

WEEK 16

Ephesians discussion and 1st Timothy background

Ephesians discussion

Theme

Ryrie: God's eternal purpose to establish and complete his body, the church of Christ

Haley: oneness and universality of body of Christ.

Jewish Christians bitterly prejudiced against uncircumcised Christians.

Paul didn't want 2 churches: Jewish and Gentile, but unity. To Jews, he collected an offering from the Gentile churches to help them in their need.

To Gentiles, he wrote this letter to the leading center of Gentile church, about oneness in Christ

Search the Scriptures : God's purpose was to create a new humanity in Christ, made up of Jew and Gentile, a redeemed community with Christ as the Head

Bible discussion questions

What did you think was the theme of Ephesians ?

What picture do you have of the church/believers after reading Ephesians ?

How is that the same/ different from our experience today?

Which passages encouraged you? Which passages challenged you?

What do we see in chap. 1 about grace? v. 6-freely given, v.7-riches of it lead to forgiveness of sins, v.8-it's lavished on us

Look what all of this leads to: praise v.3, 6, 12, 14

What are some ways we can pray for others? 1:15-19

2:11 here are the Judaizers again! This dividing wall of hostility refers to the wall in the

Temple between the court of the Gentiles and the courts that Israelites

were allowed to go in. For a Gentile to cross this barrier meant a penalty of death.

Even the Roman authorities allowed the death penalty for this crime.

This is what the Jews thought Paul had done: brought a Gentile into the Jewish courts.

Acts 21:28-31

Thus the uproar and the attempt to kill Paul. This is why he was imprisoned—this is what started the whole trouble.

Now there is no dividing wall of hostility between Jews and Gentiles.

List all the things in Chap. 2 that God has done for us: made us alive in Christ (v.5), raised us with Christ (6), seated with Christ in heaven (6), gift of grace (8), created us to do good works (10), brought us near (13), he is our peace (14), abolished the law (15), reconciled us to others by the cross (16) , preached peace to us (17) , given us access to the Father (18), made us citizens and family (19)

How are verses 2:18 and 3:12 a whole different approach than in the OT?

!!! approaching with confidence!!!

Remember how they tied the rope to the high priests foot when he entered the holy of holies once a year? He went thru all these procedures and sacrifices to purify himself, but they still weren't CONFIDENT about his acceptance; so they tied a rope to his foot so they could pull him out if he was struck dead by God.

What is the Christians version of the temple of Artemis? 2:21

The repeated emphasis on God's different kinds of riches struck me:

1:18 riches of his glorious inheritance

2:4 rich in mercy

2:7 incomparable riches of his grace

3:8 unsearchable riches of Christ

3:16 out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power

Look at this incredible prayer: 3:16- 19; what does he pray for them?

What does this mean “... to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ...” ?

In v. 19, “Know” means know intimately, have experienced

In 4:1-3, what does a life worthy of the calling look like?

humble, patient, unity with believers, peace, using the gifts given to us

(3 of these are fruits of the Spirit)

In 4:3-6, what are the things described as “one”?

One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

One God and Father of all

He describes some spiritual gifts in 4:11. What are they for?

prepare God’s people for works of service, to build up the body of Christ to maturity

What’s the benefit of maturity? v. 14

stability, honesty and boldness with others

What do you think is futile about the Gentile’s thinking? 4:17

Why is the former way of life so bad? v. 20 doesn’t lead to Christ

What are some things that should be put off and what should take their place in 4:25- 5:2 ?

From ch. 5, list some characteristics of unbelievers vs. God’s people

What is the “chain of command” or hierarchy in the family? 5: 21-6:4

Christ—husband—wife—children

How is authority shown? 5:25-30

What is the responsibility of children? fathers? slaves? masters? 6:1-4

Let’s talk about the armor 6:10-17. What is it for? v.10

Each piece of armor relates to some aspect of Jesus’ power or provision

Belt of truth: heavy belt made of bronze plates and leather—foundation on which

the sword, dagger, and metal apron were attached.

Supported the weapons that allowed a soldier to fight

Truth of Jesus and what he did is the foundation for our spiritual battle

Breastplate of righteousness: leather or bronze—protected the soldier’s vital organs

Our righteousness is worthless in battle—we must have the
righteousness of Jesus

Feet fitted with readiness: leather sandals with soles studded with
small nails for stability in combat, without which could be easily defeated

our preparation for battle is the gospel, so we can fight with confidence

shield of faith: 4 feet x 2 feet rectangular, wood covered with leather and with
brass rim, for individual protection, or if held overhead and overlapped,
could protect from flaming arrows coming down from walls

our faith in Jesus is our shield against the enemy’s weapons

helmet of salvation: bronze, essential for survival, protects our mind

salvation from God is our total source of deliverance. We cannot
deliver ourselves

sword of the spirit, word of God: the only offensive weapon

2 foot long double-edged sword—a deadly weapon

God’s word is a powerful weapon against our enemy

1st Timothy background

Timeline

Paul released, probably because accusers not there to press charges

Paul visits Ephesus, leaves Timothy there

Great Fire in Rome; major persecution begins

Paul probably in Macedonia

Who wrote it? Paul

About the epistle

Written to Timothy—a devout Jewish mother (Eunice), a Gentile father-- ? ever married

Because of his Gentile father, he would have been an outsider from the Jewish community all his life.

He wouldn't have been able to attend the Jewish school like all the other children.

He couldn't be circumcised or go to the synagogue or other religious gatherings.

Then he heard Paul's message about the Gentiles being allowed into this new community of believers.

From the town of Lystra, a Roman colony in the middle of nowhere

About 2,000 population, people called Lyconians

Remember Paul had been driven from Pisidian Antioch and had fled to Lystra,

where he healed a man, and they thought the gods had come. (Acts 14)

Then some Jews from Antioch walked 100 miles to cause trouble for Paul,

and won the crowd over.

Paul was stoned and dragged out of the town and left for dead.

What did Paul do then? He got up and WENT BACK INTO THE CITY!

He didn't leave until the next day.

Timothy was a boy in this town—he may have witnessed this incredible event.

At some point, Timothy's grandmother and mother became believers.

Later Paul returned.

God kept sending Paul to this remote area—why?

? For this one boy, this outsider, this nobody whose parents may not even have been married, but whom God had a great plan for.

Timothy becomes Paul's disciple, and leaves Lystra and goes with Paul.

He and Paul were so close, that Paul calls him "my dear son"

More timid than bold by nature

He and Luke were Paul's two most frequent companions, and Paul loved him like a son

He was in charge of the work at Ephesus and Asia Minor

He may have been a co-worker with John in the later years

Imprisoned at some point for the faith

A pastoral epistle: contains principles for pastoral care of churches and qualifications for ministry

1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus are the pastoral epistles

Written from Macedonia while Paul on his way to Nicopolis.

Timothy had been left at Ephesus to continue the work there, and Paul was expecting to be back soon, but detained, so wrote this letter of instruction to Timothy about the work he was supposed to do.

Ephesus became the geographic and numerical center of Christianity

Before his imprisonment, Paul had told the elders of the Ephesian church that he wouldn't see them again, but his plans changed and he did visit Ephesus again some time after his release from prison

About the church

Churches met in hundreds of homes, each with its own pastoral leadership

There must have been hundreds of pastors

Timothy's work was probably primarily with these elders and bishops

Ephesian church had a very large number of converts, and had continued to grow

(50 years later, the # of Christians in Asia Minor had grown so much that the heathen temples were almost forsaken!)

The church had a well-developed program of charity work

False teachers were a problem, especially some strange teachings about apocryphal Jewish legends and OT genealogies

Hymenaeus and Alexander were two of the leaders of this group

Paul withdrew church membership from them

Alexander, who may have been Paul's friend earlier, may have gone to Rome
to testify against Paul

A form of Gnosticism developing, stressing:

learning of secret knowledge of God, which was more important than virtue;

the spiritual things of Scripture can only be understood by a select few;

evil in the world shows that God was not the only creator;

that the incarnation of Jesus is not to be believed because

Deity would never unite with something material like a body;

there is no resurrection of the body.

they said that "resurrection" was symbolic of learning the truth,

and that it happened at baptism

They were teaching abstinence from meat and from married sex

(like some modern practices of no meat on Fridays, or celibacy,

or ideas that sex is "dirty" even in the marriage relationship)

Difficult passages

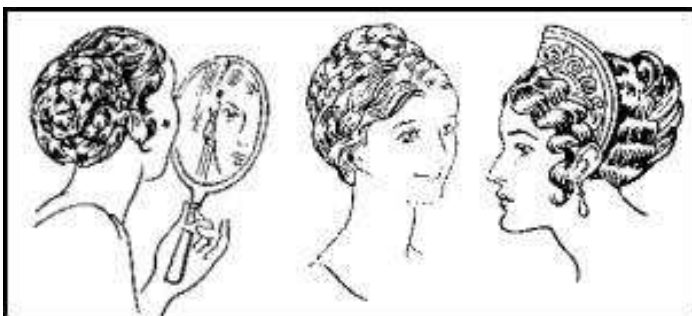
2:9 these things are not wrong in and of themselves; but some women were doing their hair in

elaborate styles involving braids interwoven with pearls and strands of gold,

which would take an inordinate amount of time to do, which time would be better

spent doing good deeds. Less focus on the outer person and more on the good things

that would be a witness to others of your faith



2:12-15 Women not teaching—women not to usurp the place of authority and leadership

given to men in the church because of God's choice of the order of creation

“Saved thru childbearing”—saved thru the birth of the Savior, who came into the world through a woman without the necessity for a man.

Can also mean saved from danger or suffering, as in being saved from the lack of fulfillment experienced in not having children.

Continuing in this faith, love, holiness, and propriety will save them from the dangers of too much devotion to themselves.

Could also mean that a woman's greatest achievement is found in devotion to her divinely ordained role of helping her husband, bearing children, and following a faithful and holy way of life

After the epistle

Timothy was eventually martyred under emperor Nerva or Domitian