

THE Story

Lesson 32 Chapter 30 Paul's Final Days(Pt 3) p.452-456

1. When was the last time you received a surprise communication from a long-lost friend or relative? How did it make you feel?

2. After Paul's emotional "farewell" to the elders of the church of Ephesus (p.439-440), how do you think the church in Ephesus must have felt when someone stood up on a Sunday and read these words from a letter they had just received: "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus." How attentive do you think everyone was to the words that followed?

3. Read the bottom paragraph on page 452 and then make a list of all the spiritual blessings that Paul reminds the Ephesian believers that we have in Christ.

What do each of these blessings mean to us?

4. Read the top paragraph on page 453....what three great spiritual truths does Paul pray for his readers to grasp?

The bottom paragraph on page 454 records for us another prayer for Paul's beloved friends in Ephesus. What progressive stages can be discerned in this prayer?

What may learn from these prayers of Paul about the way we should pray for our fellow-Christians and for ourselves?

5. Read the lower paragraph on page 453. What does it mean to be dead in transgressions and sins?

In what sense have all believers in Christ been raised up with Christ?

What is the relationship of grace and faith to this raising up?

6. From the bottom of page 453 to the middle of page 454, how does Paul try to encourage Gentile believers in the church?

What is now the position of all believers, whether Jews or Gentiles
in relation to God?

in relation to one another?

7. Read the top paragraph on page 455. What qualities should characterize a follower of Christ that would reflect a "life worthy of the calling"?

To think about: Am I seeking to live a life that is worthy of my calling?

8. In the remaining paragraphs on page 455, how and why does Paul say we should live a life "worthy of the calling" in our homes?

9. As you review this portion of God's inspired Word, what truths do you learn about our humanity....sins to avoid & examples to follow

about our God... His promises to claim & His character to embrace