

**EPHESIANS: THE BUILDING AND COMPLETING OF THE CHURCH**  
**Part IV: The Practice Where God's Church is Completed, Ephesians 6:21-24**  
**(Ephesians 6:21-24)**

**I. Introduction**

- A. Ministry to troubled people in troubled church groups is always a challenge. Many a church leader has shied away from ministry simply because the burden of dealing with troubled and troublesome people was so great.
- B. Paul dealt with Ephesian believers who were bothered about his imprisonment, Ep. 6:21; 3:13. His closing remarks and DEEDS act to example the way of completing the work of God in a church even if there is trouble and troubled people t here!

**II. The Practice Where God's Church Is Completed, Ephesians 6:21-24.**

- A. There was a tension in the Ephesian Church concerning the Apostle Paul: we learn from Ephesians 3:13 that they were troubled about his imprisonment and the sufferings that were associated with it.
- B. To address this depressing insecurity in the most edifying way possible, Paul closes his epistle with words that encourage these concerned Christians:
  - 1. Paul sent the letter of the Ephesians with Tychicus, a beloved Christian brother and reliable minister in the Gospel who would clarify all the details about Paul's experience, 6:21.
  - 2. Paul certified the input of Tychicus to be true so that the Ephesians would be SURE that what this man told them about Paul was indeed true, Eph. 6:22. In this way, Paul was lovingly protecting the reputation of Tychicus before the Ephesian brethren as well as addressing their concern for his welfare.
  - 3. In view of this background, the CONTENT of the Ephesian epistle exposes Paul's edifying approach to disciple troubled believers in a church:
    - a. Paul gave an extended declaration of positional truth in chapters 1-3 before going into application. In view of the need of insecurity and fear in his readers, positional truth which pictures God's rock-solid , unchanging eternal plan works to lift one's focus from discouraging temporal events!
    - b. Based on God's eternal plan, Paul expressed appreciation for being used of God to bring the Gospel to GENTILES. This makes suffering in prison WORTHWHILE. Paul wanted the Ephesians to know how GLAD he was to suffer for the sake of this outreach, 3:1-13, 14-21. Paul thus ministered to put his concerned brethren at ease concerning his attitude in his sufferings.
    - c. Paul's request that his brethren in Christ pray for boldness on his part to spread the Gospel though he is in prison and may suffer ADDITIONALLY for doing so shows a complete abandon for Paul's own life and limb for the sake of reaching Gentiles, 6:18-20. Paul demonstrates that dependence on the eternal plan of God permits him to be totally selflessness.

***Lesson: The practice of seeing the work of God built and completed traces the following pattern: (1) We address problems and insecurities created by those problems in the local church by focusing on the rock-solid eternal plan of God, Eph. 1-3. (2 ) BASED UPON this positional truth, we who disciple others can afford to show selfless abandon in person sufferings to the encouragement of the faith of the troubled. (3) With such abandon, we demonstrate the priority of making disciples no matter what the cost. This edifies insecure people and stops troubles in the church!***

***@Need@Application: If there are insecure and thus troublesome people in a church, in a general approach, the LEADERSHIP can diffuse it all by (1) teaching positional truth, followed by (2) exempling selfless abandon for dependence upon it, followed by (3 ) exempling the priority of the Gospel's presentation above all other goals in life! In doing these things, we minister to the needy and get on with our proper ministry!***