSTURE OF HIS PRAYER**

***“For this cause I bow my knees …”***

*“bow my knees”- not referring to a physical posture*

* Abraham **stood** before the Lord (Gen. 18:22)
* David **sat** before the Lord (I Chron. 17:16)
* Publican **stood** afar off (Lk. 18:10)
* Samaritan fell **on** **his** **face** (Lk. 17:16)
* Elisha **walked** and prayed (II Kings 4:35)
* Solomon lifted up his **hands** and prayed (II Chron. 6:12)
* Jesus **looked** toward heaven (Jn. 17:1)

The significance of “bowed knees”…

* Reflects an attitude of **submission** (Lk. 22:41-42)

*Luke 22:41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone’s cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,*

*42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

* Reflects an attitude of **worship** (Ps. 95:6)

*Psalm 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.*

* Reflects an attitude of **desperation** (Ezra 9:4-9)

***“unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.”***

Note: Though we approach the throne of God with an attitude of submission, an attitude of worship and an attitude of desperation, we are never to forget that the throne we approach is also that of our **Father**.

*Eph. 3:12 “in whom we have* ***boldness*** *and* ***access*** *with* ***confidence*** *by the faith of him.”*

* **THE PETITION OF HIS PRAYER**

**A glimpse at the Apostle Paul’s prayer list…(Eph. 1:15-19; Eph. 3:14-19; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-11; I Thess. 3:11-13; II Thess. 1:11-12)**

**Note: The content of our prayers is a good indicator of our affection and our focus. (Col. 3:1-2)**

*Col 3:1-2*

*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

*2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

* **Strength**

*Eph 3:16*

*16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

* Defining the phrase “inner man”
* Strongs – The center of the being, the **soul** or **heart**
* In I Pet. 3:14 it is referred to as “the **hidden** man of the heart”
* The “inner man” is the **real** you. It is who you are when you are **alone**, when no one is **looking**.
* Delineating the importance of the “inner man”

*Through the term “soul”*

* *It is the part of us that* ***pants*** *after God (Ps. 42:2)*

*Psalm 42:2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God*

* *It is the part of us that* ***trusts*** *God (Ps. 57:1)*

*Psalm 57:1 Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: For my soul trusteth in thee:*

* *It is the part of us that only God can* ***satisfy*** *(Ps. 107:9)*

*Psalm 107:9 For he satisfieth the longing soul, And filleth the hungry soul with goodness.*

* *It is the part of us from which we* ***obey*** *God (Ps. 119:129)*

*Psalm 119:129 PE. Thy testimonies are wonderful: Therefore doth my soul keep them.*

* *It is the part of us that* ***worships*** *God (Ps. 146:1)*

*Psalm 146:1 Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul.*

* *It is the part of us that sin can* ***destroy*** *(Pr. 6:32)*

*Proverbs 6:32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: He that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.*

*It kills something inside of us….we wonder why we are satisfied/content, why we don’t hunger for God, why we struggle to truly worship God, why we struggle to trust God – could it be that sin is reigning in our lives and it has damaged us in the “inner man”?*

* *It is the part of us that can become* ***bitter*** *(Is. 38:15)*

*Isaiah 38:15 What shall I say? …: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul.*

* *It is the part of us that the enemy* ***persecutes*** *(Ps. 143:3)*

*Psalm 143:3 For the enemy hath persecuted my soul;*

*Through the term “heart”…*

* *It is the part of us that we are told to* ***guard*** *(Pr. 4:23)*

*Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence;*

* *It is the part of us that determines our life’s* ***direction*** *(Pr. 4:23)*

*Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life.*

* *It is the part of us that is capable of* ***deceiving*** *us (Jer. 17:9)*

*Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

* *It is the part of us that we must* ***commune*** *with (Ps. 77:6)*

*Psalm 77:6 I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: And my spirit made diligent search.*

* Determining strength for the “inner man”

*“that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;”*

* Allow yourself to admit that you have **no** **strength** in yourself (Is. 40:29-31)

*Isaiah 40:29 He giveth power to the faint; And to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*

*30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall:*

*31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles; They shall run, and not be weary; And they shall walk, and not faint.*

* Allow your circumstances to work **patience** in your life (Ps. 27:14)

*Psalm 27:14 Wait on the Lord: Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: Wait, I say, on the Lord.*

* Allow the Spirit to use His sword to do **surgery** on you.(Eph. 6:17)

*Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

* + **Heart** Surgery (Heb. 4:12)

*Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

* + **Brain** Surgery (Ps. 19:7)

*Psalm 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.*