



## **WORD FOR LIFE CHURCH MINISTRIES**

IN CHRIST: BELIEVING AND LIVING BECAUSE OF JESUS  
*a study of Ephesians*

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## **Ephesians 3:14-4:6**

### *In Christ: Believing and Living Because of Jesus*

This last part of Ephesians 3 is inclusive of both a prayer (3:14-19) and a doxology (3:20-21). As a prayer, this is Paul's second in Ephesians. The first (1:15-23) is concerned about the Gentile believers' enlightenment concerning knowledge of God. This one has concern for enablement that comes from being in the family of God.

Then, considering all that has been shared in chapters 1-3, Chapter 4 highlights the personal expectations that come with living by faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, believers are to express their salvation by the ways they view themselves, relate to one another, and reflect the body of Christ.

### **Themes**

*Chapter:* Strengthened by the Gospel | *Section:* Prayer and exhortation for Gentile believers.

**Reflection Questions:** What are your prayers for your church? How do you live as an example of what it might look like if God answered those prayers?

### **Key Terms**

- *Every family in heaven* (3:15): [lineage, ancestry; paternal descent; a group of families; a whole race.] The phrase centers around the word “family” which shares origins with the word “Father” in verse 14. The idea is that to belong to the family is to have expressed commonalities with, or extending from, the Father. Given 4:6, the reference here acknowledges God as Creator, or the progenitor of all humanity.
- *Comprehend/apprehend* (3:18): [to lay hold of, seize; to capture, arrest. A compound word meaning “according to” and “to take/receive with assertiveness and initiative.”] This is not passive learning but a seeking out of awareness that can then inform belief-based action.
- *Baptism* (4:5): [the rite/ceremony of baptism—submerging (going under), dipping or sinking into—we used the word “immersion”].

### **Chapter Outline**

*Bible study note:* Notice how the specific message being communicated is often demonstrated by how persons are depicted or characterized through non-verbal clues. Examples include posture, body movements, and personal appearance.

#### **I. Ephesians 3:14-19 – Paul's prayer**

When considering Paul's prayer, keep in mind that he is praying for a community of believers. As such, this prayer must be understood on those terms. If this prayer is to be realized, however, by God's grace, individuals who make up the community must see



themselves as contributors to the outcome of what is being prayed for.

A. **Prayer prelude** (3:14-15): What prompts Paul to pray?

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As he prays, note the following:

1. Personal commitment: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Divine connection: \_\_\_\_\_

B. **Prayer petitions** (3:16-19): Prayer petitions are always informed by something. In this case, what Paul petitions of God come from the storehouse of God's supply ("the riches of His glory"). [Compare with Colossians 1:3-6, 27]

1. God will provide \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Holy Spirit as the Keeper of our soul.
  - b. Jesus Christ as the center of our faith.
2. Believers will \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The expanse of God's love through Jesus Christ
  - b. The \_\_\_\_\_ will be what \_\_\_\_\_ already is.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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## II. Ephesians 3:20-21 – The doxology

*Doxology*: lit. "a word of glory." A doxology is a statement of praise to God that often erupts out of the message and meaning that immediately precedes it. Because of what has occurred, some response is expected. In some church settings, the doxology is programmed to follow the offering.

This doxology occurs because of:

- A. Who unites believers together in the family of God: \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. How believers are held together: \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. What faithful unity avails to believers: \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. Who is the object of praise: \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. The extent of the praise: \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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### III. Ephesians 4:1-6 – Implications of personal salvation within a faith community

Paul admonishes (*begs*: NRSV) the believers in Ephesus to live out their faith well as they live with one another. What can be seen is that one’s personal salvation can impact the way a church—i.e., a faith community—reflects their faith among one another and as a sign for persons who have yet to join the church/community.

A. **How to measure belief** (4:1-3). The measuring stick of holiness reminds believers that the confession of our calling is tied to God’s call to priesthood and holiness (Ex 19:6; Lev 21:8; 1 Pet 1:16).

1. Humility: \_\_\_\_\_ character; lowliness of mind.
2. Gentleness: mildness, meekness (“gentle strength”); expressing \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Patience: forbearance, longsuffering; waiting sufficient time before expressing anger to avoid a premature use of force.
4. Bearing with one another in \_\_\_\_\_ – as reflected by how we relate to one another (in speech, conduct, temperament, etc.)
5. Making every effort to \_\_\_\_\_ :
  - a. of the Spirit
  - b. in the bond of peace

B. **How to affirm belief** (4:4-6). [see Eph 1:22-23; 2:14-16, 18]

1. Unite in \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_
2. Unite in \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_
3. Unite under the \_\_\_\_\_ God: \_\_\_\_\_  
(also 1 Cor 15:20:28)

In the end, believers’s calling and character are fundamental to the faith. What and how we do with both are determinants of our ability to remain united.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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