

SESSION 10
EPHESIANS 3.1-6

Overarching Themes in Ephesians: "The Letter dwells profoundly upon the Person and Christ Jesus and The Church." RP Martin

Context For This Session: God's Process In Building His Church

Learning Targets For Enduring Understanding From This Session:

To understand the call and motivation of Paul the Apostle and learn from his example as a steward of God's grace

To be personally invested in the truth of the gospel, that you may carry forth God's grace into the world, advancing His Kingdom to the praise of His glory

V 1 How does Paul introduce this chapter?

How does Paul characterize his present situation as he pens this letter?

1 Pet 4.16,19

V 2 What does this verse tell us about Paul and the recipients of this letter?

How does Paul characterize his ministry?

What is a steward?

What therefore does Paul understand and why is this understanding important?

V 3-4 From these verses, what would you say is the engine of Paul's ministry?

V 5 How does Paul reflect upon history up to the time of his writing?

What do you think is the earliest hint given in the Scriptures regarding the inclusion of the Gentiles in the Church? Gen 12.2-3 Gal 3.6-9 Is 42.6 Is 49.6 Luke 2.29-32

What is the force of the "holy" in this verse?

What do you learn about Paul's view of himself in this verse?

V 6 What components of "the mystery" does Paul elucidate in this verse?

What Gentile predicament does this verse reflect back upon? Eph 2.12

Of what ultimate plan of God is the gospel a part? Eph 1.9-10

EPHESIANS 2

GOD'S PROCESS IN BUILDING HIS CHURCH

1. Your personal reconciliation to God in Christ Jesus through the shedding of Christ's blood purchasing for you the forgiveness of your sin

Response: Humility before God and thankfulness to God

2. Reconciliation to one another as we are all humbled by the grace of God in what it cost Him to purchase our forgiveness in Christ Jesus affording reconciliation to break out amongst us

Response: Humility in honoring one another, respecting one another, interceding for one another, serving one another, and praying for one another thereby uniting us together in the power of the Holy Spirit

3. Growth in to a holy temple in the Lord

Result: A celebration of God's artistry and design as the Church becomes precisely what she has been designed and predestined to become

4. God's descent into His dwelling place, the Church

Fact: Though God fills the universe and transcends time, He chooses His Church, a specific people in a specific place in time and space, through whom He manifests Himself and His manifold wisdom to the world.

The Cross is always central to the Church, because without the recognition of our need for God's forgiveness of personal sin, we are not reconciled to God and we are certainly not reconciled to one another; without the centrality of the Cross there will be ongoing hurt and conflict. Where the Cross is central, Christ is central. Where Christ is central, therein the glory of God dwells. So the Cross-centered, Christ-centered Church is the place of God's choosing, the place of His design, the place of His rest, and the place of His revelation of Himself to the world. Revival comes when God's cascading grace from above fills the Church and overflows her walls generating rivers of living water, streams of His prevenient grace, affording the salvation of souls and the growth of His Kingdom.