SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 1:1-23

SERMON: *Letters from a Roman Jail: Ephesians* 6 December 2015

INTRODUCTION

- A. MISSIONARY LETTERS: Galatians(c15); 1,2 Thessalonians(c18); 1,2 Corinthians(c21); Romans(c21)
- **B. ROMAN JAIL** (Acts 28:16; 30,31; see 24:27)
- C. PRISON LETTERS: Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon
- D. FINAL LETTERS: 1 Timothy, Titus, 2 Timothy

LETTERS FROM A ROMAN JAIL: *EPHESIANS* (3:1,13; 4:1; 6:20; see Rev.1:11; 2:1)

- A. "LITTLE ROMANS": SALVATION-GRACE-FAITH-LIFE (Eph.2:1-10; see Eph.1-3 & Rom.1-8)
- **B. ROOT** \rightarrow **FRUIT: BELIEF** \rightarrow **BEHAVIOR** (Eph.1-3 & 4-6; see Rom.1-5 & 6-16)
- C. 54321: ZIP CODE OF THE GOSPEL (see 2Pt.1:12f)
 - 5. Blessed Relationships (5:21-6:9; see Gen.1:26 (c.1,2); Ex.20:1f; see Rom.12-16)
 - 4. Personal Disciplines (4:22-32; see Gen.1:26 (c.1,2); Ex.20:1f; see Rom.7,8)
 - 3. Spiritual Power (3:16-21; see 4:30; see Rom.8:2f,9f)
 - 2. New Life (2:1-10; see Rom.6:4,5; 8:17)
 - 1. Glorious Grace (1:1-23; esp.6,12,14; see 2:4f; see Rom.3:21f; 11:33-36)

CONCLUSION

- A. USE EPHESIANS TO GO TO GOD & TO LEAD OTHERS TO HIM (Eph.54321; point of contact)
- **B.** THE *HOPE* OF PAUL THE PRISONER (Acts 23:18; 28:17; see Eph.3:1,13; 4:1; 6:20; see Lam.3:21,22; 31-33; see 19-33 at center of chps.1-5; see Ps.42,43)
 - 1. God's gracious, eternal purposes *for us* shall not fail (Eph.1-3)
 - 2. the Father loves us in His Son and by Their Spirit (Eph.1-3; see Jn.14:26; 15:26; Rom.8:9)
 - 3. Jesus rules over all things *for our sakes* (Eph.1:15-23; see Rom.8:34; Col.3:1; Acts 2:22-36)
 - 4. Spirit works *in us* all benefits we have through faith in Christ (Eph.3:16f; 4:30; 5:18f; 6:18; see c3-6)
- **C. A PRISONER** *OF JESUS CHRIST* (Eph.3:1; Phm.1:1; see Gal.1:10; Rom.1:1; 2Cor.4:5; Phil.1:1; (2:7); Col.1:7; 4:7; Tt.1:1; 2Tim.2:24; see 1Cor.7:22; Acts 4:29; 16:17; Jms.1:1; 2Pt.1:1; Jud.1:1; Rev.1:1,etc. X 22:3,6)

<u>Discussion question:</u>

Brethren, what shall wE do? (see Acts 2:37f)