

# **A Study of the Epistles of Paul**

## **(NT Survey Lesson 169--Ephesians 4)**

**Introduction:** Paul has shown how God's purpose was to bring Jew and Gentle together into one body, in oneness with Him and one another. Now Paul turns his attention to how that unity has been achieved and can be maintained. The key to this oneness is allowing ourselves to be "filled up unto all the fulness of God" (3:19), growing to "the measure of the stature that belongs to the fulness of Christ" (4:13).

**Lesson aim: To understand how God has worked to bring about unity, or oneness with Him and His people, and to manifest that oneness in our personal lives.**

### **God's plan for unity--Ephesians 4:1-16**

1. What is Paul's plea of verses 1-3? What attitudes does Paul suggest are necessary to attain this?
2. Cite and define each of the seven "ones" of v. 4-6. In what way do each of these make us united?
3. What has each one received? And what does God intent for us to do with that which we have received?
4. Verse 8 uses the figure of a conquering warrior who leads a processional of captives and gives gifts to men of the spoils of battle. What did Christ give? Define each of these "gifts" mentioned.
5. Often Paul in Ephesians has talked about Christians being "filled". In this section he speaks of how Christ "fills all things" (v. 10), and how we need to measure up to the stature that "belongs to the fulness of Christ" (v. 13). With what are we to be "filled"?
6. For what purpose did Christ give apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers? What are saints being equipped by them to do? And what is the result of this "work" of the saints?

7. What goals did God intent that we "all" reach as the result of the gifts he gave? (v. 13-15)
8. What must each "joint" do to contribute to the building up of the body of Christ?

### **The resulting walk of Christian unity--Eph. 4:17-32**

1. Contrast the walk of the Gentile in v. 17-19 with the walk of the Christian in v. 20-24. How did the Gentile walk? How does the Christian walk?
2. What is each Christian to speak? Why?
3. What commands does Paul give about anger? How can Paul say "be angry" in v. 26 and put away anger in v. 31?
4. What is God's solution to stealing? Why does Paul say we need to work?
5. What principles should govern our speech?
6. Who are we commanded not to grieve? How would we do this?
7. Define the varying manifestations of anger in v. 31.
8. What qualities of God are we encouraged to imitate in v. 32?