

Ephesians

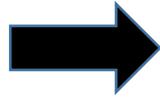
Introduction

Overview

Ephesians 1 – 3

The Foundation

God's blessings and grace
New identity
Prayer



Ephesians 4 – 6

Response

Christ-centered lives
Unity, holiness, love, light, submission
Spiritual warfare – put on the armor of God

Ephesians 1

What does Ephesians 1:1-14 show us about God and His relationship to us?

How does Paul's prayer (Ephesians 1:15-23) compare to our prayers?

Ephesians 2

Ephesians 2:1-10

What does it mean to be "dead in sin"? What does it mean to be "alive with Christ"?

What is the relationship between grace and works? (Ephesians 1:8-10)

Ephesians 2:11-22

Unity in Christ

How did Christ abolish the law? What does this mean? (Ephesians 2:14-15)

Ephesians 3

Paul's ministry of grace by grace – a prayer.

Ephesians 4

Live a life worthy of the calling you have received. You are a new person with a new identity. Put off the old self. Put on the new self.

Ephesians 5

As dearly loved children (of God), live a life of love, just as Christ loved us.
You are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.
Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 6

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
Put on the armor of God.

Concluding Thoughts:

Thoughts on the gospel:

- The gospel tells us what God has done.
- The gospel declares that salvation is a gift – pure and simple.
- The gospel tells us that God is pleased with us because of what Christ has done.
- The gospel declares that we do not become holy people by doing holy things. God justifies us, He declares us to be holy because of Jesus.
- The gospel declares that we are not saved by our spirituality but through faith in Jesus Christ alone.
- The gospel shows us the pure grace of God in Jesus Christ. It shows us that God is not against us but for us, even to the point of death on a cross.
- The gospel demands nothing but gives all.
- The gospel shows us that there is nothing we can do to change God's attitude toward us, we deserve God's wrath, we cannot work our way into God's grace or favor.
- The gospel is not a recipe for self-improvement; it declares sins to be forgiven for the sake of the suffering and death of Christ.
- The gospel never finds righteousness, it only gives and bestows righteousness.
- The gospel declares that God alone justifies the ungodly. We contribute nothing.
- The gospel is the good news of God's favor lavished upon us and we deserve none of it.

Purposes of the law:

- To show me my sin and God's hatred of it.
- To trouble my conscience and drive me to Christ, the only remedy for my sin.
- The law teaches me how I should respond to the grace we have received. It shows me what I should do and should not do.

We have a new identity. We are now alive in Christ, loved children of God, forgiven, children of light, etc... We now live a life that has been transformed by the grace of God.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And it is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2: 8 – 9