

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

by Doctor Walter L. Wilson

Copyright © 1939

by

edited for 3BMB by Baptist Bible Believer in the Spirit of the Colportage Ministry of a century ago

~ out-of-print and in the public domain ~

THE SCRIPTURE IN EPHESIANS

In the days of the Apostles the only scriptures available were the Old Testament Books. All the references found in this book are from the writings of the prophets and the Old Testament writers. Paul does not quote very much from these writings, but does use them for the basis of his arguments.

In Chapter 2:11 reference is made to the Old Testament record of circumcision. This, of course, was the sign and seal in the flesh of the Covenant of GOD. Paul uses it in contrast with the New Testament sign and seal of the change in heart which comes when CHRIST is received. In Chapter 2:20 Paul refers to the foundation mentioned by Isaiah as the stone on which the believer is built for eternity. In Chapter 3, verse 5, he calls attention to the silence of the Old Testament in regard to the union between Gentiles and Jews, to make the new church.

Reference is made in Chapter 4, verse 8, to a passage in Psalm 68:18, concerning the work of CHRIST during the three days that He was dead and His body lying in the grave. His spirit went from Calvary to the Old Testament paradise, took the believers from thence and led them up to GOD. Before His blood was shed their sins were only covered, therefore, they could not go into the Holy of Holies where GOD dwells. Since He had died at Calvary and shed His blood for those who had taken advantage of the sacrifices, His blood now had blotted out their sins; therefore, He took them to GOD. Were it not for the fact that Paul explains the Scripture from the Psalm we probably would not have understood the meaning of this work of our LORD. One of the blessings of studying the Old Testament is that we may have the joy of explaining it to GOD's people and thereby helping their faith.

Let us remember that there is no substitute for knowing the Bible. No other knowledge will take the place of this knowledge. The work of GOD is accomplished by the Word of GOD. In the Book before us Paul makes a number of references to the Ten Commandments. In Chapter 4:25 he refers to the 9th Commandment and warns against lying. In verse 28 he refers to the 8th Commandment, "Thou shalt not steal." In verse 26, he refers to the many references made by Solomon and others against anger and its results. In verse 29 he reminds us of the Proverbs concerning the value of right words. In Chapter 5, verse 3, Paul is reiterating the commandments of GOD against wrong living with all of its consequences. In verse 14, reference is made to Isaiah 60:1 where CHRIST is exalted as the giver of light and the transformer of life.

Have you noticed that the word "saith" is used by Paul in referring to many of these Old Testament passages. The reason for this is that the Word of GOD is living and enduring. What GOD did say, He is still saying. His Word is not a past tense message only, but is also a present tense message. GOD is still speaking to us, although the word was uttered centuries ago.

Reference is made in Chapter 5:31 to the statement made by our LORD in the Garden of Eden, as found in Genesis 2:24. It is evidently a picture of CHRIST who left His Father to come down to earth for His bride. He joins Himself to us when we trust ourselves to Him and we become one for eternity. Verse 32 indicates clearly that this is the meaning of the passage.

In Chapter 6:2 another Commandment is brought before us, the fifth. Paul expands the portion to cover many angles of the home life which were not given on the tables of stone. Our LORD condenses many truths and a multitude of thoughts in very few words. Let us remember that all the instructions we need for the personal life, the home life, the social life and the public life, are found in the Scriptures. The jails of our country are not filled with those who love the Word of GOD and who heed its precepts, but rather with those who refuse to bow to GOD's will.

Let us notice that Paul wasted no time on giving instructions for clean-up campaigns, or social service work. He knew that the human heart was hopelessly depraved. He knew that no amount of preaching against the conduct would change the character. Let us learn this lesson from the subject before us.

~ end of chapter 10 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
