

RBCPC
2011 Study Series



New Testament

Week #9
Study Guide

Ephesians

Posting date: June 1, 2011

www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/

Overview

Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians while he was imprisoned in Rome, around AD 60. Ephesus was a proud, rich, busy port at the end of the caravan route from Asia. Because of this, the culture and religion was subject to constant influence from pagan cultures. Paul emphasizes redemption of the people and their unity in Christ.

Scripture Study – Key Passages

Open your Bible and read the following scripture:

Ephesians 1:4-5, and 11-12

1. What does “predestination” mean to you?
2. If you are predestined to conform to God’s will, what is your responsibility in the process?
3. What is so special about being “chosen?”

Ephesians 2:8-10

1. What is “grace?”
2. Why is salvation a “gift?”
3. Can a person earn a “gift?” Explain.
4. Why might “salvation by grace” be different for the Ephesians based on the pagan religions surrounding them at that time? Is it any different for us today? Discuss.

Ephesians 4:1-7

1. What does Paul beg the Ephesians to do?
2. What behaviors does Paul insist the Ephesians adopt?
3. How do these behaviors promote unity?
4. If the church is like a body, which part of the body are you?

Ephesians 5:15-20

1. What are the characteristics of a wise person?
2. Why is wisdom necessary to combat evil?
3. What is one thing you can do to gain wisdom?
4. Why is wisdom pleasing to God?

Key Themes:

1. God’s plan for salvation.
2. Encouragement for unity in faith for Jews and Gentiles.

Reflection

Paul encourages believers to make the most of every opportunity to do good. He doesn't say it will be easy. Paul instructs us to do good, sing songs, and make music to God. Not necessarily because life's events inspire these things, but because God sees the beginning and the end. He asks us to trust him. Knowing that God has an eternal perspective produces a heart of thanksgiving for *everything*.

Prayer:

Read the following scripture again:

Ephesians 6:14-17

Pray through this list of armor:

*Belt of truth,
Breastplate of righteousness,
Shoes (feet) of peace,
Shield of faith,
Helmet of salvation,*

Imagine yourself putting on each piece as you meditate on the characteristics they symbolize, asking God to protect you as you prepare to do battle with evil in his name.

Homework

Read ***Ephesians 4:30***, in preparation for the sermon on June 4/5, "*Grieving the Holy Spirit.*" Mark words, or phrases that stand out to you.

Notes & Reflections: