



The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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	Summary & Review	
12/06	Bro. Bill White	
12/13	Combined Class - Room 222	

REMINDER

EARLY RISERS CHRISTMAS AT THE OAKS

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Luper Hall

Seating at 6:30pm

Dinner at 7:00pm

Entertainment by

Dr. Bill White

Review and Summary

Ephesians

Ephesians is the “high road” of New Testament revelation, changing our perspective from that of a citizen of this world to that of a citizen of heaven. Faith in Jesus Christ, often spoken of as being “born again” (see John 3:3), brings about a radical change. If salvation brings one from “death” to “life,” from the “kingdom of darkness” to the “kingdom of light,” then one would expect that conversion would likewise bring about a vastly different way of viewing life. And so it does. In brief, **becoming a Christian requires us to think not so much in physical terms, but in spiritual terms**, not so much in earthly terms as heavenly terms, not only in terms of time, but also in terms of eternity. No epistle penned by the Apostle Paul is so extensive in the change of perspective which it challenges us to adopt.

The Book of Ephesians is mind-expanding, yet without any harmful effects. (It may become habit-forming, however.) It seeks to expand our thinking in virtually every dimension. Our spiritual “center of gravity” is too low, too human, too temporal, too material, too earthly, too self-centered. Ephesians is written to challenge and to change our “center of gravity.” In this epistle, **Paul writes to change our perspective, to see earthly appearances in the light of heavenly realities, time in the light of eternity, the spiritual life as a struggle a spiritual warfare, not merely with human opponents, but with a host of heavenly forces. Ephesians seeks to change our orientation from one which is man-centered to one which is God-centered.** We smile to ourselves when we think of the ancient view that the world is flat, or that the earth is the center of the universe. And yet, we see man as the central focus, rather than God. Ephesians unapologetically challenges this view, and calls us to a God-centered focus. We begin with the most fundamental truth, namely, that from all eternity God has been supremely happy in the fellowship of the Trinity. From this inexhaustible fountain of self-replenishing joy flows the freedom of God in all his sovereign work, creating the universe, spreading his fame, choosing a people, and bruising his Son. We need to see first and foremost that God is God—that he is perfect and complete in himself, that he is overflowingly happy in the eternal fellowship of the Trinity, and that he does not need us to complete his fullness and is not deficient without us. Rather we are deficient without him; the all-sufficient glory of God, freely given in fellowship through his sacrificed Son, is the stream of living water that we have thirsted for all our lives. Unless we begin with God in this way, when the gospel comes to us, we will inevitably put ourselves at the center of it. We will feel that our value rather than God’s value is the driving force in the gospel. We will trace the gospel back to God’s need for us instead of tracing it back to the sovereign grace that rescues sinners who need God. But the gospel is the good news that God is the all-satisfying end of all our longings, and that even though he does not need us, and is in fact estranged from us because of our God-belittling sins, he has, in the great love with which he loved us, made a way for sinners to drink at the river of his delights through Jesus Christ. And we will not be enthralled by this good news unless we feel that he was not obliged to do this. Jesus was not coerced or constrained by our value. **Jesus is the center of the gospel. The exaltation of His glory is the driving force of the gospel.** The gospel is a gospel of grace! And grace is the pleasure of God to magnify the worth of God by giving sinners the right and power to delight in God without obscuring the glory of God.

To sum up the essence of the contribution of Ephesians, this epistle draws our attention to the glory of God. The glory of God is not only the motivation, but the goal of God’s sovereign work among men. There is no more majestic theme, no more noble pursuit than the glory of God. Moses’ highest ambition and most noble request was to see the glory of God (Exodus 33:17–18:8). The first coming of Christ was a display of the glory of God (John 1:14; see also Matthew 16:27–17:8). The Apostle Paul was encouraged and sustained by his awareness of God’s glory (see 2 Corinthians 3:7–18; 4:3–6, 16–18). The apostle Peter found the revelation of the “Majestic Glory” of our Lord a witness to the truthfulness of the prophetic word revealed through the apostles (2 Peter 1:16–19). Our Lord’s second coming will be a revelation of His glory, and the cause for the saints’ rejoicing (1 Peter 4:12–13). **Every supreme goal of our every action is the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). The Epistle to the Ephesians is all about the glory of God.**

(Excerpt from “Ephesians: The Glory of God in the Church” by Robert L. Deffinbaugh)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

GLORY OF GOD: IN CHRIST (Eph 1:1-14)

- In Christ Through Choice (1:1-6)
- In Christ Through Sacrifice (1:7-10)
- In Christ Through Promises (1:11-14)

GLORY OF GOD: PROVIDING HOPE (Eph 1:15-23)

- Motivations For Hope (Eph 1:15-16)
- Reasons For Hope (Eph 1:17-18)
- Hope In God's Power (Eph 1:19-23)

GLORY OF GOD: PROVIDING GRACE PT 1 (EPH 2:1-10)

- Before Grace We Were Dead In Sin (Eph 2:1-3)
- Grace To Be Alive In Heavenly Places (Eph 2:4-6)
- Grace To Do Good Works (Eph 2:7-10)

GLORY OF GOD: PROVIDING GRACE PT 2 (EPH 2:11-22)

- Without Grace We Are Separated From God (Eph 2:11-12)
- Through Grace We Are Brought Near To God (Eph 2:13-18)
- Through Grace We Are Citizens Of The Household Of God (Eph 2:19-21)

GLORY OF GOD: IN REVELATION (EPH 3:1-21)

- The Reception Of The Revelation (Eph 3:1-4)
- The Nature Of The Revelation (Eph 3:5-6)
- The Preaching Of The Revelation (Eph 3:7-9)
- The Purpose Of The Revelation (Eph 3:10-13)
- The Praying About The Revelation (Eph 3:14-22)

GLORY OF GOD: EMPOWERING CONDUCT (EPH 4:1-16)

Spiritual Unity (4:1-6)

Essential attitudes (vs 1-3)

Humbleness

Gentleness

Patience

Tolerance

Seven essential principles of unity (vs 4-6)

- One Body*
- One Spirit*
- One Hope*
- One Lord*
- One Faith*
- One Baptism*
- One God*

Spiritual Diversity (4:7-12)

Spiritual Maturity (4:13-16)

GLORY OF GOD: PUTTING OFF OLD SELF (EPH 4:17-32)

PUT OFF OLD SELF BY WALKING NOT AS AN UNBELIEVER (EPH 4:17-19)

Nine-fold state of an unbeliever

- Futile in mind (17)*
- Dark in understanding (18)*
- Alienated from God (18)*
- Ignorant of God (18)*
- Hardness of heart (18)*
- Loss of sensitivity (19)*
- Lustful (19)*
- Impure (19)*
- Greedy (19)*

PUT OFF OLD SELF BY WALKING IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE (EPH 4:20-32)

Fifteen-fold way of walking in newness of life

- Learn Jesus (20)*
- Be taught by Jesus (21)*
- Put off old nature (22)*
- Be renewed in the mind (23)*
- Put on the new nature (24)*
- Put away lying (25)*
- Be angry without sinning (26)*
- Give no place to the devil (27)*
- Quit stealing (28)*
- Work for a living (28)*
- Give to the poor (28)*
- Use the tongue right (29)*
- Don't grieve the Holy Spirit (30)*
- Put away wickedness (31)*
- Be kind (32)*

GLORY OF GOD: LIVING AS LIGHTS (EPH 5:1-21)

16 things that characterizes living as children of light

- Be followers and imitators of God (vs 1)*
- Live a life of love (vs 2)*
- Be one of God's holy people (vs 3)*
- Do not be partners with immoral, impure or greedy persons (vs 4-7)*
- Live a life that is filled with goodness, righteousness, and truth (vs 8-9)*
- Think and do only what is acceptable and pleasing to God (vs 10)*
- Have no fellowship with the works of sin (vs 11-13)*
- Ensure Jesus Christ shines on and through me (vs 14)*
- Live as a wise and godly person (vs 15)*
- Make most of every opportunity (vs 16)*
- Understand what God's Will is (vs 17)*
- Do not be a drunkard (vs 18)*
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit (vs 18)*
- Edify ourselves and others with godly and spiritual music and singing (vs 19)*
- Give thanks to God for everything (vs 20)*
- Submit ourselves to God and others (vs 21)*

GLORY OF GOD: IN SUBMISSION (EPH 6:1-9)

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN (EPH 6:1-4)

Obedient relationship (1)

Honoring relationship (2-3)

Training relationship (4)

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MASTERS AND SLAVES (EPH 6:5-9)

Submissive relationship (5-7)

Hierarchy of relationship (8-9)

GLORY OF GOD: IN VICTORY (EPH 6:10-24)

Power For The Victory (6:10-12)

Provisions For The Victory (6:13-17)

Prayer For The Victory (6:18-24)