

# Ephesians

## A Real Piece of Work

Week Ten

*This time has flown by! There's so much more we want to tell you. But the main thing we need to say is this: "JUST DO IT!"*

*We mean that in several senses. First of all, Bible Study. We hope you have discovered that you don't have to be "in a Bible Study" to study the Bible. You have all the tools and skills you need to **study the Bible on your own**. Of course, it's more fun and motivating to share with friends. So if you like, get some friends together and JUST DO IT!*

*Also, we mean **spending Time Alone With God**. One main thing we hoped to accomplish with this study, was to give you the confidence that you CAN read God's Word on your own, understand it, and act on it. Bible Study is not supposed to be an academic pursuit, but a spiritual one. It's one of the disciplines of a disciple. If we have produced a class full of Bible Scholars, we have failed. If individuals move down the path as they follow Jesus, Praise God! Follow Jesus—JUST DO IT!*

*Finally, as you study the Bible, see what God says, what He means, how it should work—JUST DO IT! Apply God's word to your life—obey it. Maybe "application" sounds lofty and complicated. **Obedience** is simple. Not easy always, but simple. And really, it's the whole point of Bible Study. James tells us that if we read the Bible, see what it says, and understand what it means, but don't do anything about it; we're kidding ourselves. (James 1:22-25) Too often, that's exactly what we do. We treat Bible Study as a chance to gain knowledge and in the process fall into the sin of pride. (1 Corinthians 8:1) Bible Study should change us, from the inside out. It should pierce us to the core, and judge our thoughts and attitudes. (Hebrews 4:12) In order to become obedient we must be willing to have our heart exposed. We must not only know the Bible, we must know ourselves. And, we must be brutally honest about where the two do not line up.*

Many of us have learned a great deal about obedience (and disobedience) from our children. We know that there are many things we tend to do rather than obey. See if these Substitutes for Application (obedience) sound familiar to you:

- “I Know!”— Knowledge is no substitute for Obedience. Too often, we think that knowing the Bible is good enough. IT IS NOT! We must do what it says. What mother, when correcting her child is satisfied with the answer, “I know”!
- “I know, but...” Rationalization is no substitute for Repentance: We all have reasons why obedience is hard, but reasons are not excuses. Difficult circumstances, painful history, personal obstacles do not remove the responsibility to follow God by obeying His Word.
- “But I already DID!” Superficial Compliance is no substitute for Substantial Life Change: Don't let yourself be satisfied with an application that is easy to achieve, or that you've already mastered. Don't focus on ways you already obey a principle. Rather, always strive for deeper levels of obedience.
- “I said I'm sorry!” An Emotional Experience is no substitute for a Willful Decision: “Being Sorry” is not the same thing as what Paul calls the “godly sorrow that leads to repentance.” Feeling guilty is not enough without a decision to act differently in the future.

We're praying that we will all move forward committed to the kind of Bible Study that produces obedient Christ-followers. May we be the kind of people to whom Jesus can say, “Come, follow Me,” and we JUST DO IT!

For your homework this week, we are not introducing any new skills. Instead, you have one more chance to practice using all the tools you've collected through the study on this final focus passage.

Week Ten Homework

**Observe (What Do I SEE?)**

Pray...Read...Mark up the passage...List 1-2 observations per verse.

**Ephesians 6:10-24 (NIV)**

Observations

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take

your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our

struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the

rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this

dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the

heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of

God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be

able to stand your ground, and after you have done

everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of

truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of

righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with

the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

<sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with

which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the

evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword

of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray in the

Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

<sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

<sup>21</sup> Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. <sup>22</sup> I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.

<sup>23</sup> Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

*"Lump and Label" ...Go back over the passage and look for 2-4 "lumps" of content that together express one idea. Give each "lump" a "label." Try to make your labels as brief as possible.*

| <i>Lump (verses)</i> | <i>Label</i> |
|----------------------|--------------|
|                      |              |

List any questions you have about this passage.

## ***Interpret (What Does it MEAN?)***

Use your Interpretation Tools to gain insight...we have introduced several tools (listed below) to help us answer any of your questions. Use any that would be helpful to you.

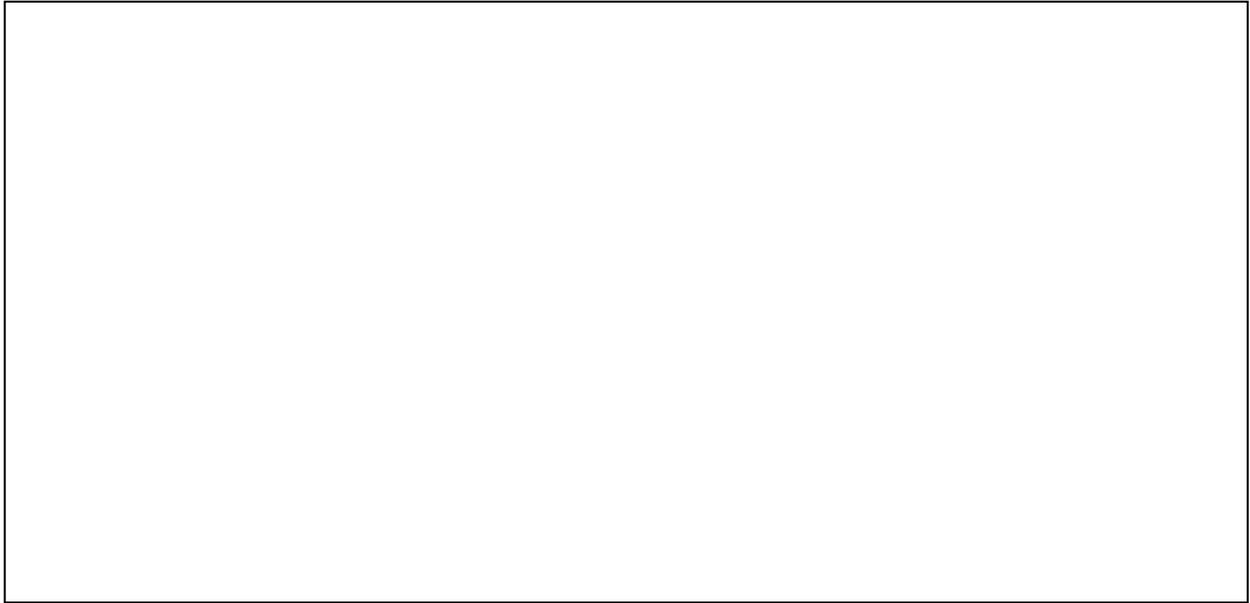
- Context
- Dictionary
- Alternate translations
- Cross references

Record what you find.

Sum It Up...in one sentence, answer the question, "What was that about?"  
Stick to what the passage meant to the writer and his original readers. Don't generalize the message at this time.

**Apply (How Does it WORK?)**

Write a Timeless Truth...identify a Principle based on this week's focus passage that applies to people in all times and cultures. (The SPECK acronym from past weeks may still be helpful to you.)



Write your Personal Application...what can you do about the Timeless Truth you wrote? Make it SMART.

