

# NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 9/7-9/8/2020

## THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Ephesians 4:7-14*

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### 7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS: CONTINUING IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!

**Topic: Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Mon 7 pm!**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763

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**Topic: Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 Tues 7 am!**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

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## OPENING PRAYER - Introduction

### ***The Church's One Foundation*** – S. Stone/S. Wesley (2:15)

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; she is His new creation by water and the Word. From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride; with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.*

*Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth; her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth; one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*

*Yet she on earth hath union with the God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.*

## THIS WEEK'S STUDY: ***Ephesians 4:7-14***

### *Review of His Church:*

*Eph 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

*Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,*

*Eph 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,*

*Eph 2:22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

### *The New Heaven and the New Earth*

*Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*

*Rev 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

*Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

## ***Now To Walk in Unity Moving Toward the Ultimate – the Perfect Man (vs.13)!***

***Eph 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.***

***Eph 4:8 Therefore He says: "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."***

***Eph 4:9 (Now this, "HE ASCENDED"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?***

***Eph 4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)***

***Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,***

***Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,***

***Eph 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;***

***Eph 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,***

***Eph 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—***

***Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.***

## **Unity in the Body of Christ Living to God's Glory**

***Eph 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.***

***(1Co 12:7, 11) But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: [11] But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.***

- **The theme of the entire section** is that of the unity of the church, not a drab mechanical sameness, but is a unity in variety and diversity, being the result

of the work our Lord, as the Head of the Church, has done on behalf of His people.

- **Church order!** Christ alone, is the Head of the Church! No man or woman can ever be the head of the Church. Christ is the Head, and we are the body.
- ***But to each one of us grace was given*** . Grace, concerned with function in the church, is given to every single member of the Christian Church enabling each one to perform some function. Illustration of the human body – there are no useless members – even the Thyroid gland!
- **What is your function?** Do you know what your function is in the body that Christ is forming us through His Spirit? We all have a part and a place! This function may appear to be unimportant, but it's not! All of the members have a vital role..
- **It is Christ Himself** who gives each one of us this particular grace! It is emphatic; not 'He' but '*He Himself*'! We must remember that it is the Lord Himself who gives all these various gifts in our calling. No person calls themselves! The Church does not call us. The presence of need, no matter, how great, does not call us. Christ alone calls us! (*Mat 9:37-38*) *Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. [38] Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* All we do is to pray to Him to send them forth!
- **Are you willing?** Each one of us is to be willing to do anything that the Lord may call us to do. We are to be at His disposal, to be ready to do anything He calls us to do being faithful and bringing glory to His name.
- **Differing graces given!** This grace which the Lord gives to every one of us differs and varies from case to case. He has not only appointed that there should be offices and functions but has also determined their nature and variety.
- **Let us humbly ask for His clarity in our call!** It is our duty to see that the Church functions as her Lord intended her to do. May we humbly ask Him to forgive us, to cleanse us, making plain and clear to us what He has called us to do, what He desires us to do. Then, let us rise up and do it with all our might, relying upon the authority and the power of the Holy Spirit Himself!

***Eph 4:8 Therefore He says: "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."***

***Eph 4:9 (Now this, "HE ASCENDED"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?)***

***Eph 4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)***

- **What is it that puts our Lord into this position? It is our Christ, our Messiah,** as is the head of the Church, the Giver, of all these gifts of grace that exist in the life of a church? He is the One who has earned for the Himself the right to do all this. His claim here is the Lord Jesus Christ is Jehovah, the Giver of all these gifts, the ***One who has ascended on high and who has led captivity captive!***
- **Ascending as a great Victor!** Here is our blessed Lord, ascending into heaven as a great Victor, having won a resounding victory over all His enemies and has now gone back to His home land in a great triumphal procession, leading captive these people He has conquered and delivering and administering His benefit to those standing by and watching the great procession!
- ***He who descended is also the One who ascended!*** Applying *Psalm 68:18* to our Blessed Lord, to prove and to demonstrate that the statement must be applied to Him, asking the question, (***Eph 4:9***) (*Now this, "HE ASCENDED"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?*) The claim here is that the Lord Jesus Christ is Jehovah, the Giver of all these gifts, has descended and has ***ascended after descending to earth.***
- **What a picture of Christ!** The Head of the Church, imparting and distributing the graces and the gifts to His people in the Church ‘which is His body, the fulness of Him that fills all in all’. Let us remember that He has taken our human nature back with Him into the glory. He carried His human nature, our nature, with Him to glory! And in a sense we are there with Him, seated with Him ‘in the heavenly places’.

***Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,***

- **The offices mentioned** are *apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers*. Certain functions which were only meant to be in use for a certain period and which since then have disappeared, including *apostles* and *prophets* and *evangelists*. The second group consists of the permanent offices in the life and witness of the Church, that of *pastors and teachers*.
- **We begin with ‘apostles’**. Our Lord Himself created the office, and He appointed men to the office. An apostle was a man of whom the following things had to be true. He must have seen the risen Lord and been a witness of the resurrected Christ.
- **He must have been called and commissioned to do his work by the risen Lord Himself in person**, not by the Church, not by any delegation. On the Damascus Road, the risen Lord appeared to Paul and he saw Him. Without actually having seen the risen Lord a man could not be an apostle.
- **An apostle was a man who had been given a supernatural revelation of the Truth**, receiving ‘by revelation’ the knowledge of the truth he was to preach and teach.
- **An apostle is a man who has been given power to speak not only with authority but infallibly**. The apostles were the ambassadors of Christ, and a unique authority was granted to them. The words of an apostle were not his own but those of the Lord Himself.
- **An apostle was a man who had the power to work miracles**. We see this abundantly in the Book of Acts. All this is important as from the beginning of the church there have always been men, claiming to be apostles, who were setting themselves up as apostles and teachers. False apostles had not seen the risen Lord, they had never been called and commissioned by Him. There is thus no successor to the apostles. As taught in the New Testament, there never can be or has been a successor to the apostles.
- ***prophets***, often are coupled with the apostles, have much different requirements. It was not necessary that a prophet should have seen the risen Lord or need not generally to have most of the qualifications of the apostle. A prophet was a man, or sometimes a woman, who spoke under the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- **A prophet was a person to whom truth was imparted by the Holy Spirit**. A revelation or message or some insight into truth came to them, and, filled with the Spirit, they were able to make utterances which were of benefit and profit to the Church. This was temporary, lasting until the New Testament Scriptures were written.
- **Following the writing of the New Testament, the office of a prophet was no longer necessary**. In the Pastoral Epistles which apply to a later stage in

the history of the Church, there is no mention of the prophets, but rather the call was for teachers and pastors to expound the Scriptures and to convey the knowledge of the truth.

- **It is suggested the same is true of the ‘evangelist’.** That term is used much different today. than during the time of the early church. Philip was an evangelist. Timothy and Titus were evangelists. The evangelist is a man who had been given a special ability and power to make known, and to expound, the facts of the Gospel.
- **Present day “evangelists” - exhorters** - There are men today who are given a special call to preach the Gospel in a particular way and manner, but it might be better to call them ‘exhorters’, as they were called at the time of the evangelical awakening of the eighteenth century.
- **pastors and teachers** - The permanent offices, generally, these two offices are found in the same man. They apply to a more settled state of the Church and have persisted throughout the centuries. The office of a pastor is concerned about instruction and rule and direction, the picture of a shepherd. He is the guardian, the custodian, the protector, the organizer, the director, the ruler of the flock, giving instruction in doctrine, in truth.
- **Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** has built the Church ‘*on the foundation of the apostles and prophets*, men whom He called in a special manner to do this. As the true Church remains the body of Christ, it is only as the Head calls and appoints men to these offices that the world will listen to the Church’s message and be delivered out of the realm of sin and Satan, becoming saints in the Church of the Living God.

### ***Eph 4:12 for the equipping (perfecting) of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,***

- **One great and mighty statement!** Its purpose is to tell us why our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has appointed in the Church the various offices and the men to fill those offices, to *equip* the Church, to make her entire and complete in every respect.
- **Three reasons** for apostles and prophets and evangelists and pastor/teachers are: 1) *for (pros – the ultimate purpose) the equipping of the saints*; 2) *for (eis - – the immediate purpose) immediate purpose) the work of the ministry*; and 3) *for (eis – the immediate purpose) the edifying of the body of Christ*.

- The ultimate purpose of all these offices and divisions of labor in the Church is the *equipping* or perfecting *of the saints*. The way in which the saints are to be equipped is through the gift *of the ministry*, the function of which is to *edify the body of Christ*. There is an ultimate objective, and there are more immediate objectives.
- *equipping*, (perfecting), which means that we have to be made fit to serve the end and object aimed at. Certain things have to be done to it in order to fit it for that end and object for which we desire to use it. Everything that our Lord has appointed for the Church has that end and object in view, namely, that this body of Christ in all its members may be made perfect and complete.
- **How this is to be accomplished—for the work of the ministry.** The entire context is that of the ministerial offices in the Church. To that end he has been specifying them—*apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers*, not thinking of the ordinary, average members of the Church, but deliberately picking out certain offices. He is emphasizing that the Lord has appointed a form and an order of ministry in the Christian Church.
- **The risen Lord Jesus Christ in all His glory** has sent down these gifts into the Church. Not from or of men, He Himself has ordained them and appointed them. He has decided the nature of the offices and on the men who are to occupy these offices. They are thus ‘ministers’ in the Church. What ministers do in the Church Sunday by Sunday was originated by the Lord Himself and we do it because it is our duty to do it, because we are called to do it. ‘*The equipping of the saints*’ cannot happen apart from the work of the ministry.
- *edifying means ‘building up* - This work of the ministry is ‘for the edifying of the body of Christ’. This word has already used this word in chapter 2, where he says that we are ‘*built upon* the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together ...’
- **The work of the ministry is to promote spiritual growth and development and to build up the body of Christ.** The minister must lead, but not dictate. It is His message that is to be preached without fear of favor, building up the body of Christ, not to please and to entertain.
- **All these passages instruct us as to the work of the ministry.** The work of the ministry does not consist in talking about current affairs or events. He is to ‘preach the Word’ in purity of doctrine, which alone can build up the Church and every member of the body of Christ. It is the ‘everlasting gospel’, to be preached, without any modification whatsoever.

- **The Word – full and balanced!** The diet of the Word being taught must not only be unadulterated and appropriate, it must also be full and well balanced. This is equally true and vital with respect to spiritual food. It must be a balanced diet, consisting of teaching and doctrine. Unless we are established in the doctrine of the Christian faith we cannot possibly grow.
- **The Church’s great and glorious periods always follow the mighty preaching of doctrine.** The great doctrines of the faith must be the basis of the Christian diet. Following the doctrine must come the teaching which applies the doctrine. Paul was careful to say that he ‘warned every man’. And we need to be warned in days and times such as these. There is far too much complacency in the Church.
- **The Lord Himself has appointed these offices,** ‘for the equipping of the saints’. His desire is that through the ministry we may all be built up, that every part may be strong and powerful and a credit to the Head, and all in conformity to His will and pleasure. The living Head, knowing what is needed, appoints the offices and the men to fill them and to do His work.

***Eph 4:13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, (Col 2:2) that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,*

***to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (1Co 14:20) Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.***

- **The offices in the Church have been introduced** and men have been called to function in them in order that the body of Christ might be built up, that the saints be made perfect. The final objective can be described ‘*till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*’
- **The ‘perfect man** (pure, full grown, fully developed, complete) means Christ and His Church, He as the Head, and the members making up the different parts of the body. ‘*the perfect man*’ can be regarded as the Church in a perfect condition, the body corresponding to the perfection of the Head.
- **God’s grand purpose and program** is that the Church should be perfect—Christ as the Head and we as members in particular of that body. A day is coming when this body, the Church, will be complete, mature, fully grown,

fully developed. It is not so yet; but it will be - *'to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ!'*

- **Paul is saying that the perfect man will only have arrived** when every single one of us who is a member of the body will have grown up to the full stature and development that God has appointed for us, when every single part and portion is absolutely perfect, without blemish!
- **Perfect in our position!** It is not our peculiar calling or grace which has been given to us, but that every one of us should be perfect in our called position. When *the perfect man* shall have arrived, not a single member of the body will be absent or missing, nor will the slightest degree of grace be wanting in any part. The whole body will be proportionately full and perfect!
- **To achieve this objective** we need the *unity of the faith* and *the knowledge of the Son of God*. The perfection of which he writes is first and foremost to grasp this unity of the faith concerning the Son of God.
- **We shall see it all clearly** when we come unto this *'unity of the faith'*, and we shall see it all in proportion. We are to press on towards that perfection. It involves the whole wonder and marvel of the Incarnation and all that led to it. It is a part of *'the faith of the Son of God'* to know that God, before time, purposed all this and appointed His Son heir of all things and gave Him the Church to be His people, who willingly came, accepting the plan.
- **The way to come into that final perfection** is to look into these things, to grasp them, to understand them, and to meditate upon them. We must believe in the plan of redemption, the scheme of salvation, as the prophets foretold it. It is all a part of this faith of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The old Testament with its types and shadows is essential to our well-being. The more we know about them, the more we shall be growing and maturing.
- **This knowledge** is what Paul meant in (*Php 3:10-11*) *that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, [11] if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.* For years he had been clear about justification by faith. He desired and had 'the righteousness that is of God by faith' in Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, he had a still greater longing, namely, *'That I may know Him!* His desire was to know Christ Himself; he was not content with only believing about Him and on Him.
- **Christians can have this further intimate knowledge of the Son of God**, an appropriation of His love to us personally, a true knowledge of the Lord Himself. It means knowing Him directly and having communion and fellowship with Him personally. It means receiving something of His strength and power and grace; and literally knowing that we are receiving it,

knowing that we are in Him as a branch is in the vine, and receiving of His life.

- **Are we living by Him? Are we living on Him? Can we say with Paul, ‘To me to live is Christ’?** All this is a part of the *‘knowing’ of the Son of God*. We are meant to be filled by Him. This is a personal knowledge, an intimate knowledge of Him, that is offered to His children, that is a part of the life of His people.
- **We must spend our time studying the doctrine**, we must come to ‘this unity of the faith of the Son of God’. The revelation is in God’s written Word, and the Spirit is given to help us to understand it. I must give myself with diligence to its study; and it is the business of pastors and teachers to inform their people concerning these things and build them up.
- **We are to go on seeking this ‘till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ!’** O what a day! O blessed realization! Then every one of us will be perfect, perfected in Him, and sharing in His eternal blessedness and glory.

***Eph 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,***

- **All believers start in the Christian life as children, as babes.** We need instruction like everyone else! teaches that we start as infants and are to grow and develop and to mature. Especially as new believers, we need to note certain characteristics and tendencies in children.
- **Instability!** A most picturesque phrase is used to describe this: *‘tossed to and fro’*, ‘tossed like waves’. Notice the characteristics of the child: fickleness and changeableness; lack of self-control; reacts excessively and violently to things that happen to it; holds its views violently and tends to change them from one extreme to another.
- **Addition characteristics of children:** likely to be misled and to be deceived – carried about with every wind of doctrine or in all directions ; lacks discernment and any standard for it; is inexperienced and ignorant; likes novelty and change and something new: likes entertainment and excitement.

- **All this tends to be true of us as Christians – We need to grow out of it!** All believers need to realize and understand our tendency to live spiritually like children and the need to grow out of it! The child must realize that he is a child; and he must also realize that because he is a child he is in an extremely dangerous position.
- **May God forgive us that we are so lacking in discipline,** and in that true understanding which leads to a concern for the glory and honor of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and also the glory of the Church which is His body! We have all entered this life as children, we are ‘*born of the Spirit*’, ‘*born from above*’, ‘*born again*’. Are we still children ‘*tossed to and fro, and carried about by every wind of doctrine*’?

***Eph 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of***

***deceitful plotting, (Rom 16:18) For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.***

- **Dangers exposed to spiritual childhood and immaturity.** The Bible has much to say about the dangers to which spiritual childhood and immaturity are exposed. Our Lord warned, (*Mat 7:15*) "*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*"
- **Many other warnings in the New Testament** - It might be said that one of the reasons the New Testament came into being was to warn Christian people to beware of the terrible ever-present danger of being led astray by false teaching.
- **Note the extraordinary language which is used.** Our Lord says, they come to us ‘*in sheep's clothing*’, looking innocent and attractive and charming. But ‘inwardly’ He says, ‘*they are ravenous wolves*’. In such strong terms He characterizes these false teachers, saying the Pharisees are ‘*white-washed tombs*. This is very strong language; it is almost violent; yet it is the Son of God speaking.
- **The modern Christian is surrounded** by cults and false teachings, so as we study the terms which the Apostle uses, we must apply them to the many false teachings and errors which are offering themselves to the children in the faith at the present time.

- **These errors are taught and propagated.** ‘*Every wind of doctrine*’, which is liable to mislead us and to entrap us, is manipulated ‘*by the trickery of men*’. Another such word was ‘*tossed to and fro*’.
- The Apostle is not content to leave it at that; he goes on to say that they do this ‘*in the trickery of men, in cunning craftiness*’. This refers to the craft or cunning which they employ. This again calls attention to the trickery, the cleverness, the subtlety of their teaching and methods. They know what they are doing and are full of cunning and of craftiness.
- ***deceitful plotting, lie in wait*** , meaning to follow someone and to track him as a wild animal tracks and follows its prey’. It conveys the idea of the method of a well-laid plan. We are confronted by something which is very methodical, planned almost to perfection and does not happen accidentally!
- **Always taking from and detracting from the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.** That is one invariable characteristic of the false teaching! It is good and wise to test every teaching by this criterion. All false teaching is to be hated and opposed. May God open our eyes and have mercy upon us, and give us spiritual understanding and discrimination, so that we may be able to resist all the wiles of the Devil in our day and generation, and thus bring honor and glory to our blessed Lord and Savior, the Head of the body the Church, of which we have the priceless honor of being members!

## Closing Prayer: