

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

{*Marcion entitles this Epistle "To the Laodiceans". Ephesus was located in the Roman Province of Asia, now Turkey, along its western border. It was the location of the temple of the goddess Diana, also known as Artemis. This temple was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Laodicea, mentioned by Marcion, was a city in Asia Minor, situated along the Lycus River along the trade route from Ephesus and Pergamon (cf. Revelation 3:14) to Laodicea and across Asia Minor. Some scholars feel that, because of the absence of the name ΕΦΕΣΙΟΥΣ in many manuscripts, this was a letter that was circulated to various Christian communities in Asia Minor, including Ephesus and Laodicea, thus accounting for Marcion's title for this Epistle. One scholar suggests its authorship was by a friend of Paul who by editing portions of the available epistles along with additional Pauline thoughts used these as a covering letter for a collection of Paul's Epistles. This theory has not become popular, however.*}

CHAPTER I

SALUTATION

<Ephesians 1:1-2>

¹ Paul, by the will of God, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the saints who live [in Ephesus] ¹ who have faith in Christ Jesus. ² May grace and peace be yours from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

<Ephesians 1:3-14>

³ Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms through (*literally, in*) Christ. ⁴ Before the world was created He chose us in His love to be His own in Christ, to be holy and without blemish before Him. ⁵ In love He predestined us to be adopted by Himself (*or, into His own family*) as His children in accord with the gracious purpose of His will, ⁶ for the praise of (*or, so that we might praise*) His glorious grace which He has lavishly bestowed upon us in the person of the beloved one *<i.e. Jesus Christ>*.

⁷ It is in and through the shedding of His blood (*or, through Christ's death*) that we have been released from our bondage, receiving forgiveness for our wrongs according to the wealth of His grace. ⁸ He possesses all wisdom and insight (*or, understanding*) ⁹ which He pours out upon us in accord with His secret will. ¹⁰ It was His purpose, when the time was ripe, to make all things in creation come to a perfect unity in Christ as the head.

¹¹ In Him we have also been made to be heirs, having been chosen beforehand, according to the intention of God who works out the design of His own will in accord with His purpose ¹² so that we should be devoted to extolling His glorious manifestation: we who were the first to set our hopes in Christ. ¹³ In Him, when you listened to His message of truth, (*or, true message*), the Good News of salvation, you have received salvation in Him, and were sealed with [the] ² promised Holy

1 {C} So: Aleph in the third corrective hand, A, B in the third corrective hand, D, G, K, P, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta, Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic & many church fathers. The words are omitted by P46, Aleph & B in the original hands, D, minuscule 424 in the corrective hand & 1730.

2 {C} Minor variants occur

Spirit ¹⁴ who is the pledge-deposit of our inheritance. The final result will be that we receive the promise of God to His own people, that is, the freedom of all those who are His (*i.e. from bondage, receiving forgiveness cf. v. 7*).

PAUL'S PRAYER

<Ephesians 1:15-23>

¹⁵ Since this is the case, I also, upon hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus, as well as of the [love you have for all who are believers (*literally, saints*),]³ ¹⁶ offer an unceasing prayer of thanks on your behalf, making mention of you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I always ask the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you the spirit of wisdom and insight into the mysteries because of an understanding of Him. ¹⁸ May your eyes (*or, your minds, literally, May the eyes of your hearts*) be opened, that you might be enlightened so that you might know the nature of the hope for which you have been called. ¹⁹ The inheritance God provides is glorious in the saints (*or, among the believers, dedicated people of God*). How great is God's power in us as believers, ²⁰ a power that demonstrates into action by the raising of Christ from the dead and the seating of Him in Heaven at the right hand of God, ²¹ far above all governments, authorities, powers, dominions, above any other title of sovereignty that is used in this age or in the future (*literally, in the age to come*).

²² God has put all things under His feet and has appointed Christ as the head of everything on behalf of the church, ²³ the completeness of Him who fills the universe with Himself. <*In Greek verses three through twenty three are one sentence. As the writer develops the sentence additional thoughts pour in, making translation rather difficult!*>

CHAPTER II

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

<Ephesians 2:1-10>

¹ You also were spiritually dead because of your offenses and sins. These were habitual to you ² for you once walked around under the damnation of the ways of this world and were controlled by the prince whose domain is in the air, the spirit that works in the sons of disobedience. ³ We, all of us, once walked as those who were governed by the passions and inclinations of our lower natures, doing what the human body desired, and what the human mind stirred up. Thereby we deserved anger, as did everyone else. ⁴ God, however, is so rich in mercy because of the great love He has bestowed on us, in that He has raised us to life [with Christ,]⁴ ⁵ in spite of the fact that we were dead in offenses and sins. It is by grace that you have been saved (*or, It is to grace that you owe your salvation*)! Because of our relationship with Christ Jesus, ⁶ He has raised us up and given us a seat with Him in heavenly places with Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that He might demonstrate, in the ages to come, the abundant riches of His grace. ⁸ It is because of grace that you have been saved, as the result of faith! ⁹ It is not because of your own actions. It is God's gift! It is not based upon your own merits. ¹⁰ Because of this no one is able to boast. For: we are the handiwork of God, created in Christ Jesus for the purpose of performing good works which God has already prepared for us to accomplish.

ONE IN CHRIST

<Ephesians 2:11-22>

¹¹ Because of this, keep in mind that formerly you were Gentiles from the physical point of view. You Gentiles were at one time called 'the uncircumcision' by those who spoke of themselves

3 {B} So: Aleph & D in the third corrective hands, K, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Harclean Syriac, Sahidic Coptic & Armenian. The word "fellowship" is inserted by 181. The word order is altered in many minuscules.

4 {C} So: Aleph, A, D, G, K, P, Psi, many minuscules & Old Latin.. "in Christ" P46, B, minuscule 33, one Old Latin, Sahidic and Bohairic Coptic & Armenian.

as the circumcised'. The circumcision about which they speak is a physical matter accomplished by human hands. ¹² Bear in mind that at that time you were living apart from Christ, aliens within the commonwealth of Israel, strangers to the covenants which contain the promise of God. You lived in a world that was without hope and without God. ¹³ Because of your relationship with Jesus Christ this situation was changed. You were far away but have now been brought near because of the shedding of the blood <*i.e. death*> of Christ.

¹⁴ He has brought us peace. He has made Jews and Gentiles to be one and has broken down the barrier wall representing the hostility which has separated us, ¹⁵ doing this with His own body. He abolished the Law along with its commandments and its regulations ¹⁶ in order to create a common relationship of reconciliation making out of the two, one new person, thereby establishing a new relationship with Him and with one another <*i.e. Jew and Gentile*>. This was done by means of His cross, thus putting an end to the hostility. ¹⁷ So He came and proclaimed the Good News of peace to you who were far away and also peace to you who were near because ¹⁸ it is through Him that we are all able to come into the presence of God, in a united spirit.

¹⁹ Because of this you are no longer strangers and immigrants, you are fellow citizens with God's consecrated people, and therefore members of the household of faith. ²⁰ The apostles and prophets are the foundation of the structure on which you have been built. Jesus Christ, Himself, is the cornerstone. ²¹ He is the one who holds together [the entire building] ⁵ and who causes it to grow so as to become a holy temple finding its unity in the Lord, ²² in whom you are also being built up as a part of all the rest of His people who are under the Spirit's guidance to become a place where God has His dwelling.

CHAPTER III *PAUL'S MINISTRY TO THE GENTILES*

<Ephesians 3:1-13>

¹ Thanks to this, I, Paul, am a prisoner of Christ [Jesus] ⁶ on behalf of you Gentiles. ² You have surely heard that God has given (*or, entrusted to*) me the ministry of His grace. This ministry was given (*or, entrusted*) to me ³ by means of the revelation of His secret plan about which I have written briefly. ⁴ If you read what I have written you will understand my insight into the truth of Christ. ⁵ In the past this was not revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ The secret is that the Gentiles are joint-heirs with the people of God in Christ Jesus as the result of the Good News. ⁷ It became my responsibility, having been made to minister, in accord with the gift of God's grace, as the result of the working of His power. ⁸ It was to me, the very least of all the believers, that this gift of proclamation to the Gentiles of the Good News was given, regarding the unfathomable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to [completely reveal] ⁷ to them the mysteries that have been hidden in God who created all things, through all the ages, ¹⁰ so that now the great mysteries of the glorious wisdom of God might be made known to the principalities and the authorities in the heavenly places, in accord with the secret plan (*literally, mystery*) of God who is the creator of all as well as the means by which it is to be put into effect, ¹¹ in order that the innumerable aspects of God might be made

5 {B} So: Aleph in the original hand, B, D, G, K, Psi & many minuscules. "the entirety of the building" Aleph in the first corrective hand, A, C, P, several minuscules, Peshitta & Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic, Armenian & Ethiopic. Other variants occur in late minuscules, some Syriac, Coptic, Ethiopic translations.

6 {*} Omitted by Aleph & B in the original hand F & G. Included by Aleph in the first corrective hand, B, C, D in the first corrective hand, Psi, 33 & the majority text.

7 {D} So: P46, Aleph in the third corrective hand, B, C, D, G, K, P, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic & Armenian. Omit "completely" Aleph in the original hand, A, 1739, 1881 & some Church Fathers.

known through the Church to the rulers and the authorities in heavenly places.¹² This is entirely in accordance with the eternal purpose which God had formed (*or, planned to be worked out*) in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom, as the result of faith, we are able to enjoy God's presence without fear. ¹³ Because of this I plead with you, not to become discouraged because of the sufferings through which I am going on your behalf for this is all done for your honor (*or for our benefit*).

TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST

<Ephesians 3:14-21>

¹⁴ It is for this reason that I fall on my knees in prayer to the Father [of our Lord Jesus Christ,]⁸ ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and upon earth derives its name, ¹⁶ that He may grant you, in accordance with the wealth of His glorious majesty, to be strengthened in your innermost being through His spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ will, as the result of your faith, reside in your hearts ¹⁸ so that you might have love firmly rooted and grounded in you in order that you will be empowered to understand (*or, grasp*) the idea as it is understood (*or, grasped*) by all the saints (*or, believers*) of the length, height and depth ¹⁹ of Christ's love. Know that Christ's love is greater than anything we can comprehend so then you will be filled with the entirety of [God's]⁹ fullness.

²⁰ Now to Him who in the carrying out of His power working within us, is able to accomplish far more than our minds are able to ask or conceive, ²¹ to Him be the glory residing in the church, the glory that resides in Christ Jesus from generation to generation, for ever and ever. Amen.

CHAPTER IV

THE UNITY OF THE BODY

<Ephesians 4:1-16>

¹ I plead with you, for as a prisoner I serve the Lord, living a life that is worthy of the call which you also have received. ² I urge you to live your life in humility and gentleness, patiently bearing with one another ³ that there might be a desire for maintaining unity which is derived through the Spirit to result in a perfect relationship with one another. ⁴ There is only one body and there is only one Spirit. In the same way there is only one hope as the result of God's calling you. ⁵ There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of us all, who reigns over all and pervades all and dwells in all.

⁷ God has given His grace to us as individuals in proportion to the gifts of Christ. ⁸ It is because of this that the writings say, (*Psalm 68:18*)

'He has ascended on high

He has led captive a host of captives,

(*or, taken a great many prisoners*)

[And]¹⁰ He has brought gifts to men.' (*Cf. Psalm 68:18 LXX Psalm 67:19*)

⁹ (Now this word 'ascended', what does it mean except that He [first]¹¹ descended into the lower regions of the earth? ¹⁰ The one who descended is the very same one who ascended far above all of

8 {B} So: Aleph in the third corrective hand, D, G, K, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Harclean Syriac & Armenian. Omitted by P46, Aleph in the original hand, A, B, C, P, many minuscules, Old Latin, Palestinian Syriac, Bohairic & Sahidic Coptic.

9 {B} So: Aleph, A, C, D, G, K, P, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta, Harclean & Palestinian Syriac & Bohairic Coptic. "Christ" 1881. Other variants occur.

10 {C} So: Aleph in the third corrective hand, B, C in the original and third corrective hands, D in the third corrective hand, K, P, Psi, many minuscules, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic. Omitted by P46, Aleph in the original hand, A, C in the second corrective hand & many Old Latin.

11 {B} So: Aleph in the third corrective hand, B, C in the third corrective hand, K, P, Psi, many minuscules, some Old Latin & Bohairic Coptic. Omitted by P46, Aleph in the original hand, A, C in the original hand, D, G, I, 082, five minuscules, Old Latin, Sahidic Coptic & Ethiopic.

the heavens, that He might fill the universe (*or, all things*.) <Note: the 26th edition of *The Greek New Testament* places the above sentence in parentheses. This is not the case in the 27th edition.> ¹¹ These were the gifts He gave: He appointed some to be apostles, some as prophets others as evangelists but still others to be pastors and teachers ¹² in order to make the saints (*or, believers*) fit to carry out the task of serving, for the ongoing building up of the body of Christ, ¹³ so that we might attain to a unity in faith, to a unity in the perfect knowledge of the Son of God. Then we will grow into mature adulthood until we reach the fullness of the measure of the stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We are no longer children. We are no longer like sailors who are tossed by the waves and carried here and there by every gust of the wind of teaching which is based on the trickery of people and by deliberate schemes. ¹⁵ In place of this, hold on to (*or, speak*) the truth in a loving manner so that we might grow to be more clearly in unity with the one who is our head, I mean, Christ. ¹⁶ It is through this connection with Him that the entire body, fitted together (*or, formed into one unanimous whole*) and held together by every contributing ligament with power proportionate to each individual part develops its own growth for building itself up in the spirit of love.

THE OLD LIFE AND THE NEW

<Ephesians 4:17-24>

¹⁷ I tell you this, I am begging in the Name of the Lord that you no longer live as the Gentiles do, with their useless thoughts ¹⁸ and their darkened minds, being estranged from God. In their hearts they are deliberately ignorant and obstinate. ¹⁹ They have lost all feeling and have abandoned themselves to sensuality which results in the practice of indulging in all sorts of impurity.

²⁰ This is not what you have learned from Christ, ²¹ assuming that you heard His voice and have been taught, for the true teaching is to be found in Him. ²² Therefore get rid of your evil nature (*literally, old self*). Rid yourself of living with the previous habits, the old evil nature (*or, old self*) which is being ruined by deceitful lusts. ²³ Get yourself a totally renewed attitude (*literally, spirit and mind*). ²⁴ Clothe yourselves with the new nature (*or, better self*) of the truth which has been created in God's likeness in the righteousness and holiness of the truth.

RULES FOR NEW LIFE

<Ephesians 4:25-5:5>

²⁵ Because of this, let there be no more falsehoods. Everyone must speak the truth to his neighbor for we are all as closely bound together as are the parts of one body. ²⁶ When you are angry, be careful that you do not sin. Do not remain angry until the sun goes down. ²⁷ Do not give the Devil an opportunity (*literally, room*). ²⁸ The person who has been a thief must no longer steal. Instead he must labor [doing honest work with his own hands] ¹² so that he might have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Do not permit foul speech to issue from your lips. Use only the words that are beneficial to others according to the need of the moment so that these words became a source of benefit (*or, blessing*) to your hearers. ³⁰ Do not grieve God's Holy Spirit by whom you have been sealed (*or, stamped*) <Perhaps through baptism?> in preparation for the Day of Redemption. ³¹ Rid yourself of all bitterness, rage, anger and noisy insulting language along with every kind of maliciousness.

³² Instead, you are to be kind to one another, be compassionate, providing forgiveness, as God has forgiven [you] ¹³ in Christ.

¹² {C} The word order is altered in some of the manuscripts. The thought is the same, however.

¹³ {B} The pronoun varies in the manuscripts.

CHAPTER V

¹ In the light of this, you must seek to model yourselves after Him, for you are God's children.

² [Your] ¹⁴ life must be lived in loving action and you, dearly beloved, must have Christ as the pattern for He loved [you and gave Himself] ¹⁵ for you as a sweet smelling offering and sacrifice to God.

³ Fornication and any kind of indecency or greed should not even be mentioned in your society (*literally, among the saints*). ⁴ Avoid indecency, foolish or coarse jesting for these are unbecoming. Instead devote yourselves to thanksgiving. ⁵ Be assured that no fornicator, indecent or greedy person who is devoted to the idolatry of gain has any share in the inheritance of the Kingdom of Christ and of God.

WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT

<Ephesians 5:6-21>

⁶ Do not let anyone mislead you with empty words. Because of things of this sort God's wrath is brought down on those who are disobedient (*literally, the sons of disobedience*). ⁷ Therefore, you must never have anything to do with such people. ⁸ At one time you were all in darkness. Now, in the Lord you are in the light. Because of this -- live and act as the children of the light. ⁹ The harvest that results from the [light] ¹⁶ is seen in all that is good, right and true. ¹⁰ Learn what is pleasing to the Lord! ¹¹ Have nothing to do with unprofitable deeds of darkness, instead, expose them. ¹² It is disgraceful even to talk about the things they do in secret. ¹³ Everything can be tested by the light and in this way the true color is shown. Where everything is brought into the light -- there is light itself. ¹⁴ It is for this reason that it is said:

'Wake up, sleeper,
Rise from the dead,
Christ will let his light shine in you.'

<No doubt from an unknown early Christian hymn.>

¹⁵ [Be careful concerning how] ¹⁷ you live and act. Do not let it be as foolish persons but as those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of (*or, redeem*) the opportunities for these are evil days. ¹⁷ Do not be foolish, instead, try to understand what the will of the Lord might be. ¹⁸ Do not become drunken with wine for this will only serve to ruin you. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another using the words of Psalms and hymns and [spiritual songs.] ¹⁸ Sing heartily and make music to the Lord with praise in your hearts. ²⁰ Always give thanks to [God, the Father] ¹⁹ in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for everything. Stand in awe of Christ, submitting yourselves to one another.

WIVES AND HUSBANDS

<Ephesians 5:22-33>

14 {C} The pronoun varies in the manuscripts.

15 {B} The words are transposed in some manuscripts.

16 {B} "light" P49, Aleph, A, B, D in the original hand, G, P, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Palestinian Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic, Armenian & Ethiopic. "spirit" P46, D in the third corrective hand, K, Psi, many minuscules, & Harclean Syriac.

17 {B} So: P46, Aleph in the original hand, B, a number of minuscules & Sahidic Coptic. "You, my friends, be very careful concerning how" Aleph in the third corrective hand, A, 629 & in an alternative form in Bohairic Coptic.

18 {B} So: Aleph, D, G, K, P, Psi, 048, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta, Harclean & Palestinian Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic & Armenian. "pleasant spiritual songs" A. "songs" P46 & B.

19 {C} So: Aleph, A, B, D in the second corrective hand, I, K, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Harclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic. "Father and God" P46, D in the original hand, G, some Old Latin, Palestinian Syriac & Armenian.

22 [Wives, submit yourselves (*or, be subject*) to your husbands,] 20 as if to the Lord. 23 The husband is the head who is set over the wife just as Christ is the Head who is set over the church. It is He who is the body's savior. 24 In exactly the same way as the church submits (*or, is subject*) to Christ so also married women should be in every way toward their husbands.

25 Husbands are to love their wives in the same way as Christ loved the church by giving Himself on her behalf 26 in order that He might make her holy by cleansing her with the washing in water. <The metaphor could mean baptism or taking a bath. Scholars are divided concerning the precise thought the writer seeks to present.> along with the spoken Word 27 so that He might present the church to Himself gloriously, having no stain or wrinkle or any similar flaws. 28 So also, men ought to love their wives just as much as they love themselves. A man who loves his wife loves himself. 29 No one has ever hated his own body (*literally, flesh*). On the contrary, he feeds and takes care of (*literally, cherishes or comforts*) it just as Christ feeds and takes care of (*literally, cherishes or comforts*) the church 30 for we are members of [His body.] 21

31 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be inseparably joined to his wife and the two will become a single body.' (*Genesis 2:14*)

32 There is a great truth hidden in these words. I understand this to apply to Christ and the church.

33 Yet, let each one of you who is a husband, love his wife as much as he loves himself so that the wife might treat her husband with respect.

CHAPTER VI CHILDREN AND PARENTS

<Ephesians 6:1-4>

1 Children, it is your duty to be obedient to your parents [in the Lord.] 22 2 Honor your father and your mother (*Cf. Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16*) is the first commandment containing an added promise: 3 that it might go well with you and that you might live long on the earth. 4 You fathers, do not irritate your children. No! Bring them up in the instruction and admonition of the Lord.

SLAVES AND MASTERS

<Ephesians 6:5-9>

5 Those of you who are servants (*or, employees, literally, slaves*), be obedient to your human masters, showing proper respect and awe for the sole purpose of obedience, obeying as if you were serving the Lord in doing this. 6, 7 Do not obey merely because someone is watching you, as if you were working only to please people (*literally, men*) but as the servants (*or employees, literally, slaves*) of Christ, carrying out the will of God from the heart. 8 You must realize that you are to do your work as a slave or free person for you will receive from the Lord's hand an equal share of anything that is good. 9 Now as far as you who are masters are concerned, act toward your servants (*or, employees, literally, slaves*) in the same way. Stop the use of threats. Be aware that both you

20 {D} So: Aleph, A, I, P & in a variant form D, G, Psi & many minuscules, Old Latin, Palestinian Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic, Armenian & Ethiopic. The word "submit" is omitted in P46 & B.

21 {B} So: Aleph in the original hand, A, B, 048 & several minuscules, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic & Ethiopic. Aleph in the third corrective hand, D, G, P, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Herculian Syriac & Armenian add, "for we are flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone" in variant forms. Cf. Genesis 2:23.

22 {C} So: P46, Aleph, A, D in the third corrective hand, K, P, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Herculian Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic, Armenian & Ethiopic. Omitted by B, D in the original hand & several Old Latin.

and they have a Master who is in heaven and that with Him there is no such thing as favoritism.

THE BATTLE AGAINST EVIL

<Ephesians 6:10-20>

10 In conclusion, strengthen yourself in your unity with the Lord and in the mighty power that is His. 11 Put on the complete armor which God supplies in order that you will be able to stand against the intrigues of the devil. 12 For [our] ²³ struggle is not against a human force (*literally, blood and flesh*) but it is against demonic rulers, the authorities, against spiritual forces of evil that are supernatural in this dark age. 13 Because of this, take up the entire armor of God so that you will be able to stand your ground when the evil day comes and having fought you will still hold your ground (*literally, achieve standing*). 14 Take up your stand therefore, tightening the belt of truth around your waist, the breastplate of righteousness around your body 15 as well as the readiness to proclaim the Good News of peace under our feet (*as shoes*). 16 With all this take up the shield of faith which is able to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. (*literally Belial. The name Belial means "not profitable" or "wicked". It is identified with the genius of all evil, synonymous with Satan.*) 17 Take the helmet that salvation provides and the sword of the spirit that is the Word of God. 18 Let there be unceasing prayer and entreaty in the spirit. Be attentive at all times. Pray with perseverance and supplication on behalf of the saints (*or, believers*) 19 and also for me so that when I open my mouth to speak, the message might be fearlessly proclaimed, regarding the secret truth of [The Good News]. ²⁴ 20 It is for this cause that I am an ambassador in chains (*or, handcuffs, captivity*). Therefore, pray that I will be enabled to speak as boldly as I ought.

FINAL GREETINGS

<Ephesians 6:21-24>

21 Tychicus <*Cf. Acts 20:4, Colossians 4:7, II Timothy 4:12 & Titus 3:12. The name means "chance happening".*> our beloved brother and faithful minister will give you information about my condition. 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, to inform you of my circumstances and that he might encourage your hearts.

23 Peace to you, my beloved (*literally, brothers*) and love combined with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with undying love.

SUBSCRIPTION

{*"To the Ephesians" Aleph, A, B in the original hand, D, Psi, 33, 81 & with slight variants F & G. "To the Ephesians, written in Rome" B in the first corrective hand & P. "To the Ephesians, written in Rome, a letter of Paul the Apostle" 0278. "To the Ephesians from Paul, delivered by Tychicus" 1739, 1881 & the Majority Text. Variants occur in P46, 365, 630, 1505 & 2464.*}

23 {D} The pronoun varies in the manuscripts.

24 {B} So: Aleph, A, D, I, K, P, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta & Palestinian Syriac & Ethiopic. Omitted by B, G, some Old Latin & Fayyumic Coptic.