

Knowing *Christ*

Lessons from Paul's
Life and Ministry

Living in Christ
Ephesians 4:1-32
Lesson 11



The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking for clues to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure laying just under the surface. First, read the whole passage in context. Pay attention to the paragraph breaks to gain the whole thought, as it relates to the whole text. Are there words that lead you to look before or after the passage to gain the full context? There is a saying, "Whenever you see the word 'therefore' look to see what it is there... for." The word "and" tells us that something else goes with it, maybe to show contrast, or similarities, or even a series. Repeated words or phrases, help us discover the main thought of the author. The text will speak for itself, be careful not to read in your own assumptions. The bible interprets itself, so if you ask a question of it, the answer will be found within the pages of scripture.

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight words or thoughts to you as you begin to carefully read the text over several times. Reading it in different translations helps you gain more insight. Use the text provided in the lesson as a worksheet. **Mark the text** in whatever way that helps you the most. Colored pencils are helpful, looking up words in dictionaries, or cross-references help you gain further insight and fill in the details. Read thoughtfully and prayerfully and see what the Lord wants to show you. Each week will be an exciting journey as you place your feet in the imprints that Paul left us on his journey to *knowing Christ* more intimately.

Lesson Text

Eph 4:1-6

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Eph 4:7-16

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

9(Now this, "He ascended" — what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Eph 4:17-24

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Eph 4:25-32

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.



Looking for Gold - *What does it say?*

Like a miner looking for a gold vein, read the section and record what you see. Keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage by **marking your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts, similarities. Look for answers to questions that answer, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How? Briefly

describe, in your own words the clues you find. Do your best to follow the authors train of thought as to what he is trying to say?

Read Eph 4:1-32

Record what stands out to you as you read



Digging Deeper

Use this section to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind as you look for correlating evidence in other parts of scripture through cross-references. Dig deeper into the meaning of words that stick out to you or are repeated. Background information in encyclopedias or dictionaries or handbooks bring the passage alive. Keep your eyes open to find any commands to obey, or questions to be answered etc.

Challenge: Use your cross-references, word-studies or encyclopedias to fill in the details and dig deeper into the meaning of the passage. Record what you find.



Boiling it Down - What does it mean?

Now is the time to boil down what you have found. What lessons can you draw from what you have seen. There may be multiple lessons, **state each in a simple sentence.**

What LESSONS can I draw from my observations?



Refined as Gold - How can I apply it?

What steps do I need to take to APPLY each lesson? Your applications should suggest a course of action. **Record an application for each lesson.**

Challenge: Use your cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up your lessons.



Storing up Your Treasure . . .

Checking for Clarity: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** in one or two words. This helps you fully understand what author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch his vision?

Eph 4:1-6 _____

Eph 4:7-16 _____

Eph 4:17-24 _____

Eph 4:25-32 _____

Bars of Gold: Try to state the main content of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles: Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

Hide Your Treasure in your Heart:

Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, NKJV



Radiating His Truth . . .

It *does* make a difference what you believe, because what you believe determines how you behave! -Warren Wiersbe

