

2. Paul spent three years with the Ephesian Christians. Review Acts 19 for some background. Paul's letter to the Ephesians deals with God's Holy Church which is created in Christ and saved by grace (justification) chapters 1-3 to do good works (sanctification) chapters 4-6. The letter begins by expounding on God's eternal plan of salvation, then Paul urges the Ephesians on the basis of God's grace and salvation to live according to such a high calling. Read Eph 4:11-16. List at least three purposes for Christian education.

(Agree or Disagree): The different roles for a man and woman in marriage (Eph 5:22-26) imply inferiority and superiority. Defend your answer.

**Some Key Passages:**

Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9; 2:19-20; 4:11-12; 4:32; 5:22-26; 6:4; 6:10,11

3. Philippians. Review Acts 16 to see how the church began at Philippi. The Philippians supported Paul in his journeys. He now writes to them from prison in Rome (about 63 AD). Paul's letter speaks of the joy that is ours in Christ. Explain how that joy is ours:

1:3-5 with fellow partners in the gospel

2:5 with a Christ-like attitude

3:17-21 with our special citizenship

4:4-7 with an all surpassing peace

4:12 with the "secret of being content"

How does 2:13 help explain what is meant by 2:12?

**Some Key Passages:**

Philippians 1:21; 2:5-11; 4:4,7

4. Colossians was written to a church not founded by Paul. He hadn't ever met them in person. Paul writes about the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ. Colossians 2:6-23 is one of the primary places in this letter where Paul addresses the Colossian heresy. Comment on the following:

2:8 philosophy vs. the Word of Christ

2:9 the divine nature of Christ

2:10 what we have through faith

2:11-13 circumcision (OT ceremonial law)

2:15 The defeat of Satan and his demons

2:16 diet, festivals, Sabbaths (OT ceremonial law)

2:20-23 human commands and asceticism

Read Colossians 3:12-17. Describe Christian living and its basis.

**Some Key Passages:**

Colossians 2:9; 3:12-17

5. Consider The short letter to Philemon was written also from Rome. Tychicus took the letters to the Ephesian and Colossian Christians. Onesimus the slave went with him to deliver this letter also to his master. In what way did Philemon owe Paul his very self (1:19)? List some of the reasons that Paul sent Onesimus back.

Identify at least two important truths that apply to your life from this brief letter.

6. 1 Thessalonians was written from Corinth not too long after Paul was forced to abandon Thessalonica due to strong opposition during his second missionary journey. His brief stay, had a strong and lasting impact through the gospel. A model congregation, the Thessalonians turned from idols to the living God. Reread 1:3 and then 1:4-10 What things demonstrated faith, love, and hope among them?

7. Chapters 1-3 deal with Paul's response to an update on the Thessalonians. Identify several things which demonstrate a pastor's heart for his flock.

List the various commands which Paul gives this "model congregation."

*Some Key Passages:*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14



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# CHALLENGE

*“Every word of God is flawless;  
he is a shield to those  
who take refuge in him.”*

You can still participate even if you did not read the previous weeks reading section.

We'll begin with time for sharing questions and comments on the reading section.

1. Galatians 5-6 Paul spends much of this letter defending the truth that we are saved through faith alone apart from works. What does 5:4 say about trying to be saved by "grace + works"? How do good works fit in the life of a believer according to chapters 5 and 6?