

MONTHLY REFLECTIONS - Ephesians

January - God the Father

- I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory (1:17)
- For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. (3:14)
- . . . one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all . . . (4:5-6)
- . . . giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything . . . (5:20)
- Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father . . . (6:23)

February - The Lord Jesus Christ

- God put his power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead, seated him at his right hand to the heavenly places (1:20)
- But God, who is rich in mercy . . . made us alive together with CHRIST . . . and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places IN CHRIST JESUS . . . so that he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us IN CHRIST JESUS. (2:4-7)
- For we are what [God] has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works . . . (2:10).

March - The Holy Spirit

- marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit [who] is the pledge of our inheritance (1:14)
- I pray that according to the riches of [God's] glory, [God] may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit (3:16)
- And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which your marked with a seal for the day of redemption (4:30).

April - God's Grace, Love & Mercy

- But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us . . . made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved (2:4 – 5)
- But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift (4:7).

But God, who [is rich in mercy], out of the great love with which [God] loved us (2:4)

May - God's Plan & Will; God's Power & glory

- we have obtained an inheritance . . . according to God's counsel and will (1:11)
- . . . and to make everyone see (to bring to light) what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in (by) God who created all things (3:9)
- I pray that according to the riches of [God's] glory, [God] may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit (3:16)

June - The Church

(a) IDENTITY - . . . God who is rich in mercy, out of great love with which he loved us. . . made us alive together with (in) Christ (2:4)

- you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God (2:19)
- built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone [keystone] (2:20).
- . . . to have the power to comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God (3:18-19)

(b) MISSION - . . . lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience hearing one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace (4:1-3).

- The gifts [Christ] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ (4:11-13)
- But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, unto Christ, from whom the whole body joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building up in love (4:15-16).

July - Peace, Hope, Unity /One in Christ

- Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father . . . (6:23)
- There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of al, who is above all and through all and in all (4:4-5).
- The gifts [Christ] gave were . . . to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ (4:11-13)

August - Prayer

- "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all consolation . . . (2 Cor 1:3).
- I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers (1:16)
- For this reason, I bow my knees before the father *(of our Lord Jesus Christ)* (3:14)
- Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication (6:18).

September - Sin

- You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived following the course of this world . . . (2:1)
- And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God . . . (4:30).
- Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice . . . (4:31)

October - Salvation

- But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us . . . made us alive together with (in) Christ . . . and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus . . . (2:4-6)
- For we are what [God] has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life (2:10).
- according to the riches of [God's] glory, [God] may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love (3:16-17).

November - Truth, Faith, & Love

- And that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love (3:17)
- But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, unto Christ, from whom the whole body joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building up in love (4:15-16).

December - Moral Instruction & Exhortation

- So, then putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another (4:25)
- Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up (faith), as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear (4:29)
- . . . and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you (4:32).
- . . . be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (5:18b-20)