

Ephesians 6:23-24 (74)

Epilogue

Introduction: Our journey through Ephesians is nearly complete. Paul has laid straight the way we are to follow. He has described in great detail our armor. Now he closes as he opened the book with very tender words.

A. Historical overview, Eph. 1:2, 15

1. Paul starts church at Ephesus, Acts 19:1-10
2. Paul saying goodbye to elders at Ephesus
 - a. Acts 20:17:38
 - b. Possibly January 56AD
3. Writes Ephesians from jail, 61 AD
4. Writes I Timothy, 61-63 AD, I Tim. 1:3-11
5. John writes Revelation, 90's AD, Ephesus, Rev. 2:1-7

B. Paul's blessing

1. **Peace** to the brethren, Jn. 14:27, Hebraic salutation
 - a. Peace, NT, 1515, "peace"
 1. Not only absence from conflict
 2. Idea of "well-being, completeness, inner satisfaction, contentment and serenity of a life well lived" ISBE
 - b. Brethren, NT, 80 "literal or figurative brother"
2. **Love** with faith
 - a. Act of the will
 1. Love, NT, 26 "love"
 2. With faith, NT 4102, "persuasion, conviction, reliance upon Christ"
 - b. Source
 1. From God the Father
 2. From the Lord Jesus Christ
3. **Grace** be with those who love, often Greek form of greeting
 - a. What it is, grace, NT, 5485 "graciousness"
 1. Grace is the attitude of favor toward the guilty in the judicial realm
 2. The undeserved, unearned, unrecompensed, and unwanted favor toward condemned sinners
 3. Condescending judicial benevolence toward the deserved guilt of sinners, Psa. 51:1
 - b. Love our Lord Jesus Christ
 1. Present – continuous, habitual action, reflects lifestyle
 2. Active - subject produces the action
 3. Participle – idea of keeping on doing
 - c. With no corruption "word does not point merely to time, but to character." Abbott

Conclusion: Paul closes this intensely deep yet practical book with a blessing of peace, love and grace. He encloses within the blessing an encouragement to love the Lord Jesus Christ without corruption. Are you in love today?