

Worship and the Word November 25 2023 - Ephesians

Session Notes

Ephesians 1-3 Mystery of Life in Christ

OBSERVATIONS

Chapter 1

1:3, 18 Who has blessed, that your eyes will be opened to see the Spiritual blessing in Heavenly places

1:4b Holy and blameless before Him

1:9 Made known to us the mystery of His will - important Paul repeats the mystery of Christ will be revealed (3 times) Greek for Mystery "to be closed" Paul prays for eyes, hearts to be open.

1:15 Having heard of your faith - Our love for each other is proof of our faith

1:17 Notable/key verse - that God give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation

Chapter 2

2:3 Lion of sin overcoming people

Chapter 3

QUESTIONS

Chapter 1

1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father Definition of word GRACE Commentary - on the word grace

- A. Continuing protection
- B. Precious gift
- C. Grateful heart

Chapter 2

2:2 Prince of the power of the air - reference for that phrase, Or - Prince of the Kingdom of the air
Commentary -

- A. Apocalypse being a merging of spiritual and physical
- B. Even though the Jews knew God, they only had a physical knowledge of God, not spiritual until after Jesus came.
- C. Paul talks about believers being sealed by the Holy Spirit, and Jesus being put above all other authorities
- D. The Air is referring to a spiritual realm
- E. Man was given dominion (God given sovereign authority) over the earth, therefore the sin of man took all of creation into sin as well.
- F. Jesus coming brought the physical and spiritual world together.
- G. Believers need to remember that we've been given back spiritual authority over physical and spiritual realms through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. All things have been put under Jesus, and we have been redeemed from the ruling of the prince of the air.

Chapter 3

COMMENTS

Key words to watch for - Mystery, One

Ephesians is an apocalypse - a revealing, heaven and earth coming together.

1:9-10 to unite all things in Him, the summing up of all things in Christ, whether in heaven or on earth.

There is much more to participate with in God's kingdom than we can imagine.

As Jesus' return comes closer, we need to understand who we are in Christ

God chose the Israelites to be a blessing, God predestined Christ to be our saviour, and He used the nation of Israel to bring the blessing of Christ to all.

Coming into Christ involves letting go of who we think we are and embracing Christ.

God calls us to participation in His Kingdom.

Ephesians 4-6:9 How to Live in Christ

OBSERVATIONS

Chapter 4

4:3 be zealous to keep the oneness of the Spirit. Striving to have unity in the Spirit.

4:4-6 1 body, 1 spirit, 1 Faith, 1 baptism 1 hope, 1 LORD, 1 God and Father

4:17 You should no longer walk as the nations walk

4:25-32 Instructions for ourselves and how to teach other people in unifying and walking with Jesus

5:2 Walk in love as the Messiah loved us... as a pleasant aroma

Chapter 5

5:8-14 for you were formerly darkness, now you are light in the LORD... A favourite idea: walk as Children of Light (walk with God)

Chapter 6

QUESTIONS

Chapter 4

4:11 - Offices of leadership/Spiritual gift - what are spiritual gifts and how does God use them in us

4:17- New life: why is being drunk contrasted with being filled with the Spirit?

Ex. Acts 2:1-13 Alcohol takes away your filter; you do things you wouldn't normally do. In comparison, the Spirit drives us to do more or other than what we would or could do on our own. The Spirit drives us to live contrary to our sinful nature beyond our inhibition into deeper holiness, drunkenness drives us beyond our inhibitions into deeper sin.

Also, Jesus talks about communing with Him with the example of wine. The new wine of the Kingdom.

Part of the new wine covenant with Jesus could be seen as the freedom and lowering of our inhibitions to freely commune with God.

What does Oneness look like for the church?

A. Unity does not equal uniformity. Better that all different parts work together.

B. Unity not being uniformity requires us to love one another through the lens of honour, rather than suspicion of what's different, especially when we don't understand the differences.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

C. Realizing what the word church really means. Be thinking about the collective following of believers around the world. To consider each other as someone you, and God, love and care about.

Chapter 5

5:6 What are empty words?

A. Lies, deceit

B. Not being deceived into works instead of faith

C. Speaking about the sins that we should no longer participate in, not listening to those who say its ok

5:16 How to make the most of your time because the days are evil?

A. Focussing on the good

B. Putting your trust in Jesus

C. Be thankful, dwell on the good

D. What matters for eternity? Doing those things.

E. Submitting to the Holy Spirit and learning how to live in His guidance.

5:19-21 Signs of the Spirit in us - Why are the first two signs of the Spirit singing and praising (with each other and alone)

Chapter 6

6:1-4 What do you think of the description of children?

Honour your mother and father also perhaps referring to adult children honouring senior parents.

Relationship is a two-way agreement.

COMMENTS

What does participation in the Kingdom look like?

Grace is the door that opens the possibility for us to participate with God. Without Jesus and His grace we could not participate with God.

Old covenant between God and Abraham, New covenant between God the Father and Jesus the Son. People had to keep the law under the Old covenant. People receive the blessing of the New covenant through faith by grace, sealed or promised by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

All through the Old Testament, God gave promises of Jesus as the Messiah and is the One who upholds the promises and covenants.

God is calling us together into new life in Christ, in oneness in Him, and what we do now.

Jesus is the head and we are the body, meant to follow His lead.

Headship means sacrificial leadership.

Living in loving relationship with other people comes from understanding God's love for us.

The blood of Christ breaks every curse and restores us to the blessing of God in all our relationships.

What would happen if we all began to see the potential of God in each other?

Ephesians 6:10-24 Armour of God

OBSERVATIONS

Chapter 6

5:11 Take no part in the works of darkness, but expose them. Use the Sword to expose the works of darkness.

6:11 Schemes of the enemy: Paul wants people to know that the schemes will be aimed at the unity of the church.

6:12 Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces. Not a physical battle but a spiritual one.

Not just a battle against us but also a battle against God.

We're involved because we're God's ambassadors.

We're involved because we're children of God which makes us His warriors.

The enemy schemes in your mind to deceive you and keep you from the LORD.

6:17 Jesus fought off the schemes of enemy by the word of God. Jesus has already won the battle, we succeed through the truth of His word.

6:16 The arrows are like the worldly temptations, but we don't belong to the world anymore.

6:18 PRAY at ALL times IN the SPIRIT (Romans 8:26-27)

QUESTIONS

Chapter 6

Why do we assume that the armour equals defence? What about offence?

We are the ones on the offence with the advantage against the enemy because of the strength and the might of the LORD.

Everything about Roman armour was designed to advance.

What kind of a war are we fighting and how do we fight it? God instructs us to love our enemies. Jesus used authority when tempted, but didn't react in violence. When will everything bow to God?

A. Love your enemies has more to do with people, where as Ephes. 6 talks more about battling the spiritual forces of evil.

B. If you feel like a person is against you, loving them helps you to see that they are not the real enemy.

C. How we pray matters. Use the truth of Scripture in your prayers. Pray over others in light of their value in God. Thank God for His provision and promises.

COMMENTS

The enemy knows that he is going to fail, so he wants to deceive us into doubting the promises of God.

The enemy will twist scripture so we have to know the Word of God, know the Shepherd's voice, so that we recognize the difference between the truth and a lie.

Who are we in the plan of the cosmos? If we are the only ones who are able to bear the image of God, then the part we play in this battle is much bigger than we think. We are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms; seated meaning in positions of authority. On earth we find ourselves in a place of oppression of the enemy because of sin, but our mission is to be transformed into likeness of Christ which in itself advances the Kingdom of God more than we know. So our submission to God is critical in His Kingdom.

We need to be careful not to give power to the enemy by believing the deception and lies that God doesn't love us.

When we face our fears and follow through with faith, opportunities grow wild.

Paul wants people to know that the enemy is not other people.

Remember that the Word Of God is Jesus

Key Thoughts

The snake is always present when we chose between the old humanity and the new humanity

The powers want to persuade us that our value is based on something other than the true reality of Jesus

The Truth is not a idea that you need to learn but a Person that you need to encounter

For further study, look up the Bible Project - Ephesians on YouTube

Look for Bible Project Classroom

Go to BibleProject.com and search Ephesians to find videos, studies and notes