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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Lesson Leader:

James Haymon

Class Leaders:

Joe & Comella Liles

**Glory of God in the
Church**
A Study in Ephesians

Date	Lesson	Text
08/30	Introduction	
09/06	In Christ	1:1-14
09/13	Providing Hope	1:15-23
09/20	Providing Grace Pt 1	2:1-10
09/27	Providing Grace Pt 2	2:11-21
10/04	In Revelation	3:1-21
10/11	Empowering Conduct	4:1-16
10/18	Bro. Smarto	
10/25	Bro. Smarto	
11/01	Putting Off Old Self	4:17-32
11/08	Living as Lights	5:1-21
11/15	In Submission	6:1-9
11/22	In Victory	6:10-24
11/29	THANKSGIVING	
12/06	Summary & Review	

Food for Thought

REFLECTING GOD'S GLORY

The future is seen in the Bible-
This knowledge with us God has shared;
By faith we can see the invisible,
The glory that He has prepared.
With nothing between us and God,
our faces can reflect His glory.

*For our light and momentary troubles
are achieving for us an eternal glory
that far outweighs them all.*

2 Cor 4:17 (NIV)

(From "Our Daily Bread" Dec 5, 2005)

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF EPHESIANS

In the Book of Acts, the history of church at Ephesus begins with the ministry of Paul on his second missionary journey, as recorded in Acts 18:18-28. Paul, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila, arrived in Ephesus. Paul went to the synagogue in Ephesus and proclaimed Christ, and was asked to stay on and teach further. Paul declined, promising to return later in the will of the Lord, leaving behind Priscilla and Aquila. During Paul's absence, Apollos arrived, and began to preach those things which pertained to Jesus, based on the Old Testament and on the preaching of John the Baptist. Apollos seems to have been an Old Testament saint, but does not seem to have known about or trusted in Jesus Christ personally. Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos aside and filled him in on that which was lacking in his preaching. In time, he was sent to Achaia, where he powerfully and publicly refuted the Jews, showing that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah. After strengthening the believers in "the Galatian region and Phrygia" (18:23), **Paul returned to Ephesus, where he spends nearly three years, preaching and teaching. For three months, Paul taught in the synagogue, but then opposition caused him to change his meeting place to the school or Tyrannus, where he reasoned daily for two years (Acts 19:8-10). During this time, God gave supernatural witness to the ministry of Paul by empowering him to perform many miracles (19:11-12).** As a result of the chastening of the seven sons of Sceva, many in Ephesus renounced their magical practices, which was demonstrated when they publicly burned their magical books, worth a considerable amount of money. This, in turn, had a great impact on the city (Acts 19:13-20). Paul planned to leave Asia, planning to visit Macedonia and Achaia, where he would gather a collection for the poor in Jerusalem and Judea, and then deliver the gift to the church in Jerusalem, and then press on to Rome. He sent Timothy and Erastus ahead, staying behind in Asia for a while (19:21-22). It was during this brief stay that a **serious crisis arose in Ephesus, as a direct result of the preaching of the gospel. The gospel had not only caused many to turn from their magical practices, it also turned many from the worship of Artemis, the goddess whose elaborate temple was constructed in Ephesus, over a period of more than 200 years. This specifically impacted the idol-making industry which had developed in the city. A near riot was instigated by Demetrius, which was finally dissipated by an appeal from the town clerk. This incident caused Paul to move on to Macedonia (Acts 19:23-20:1).** When Paul reached Jerusalem, he took the advice of the (Jewish) leaders of the church there, and as a result was arrested on false charges. Through a sequence of events, Paul felt compelled to appeal to Caesar, and thus he was taken to Rome for trial. There in Rome, he was granted considerable freedom of access, and thus he continued to minister. It is here, in Rome, that the history of the Apostle Paul (and the church) ends in the Book of Acts (see chapter 28). **While in prison, Paul penned several epistles, which came to be known as the "prison epistles:" Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.** Philippians was delivered by Epaphroditus, who was sent home by Paul after his recovery from a serious illness (Philippians 2:25-30). Tychicus (see Acts 20:4), accompanied by the returning slave, Onesimus, would deliver the Epistle of Colossians and the letter to Philemon (Colossians 4:7-9), and also the Epistle to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:21-22).

The first six chapters speak of the pleasure of God in His own person, and in the outworking of His plans and purposes, especially in the sending of the Son to provide salvation for lost sinners. The final chapters focus on the pleasure of God in the responses of His people. Ephesians 1-3 concentrate on the glory of God as brought about by the gospel—the glory of God in His church. Ephesians 4-6 focus on the glory of God in man's obedience to the gospel—the glory of God through His church. Consider, then, this very simplistic outline of the content of Ephesians

Chapters 1-3	The Glory of God in the Church
Chapter 1	The glory of God through God in Redemption
Chapter 2	The glory of God in reconciliation
Chapter 3	The glory of God in the revelation of the mystery of the church
Chapters 4-6	The Glory and Pleasure of God through the Church
Chapter 4	The glory of God in the unity and growth of the church
Chapter 5	The glory of God in the imitation of Christ by the saints
Chapter 6	The glory of God in victory of Christ

(Excerpt from "Ephesians: The Glory of God in the Church" By Bob Deffinbaugh)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

AUTHOR: The apostle Paul

DATE WRITTEN: Probably written at Rome between A.D. 60 and 64.

PURPOSE: To show believers their position in Christ and encourage them to walk accordingly.

TO WHOM WRITTEN: The church in Ephesus.

MAIN THEME: The converted Jews in the early churches were inclined to be exclusive and to separate themselves from their Gentile brethren. This condition in the church at Ephesus may have been the HISTORICAL OCCASION which led to the writing of this epistle. For this is the keynote of the book--the unity of the church, especially between Jew and Gentile believers. This is shown by the recurrence of such words and phrases as:

(1) **Together:** made alive together, 2:5; raised up together, sitting together, 2:6; built together, 2:22.

(2) **One,** indicating unity: one new man, 2:15; one body, 2:16; one Spirit, 2:18; one hope, 4:4; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, 4:5-6.

KEY WORDS:

(1) Together, See Main Theme above.

(2) One, See Main Theme above

(3) In Christ, 1:1, 3, 6, 12, 15, 20; 2:10, 13; 3:11; 4:21.

(4) In heavenly places, 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10.

(5) Riches

(a) Of grace, 1:7; 2:7.

(b) Of glory, 1:18; 3:16.

(c) Of Christ, 3:8.

KEY VERSES: 1:10; 2:6, 14-22; 4:3-16 (especially 4:13) .

NOTABLE PASSAGES

(1) Paul's prayers for the church, 1:16-23; 3:14-21.

(2) Christian unity, 4:3-16.

(3) The spiritual armor, 6:10-17.

SYNOPSIS:

I. The Church and the Plan of Salvation.

NOTE: In discussing the plan of salvation in the different epistles, Paul varies the emphasis. In Romans he dwells on faith apart from works. In Galatians, faith apart from ceremonial observances. In Ephesians he stresses the unity of believers.

Chapter 1

(1) **The salutation,** 1:1-2.

(2) **The divine origin of the church,** 1:3-6.

(3) **The plan of salvation.**

(a) Through the redemptive work of Christ, 1:7-8.

(b) Universal in its scope, 1:9-10.

(c) Insuring a rich spiritual inheritance, 1:11-14.

(d) Prayer that believers might be fully enlightened as to the riches of its provisions, 1:15-23.

Chapter 2

(e) The plan provides for a spiritual resurrection from sin and the exaltation of the believer into heavenly places 2:1-6.

(f) It is wholly of grace and not of works, 2:7-10.

(g) It embraces the Gentiles who were far from God but were brought nigh by the blood of Christ, 2:11-13.

(h) It removes all barriers between Jews and Gentiles and unites them into one body for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, 2:14-22.

Chapter 3

(i) The mysteries of the divine purpose revealed to Paul; his appointment as apostle to the Gentiles, 3:1-12.

(j) Paul's second prayer for the spiritual fullness of the church and her enlightenment concerning the matchless love of Christ, 3:14-21.

II. Practical Application. What the divine plan calls for on the part of the church.

Chapter 4

(1) **The unity of believers.**

(a) In Spirit, 4:1-3.

(b) The seven unities mentioned, 4:4-6.

(c) Diversity of gifts but unity in one body of Christ, 4:7-16.

(2) **Consistent Christian life,** the believers' walk.

(a) Not as other sinful people, 4:17-21.

(b) In newness of life, abandoning the old sins, 4:22-32.

Chapter 5

(c) Walking in love and purity, 5:1-7.

(d) Walking in the light, 5:8-14.

(e) Walking circumspectly, filled with the Spirit, 5:15-21.

(3) **The home life.**

(a) Duties of husbands and wives, 5:22-33.

Chapter 6

(b) Duties of children, fathers, servants and masters, 6:1-9.

(4) **The spiritual warfare.**

(a) Source of strength, 6:10.

(b) The armour and the foes, 6:11-18.

(5) **Concluding words** and benediction, 6:19-24.

PROMINENT PEOPLE: Paul, Tychicus.

(Taken from Thompson's Bible Book Outlines)