

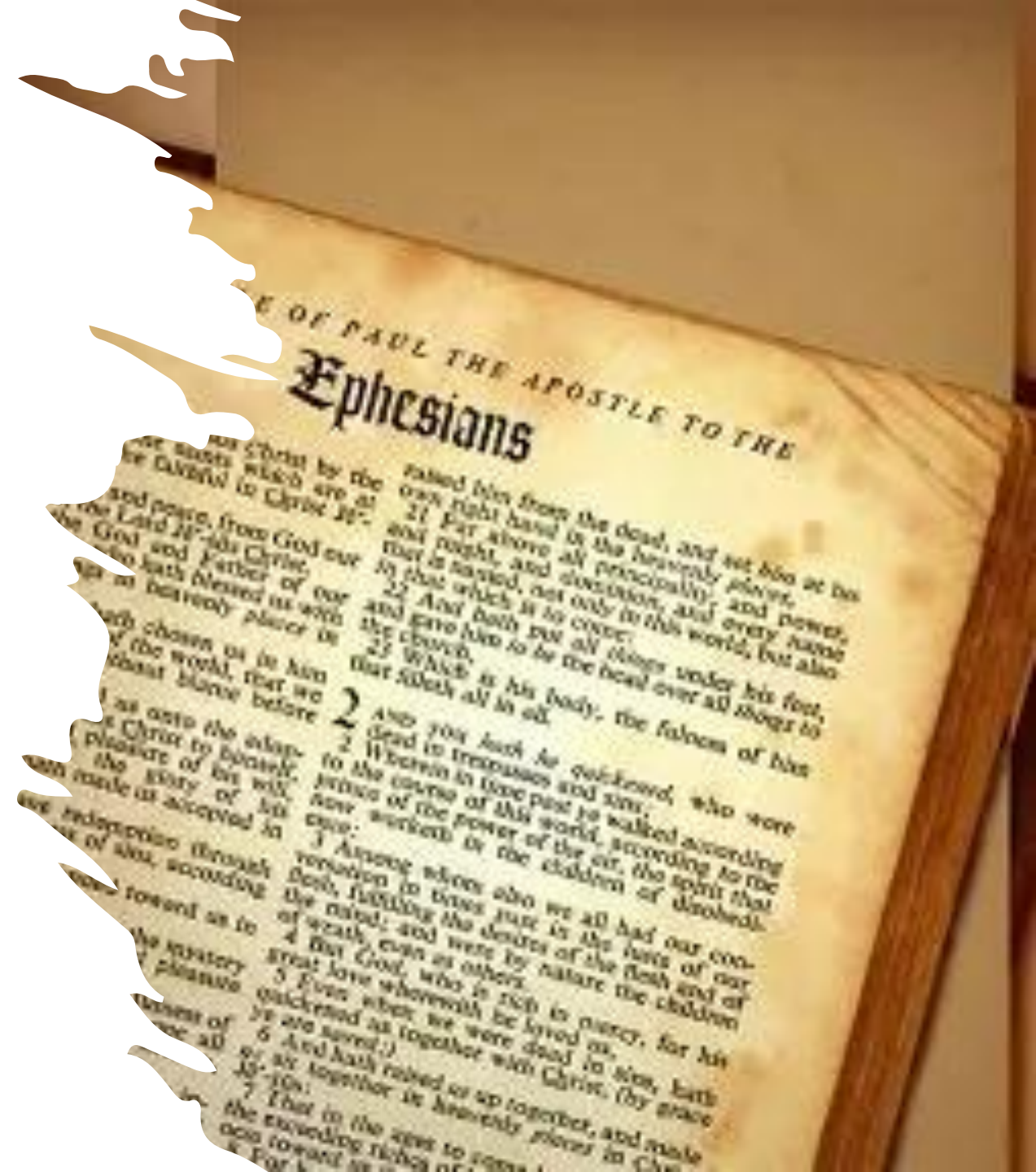
The WORD Series

Part 3 – Oh My GOD!



Introduction...

- Ephesians is a powerful book packed with deep revelations about WHO we are IN Christ.
- In our last session, we began with the first three verses!
- We couldn't move beyond it as the richness within the passages was breathtaking.
- This series is going to transform you completely as we delve into the life-giving Words in this Epistle.



Introduction...

- The opening three verses of Ephesians help us to lift our gaze heaven ward.
- Ephesians gives us one of the most concise compiled content of Paul's theology.
- To digest Ephesians is to digest the spirit and spiritual insight of Paul.
- This Bible study will change your mindset and spiritual strength and capacity.



Chosen...

- *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*
- *having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, Ephesians 1:4-5*



Calvinism

- Calvinists see Ephesians 1:4 as strong biblical support for unconditional election.
- The belief that God chose certain individuals for salvation before creation, not based on any foreseen merit, faith, or decision on their part.
- Believers are chosen “in Christ,” meaning election happens within the relationship to Christ that God established, not outside of Him.
- For Calvinists, this means Christ’s work secures the salvation of those God has already chosen.



Wesleyan...

- Election is “in Christ,” not “to be in Christ.”
- The key phrase “in him” suggests that those who are “in Christ” (i.e., believers) share in His election.
- Thus, Christ Himself is the chosen one, and individuals partake in that election by faith.
- God chose the class of people who would be saved; those united with Christ by faith, not particular individuals unconditionally.



Alternative...

- Some theologians take middle ground stance:
- They agree that God's choice is eternal but say it's based on His foreknowledge of who would freely respond to His grace.
- God's sovereignty and human freedom are both preserved in His omniscient plan.



Chosen...

- *“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. Deut 7:8*
- *Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Rom 8:30*



Plain English...

- *⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.*
- *⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.*
- *This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.*
- *Ephesians 1:4-5*
- *Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind,*
- *had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.*
- *Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ.*
- *(What pleasure he took in planning this!)*
- *He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.*

WOW!

- As you read these passages and study them, a pattern emerges.
- These verses are all about what God has DONE!
- As you meditate and marinate on these revelations, they make you sit back and appreciate God.
- You are confronted with the true nature of God and who is is to You!

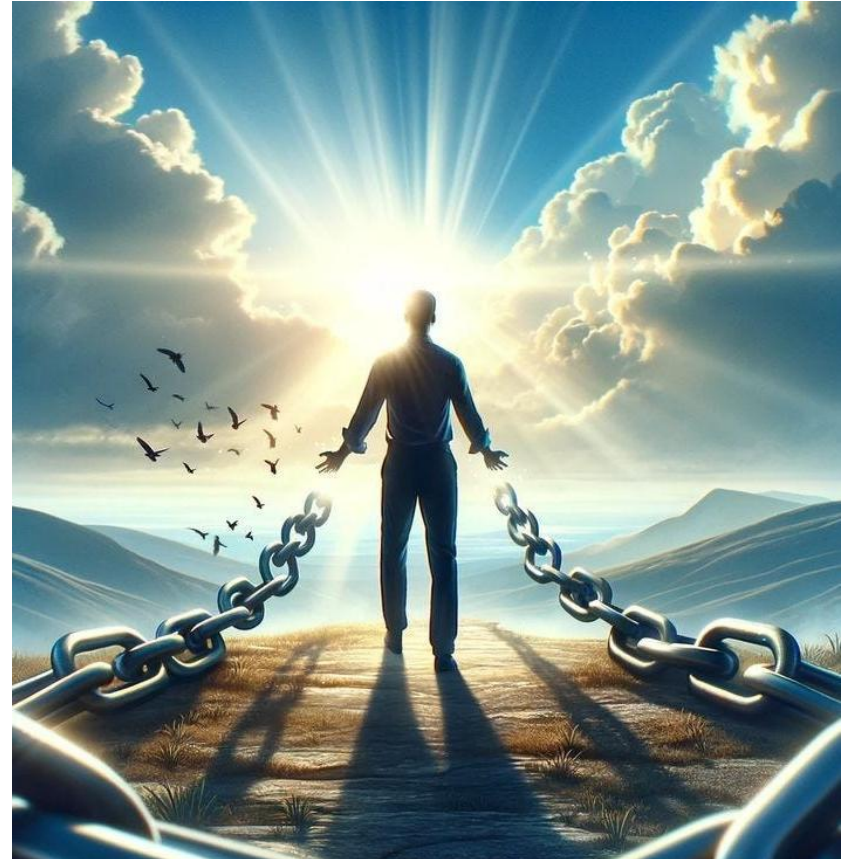


MORE...

- *⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.*
- *⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.*
- *⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.*
- *⁹ God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan.*
- *¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.*
- *¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.*
- *¹² God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God.*
- *¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.*
- *¹⁴ The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.*

Translate...

- God did all of this so that people would see how amazing His kindness really is
- A kindness that shines like sunlight through Jesus, the one God loves most.
- Because we belong to Jesus, that same sunlight now warms us too.
- Through Jesus, we are set free. It's like being slaves with heavy chains, and then
- He breaks every one of them, not with a sword, but with His own blood.
- Our mistakes and wrongs are forgiven because His love paid the price. God didn't just give us a little bit of grace;
- He poured it out like a waterfall that never stops flowing.



GOD...

- And God was time-wise about it. He didn't hide His plan from us forever.
- When the right time came, He drew open the curtain and showed us the mystery of what He's been doing all along:
- that everything, everywhere, things in heaven and on earth will one day be gathered together like pieces of a giant jigsaw, all fitting perfectly under Jesus as the head.
- We were chosen to be part of that plan long before we were born.
- Like a builder already imagining every brick before the house is made,
- God already saw us and planned to make us part of His family, so that our lives would sing with joy and bring Him praise. Amazing!

Sealed...!

- When we first heard the truth, the good news that saves us and believed it, God marked us as His own.
- He placed His Spirit inside us, like a seal on a letter that says, *“This one belongs to Me.”*
- That Spirit is also like a promise;
- a down payment for what’s coming. It’s God whispering, *“I will finish what I started. One day, you’ll have everything I’ve promised, freedom, joy, and life with Me forever.”*
- And when that day comes, every heart will vibrate and sing with praise because everything God has done leads back to this:
- His love is greater, deeper, and more wonderful than we can imagine.



GOD

- In closing, if that is even possible, we see that these first fourteen verses are all about God
- If you count all references to God (Him, He, Jesus etc), there are about 35 of them!!
- We need to meditate on GOD, just on His glorious benevolence and Love!!
- Do that all this week. Just think on all God has done for you!

