
FINAL LESSONS AND ENCOURAGEMENT

(Ephesians 6:21-24)

Paul's letter to the Ephesians is all about the glory God in the life of His church. In particular, the overarching theme of this Pauline epistle is the glory of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit in saving His people, in establishing His church and in empowering believers to live Spirit-filled, godly and strong Christian life. In other words, Ephesians teaches us these three foundational Christian doctrines: the greatness of our salvation in Christ (Ephesians 1:1-2:10); the glory of the church as the one body of Christ (Ephesians 2:11-3:21); and the godly conduct that should characterize the Christian life (Ephesians 4:1-6:24). As we turn to Paul's concluding remarks to the believers in Ephesus as recorded in Ephesians 6:21-24, we will reflect on two vital lessons which could be summed up in this essential truth: **In order to live a life that glorifies God, we must pursue a life of love and faithfulness and pray for God's blessings on His people.**

1. Pursue _____ in your Christian life and ministry.

In his closing remarks to the Ephesian church, Paul mentions about a trusted friend and minister partner named Tychicus whom he sent to inform the Ephesian believers of his situation and to encourage and comfort their hearts (Ephesians 6:21-22). Tychicus is one of the unsung heroes of the New Testament. Paul himself commends him as "*the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord.*" If there are Christian qualities that must be the pursuit and priority of our Christian life and ministry, it must be love for the church of God and faithfulness in serving the Lord. Paul and Tychicus shared a common love for the Lord Jesus, for the church and for each other as brothers in Christ (John 13:35; Romans 12:10-16). Furthermore, Tychicus proved himself to be a faithful, reliable and dependable minister of Christ who has a servant's heart. The name of Tychicus is mentioned in the Bible only five times. But in all those occasions, what stands out is this man's humble faithfulness in serving the Lord and His church, no matter how menial or challenging the ministries and tasks God called him to fulfill (Acts 20:4; Ephesians 6:21-22; Colossians 4:7-8; Titus 3:12; 2 Timothy 4:12). Tychicus' life and ministry teaches us this timeless lesson that any fame, prominence or success in this world pales in comparison with receiving this divine commendation from the Lord: "*Well done, My good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Master!*" (Matthew 25:23)

2. Pray that God would bless His people with His _____.

The Apostle Paul closes this book with a benediction or a good word of divine blessing (Ephesians 6:23-24). Paul specifically prays that God will bless the Ephesian believers with increased experience of God's peace, God's love and God's grace. Peace is the divine assurance that God in Christ has reconciled repentant sinners unto Himself (Ephesians 2:12-14). Hence, no matter what happens in life, in spite of all difficulties and trials, our soul is in a tranquil and secure state, because we are assured of our eternal salvation in Christ (Romans 5:1). Paul also prays for the blessing of God's love and grace to be poured out in deeper measure on His people. The love between Christ and His redeemed people could never be broken, lost or destroyed because our Lord Jesus loves us with an everlasting love.
