

## The Book of Ephesians

# 6

## Morning Devotions

In your devotions this morning, read **Psalm 91**. As you read, talk to the Lord about the content of this psalm. When you have finished, go back and find one or two verses and meditate prayerfully on them.

## Morning Study

Starting this morning, we will be studying the Bible book by book. This kind of study may be different from anything you have done before. Most Christians are accustomed to reading individual verses, or sometimes reading chapter by chapter, but few have experienced the full impact of God's Word by reading a whole book through, from its first to its last verse.

This is actually the way many of the books of the Bible were originally intended to be read. For example, most of the New Testament books were written as letters, designed to be read aloud by the church in one hearing (see **Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27**). By putting a magnifying glass to God's Word, we can sometimes miss the full meaning of what God is seeking to get across to us.

We begin this morning with the book of Ephesians. But before we begin reading the book itself, let's talk a little about its writer and its original readers.

The letter we call Ephesians was written by Paul, addressed to the Christians in Ephesus, a vibrant harbor city in what is now called Turkey. During one of Paul's missionary journeys through the region, he had stayed in Ephesus for three years, preaching the Gospel and teaching the young Ephesian church.

### Read Acts 19:1-40; 20:17-38

Let's get ready now to read the book of Ephesians. We're going to read the whole book in one sitting. But wait! It's not as long as you think! Most people can read it all in less than half an hour.

So, find yourself a comfortable seat (as if you were about to read a novel or a newspaper), and start with verse 1. As you read through Ephesians, keep asking yourself: What is Paul seeking to say to his readers? What is the most important thing on his heart?

# MEMORY VERSE

My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”  
Your face, Lord, I will seek.

Psalm 27:8

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its “address” (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear “reference tag.”
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!