

**THE NEW HUMANITY OF JESUS THE CHRIST:
MEDITATIONS IN THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN FAITHFUL**

PEACE, LOVE, FAITH, AND GRACE TO YOU
(EPHESIANS 6:21-24)

I. The New Humanity of Jesus the Christ

- A. Ephesians is about “the new humanity of Jesus the Christ” or “God’s new society.”
- B. Ephesians revolves around two important truths.
- C. The first: **Our union with Christ (1-3).**
 - 1. God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing (1:3).
 - 2. God has chosen us in Christ before the world’s creation (1:4).
 - 3. God has predestined us in Christ for holiness (1:4-6).
 - 4. God has forgiven all our trespasses in Christ (1:7).
 - 5. God has possessed us for himself in Christ (1:11).
 - 6. God has sealed us with the Holy Spirit in Christ (1:13).
 - 7. God has made us alive together with Christ (2:5).
 - 8. God has raised us up in Christ (2:6).
 - 9. God has seated us in heaven in Christ (2:7).
 - 10. God has made (or *re-made*) us in Christ for good works (2:10).
 - 11. God has united us with Israel in Christ (2:13).
 - 12. God is making us, with Israel, into one new human society in Christ (2:15).
 - 13. God is making us with Israel, into his new temple in Christ (2:22).
 - 14. God has and will realize all his purposes of the universe in Christ (2:10; 3:11)
- D. The second: **The Christ-united life (4-6).**
 - 1. Now that we are joined to Christ, we are to conduct ourselves as God’s new humanity in the world (4-6).
 - 2. This is not to say that...
 - a. the Christian will attain perfection in this life.
 - b. God leaves us to maintain our salvation by our good works.
 - 3. But it is to say that when God binds our lives to Christ, good works will follow.

II. Tychicus Is on His Way (Eph 6:21-22)

- A. Paul had sent Tychicus to the Ephesians.
- B. Who was Tychicus?
 - 1. He was “the beloved brother.”
 - 2. He was a “faithful minister in the Lord.”
 - 3. Tychicus appears in other texts:
 - a. Colossians 4:7: “...beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord...”
 - b. 2 Timothy 4:12: “Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus”
 - c. Titus 3:12: “When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you...”
- C. Paul had sent Tychicus “for this very purpose...” (6:22).
 - 1. That the Ephesians may know how Paul is doing.
 - 2. That he may encourage the hearts of the Ephesians (cf. 3:13).

III. The Apostle’s Blessing from God and Christ (6:23-24)

- A. Peace be to the brothers (6:23a)
 - 1. The peace that Paul bestows is the objective state of peace that God has accomplished in Christ (2:14-15).
 - 2. The whole letter to the Ephesians is given in a spirit of peace.
- B. Love with faith (6:23b-c).
 - 1. Whose love and faith are these?
 - a. *God’s* and *Christ’s* love and faithfulness?
 - b. *Our* love and faith?
 - 2. (a) is possible.
 - Pistis* can be understood as “faith” or “faithfulness.”
 - 3. But (b) is also possible because...
 - a. God and Christ are still the source of our love and faith (see Phil 2:12-13).
 - b. *Pistis* in Ephesians has been usually understood as “faith.”
 - 4. Our godliness—our life of love for God and church, our faith in Christ—is also a gift from God and Christ.
- C. Grace be with all (6:24)
 - 1. “Grace” is shorthand for God’s free and unmerited favor.
 - 2. As Christ’s apostle, Paul is simply pronouncing what God has already pronounced on his people—grace to you!

IV. Receive the Lord’s Benediction

In Christ Jesus our Lord, we receive all that God has for us. This includes God’s peace and friendship, our love for God and his church; our continued faith in Christ, and God’s free and unmerited favor.