

Ephesians ¾ Review

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 11-18-15

Outline

1. New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)
2. The New Society (2:11-3:21)
3. New Standards - unity and purity (4:1-5:21)
4. New Relationships (5:21-6:24)

New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)

- 1:3-14 - Triune formation of God's new community
 - Blessed with every spiritual blessing - Past (election/predestination), present (adoption), and future (unification). Scope - includes Gentiles
 - Father is the source
 - Son is the sphere
 - Adoption has privileges and responsibilities
 - HS is the seal and pledge
- 1:15-23 - Paul's prayer for the Ephesians
 - "eyes enlightened"
 - To know: "the hope of God's call" to an altogether new life in Christ; "the glorious riches of God's inheritance" - not specifics, but the worth; and "the greatness of God's power"
- 2:1-10 - Before and after Jesus
 - Vv. 1-3 - We were all dead, enslaved, condemned
 - Vv. 4-10 - what man can become by grace

The New Society (2:11-3:21)

- 2:11-22 - A Single New Humanity
 - The Gentile condition (v. 12) - Double alienation - from God and from Israel
 - God's solution - Double reconciliation
- 3:1-13 - Paul's Unique Privilege
 - Received a revelation and a commission
 - The role of the church
- 3:14-21 - Paul's Second Prayer
 - Prays in light of what he has said about the mystery of Christ in the church
 - That they may be: strengthened, rooted and grounded, and made holy - all to the glory of God

New Standards - unity and purity (4:1-5:21) - Pivot point in the book: from theology to practice

- 4:1-16 - General principle = the oneness of God's new society. Expressed in 4 statements
 - It arises out of the *unity* of God (vv. 3-6)
 - It depends on the *charity* of our character and conduct (v. 2)
 - It is enriched by the *diversity* of our gifts (vv. 7-13)

- It demands the *maturity* of our growth (vv. 13-16)
- 4:17-5:4 - A New Set of Clothes. The purity/holiness of God's new society.
 - The pagan life (vv. 17-19) - "futility of mind"
 - "because of the hardness of their heart" - stubborn will
 - "being darkened in their understanding" - dimness of mind
 - "excluded from the life of God" - alienated from life
 - "having become callous" - blindness, loss of sensitivity
 - "given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness" - loss of all self-control
 - The Christian life (vv. 20-24) - "you did not learn Christ in this way"
 - Radical change: conversion (from human side) and re-creation (from divine side)
 - A continuous inward renewal of our outlook
- 4:25-5:4 - Our new clothes:
 - 6 concrete examples:
 - Don't tell lies, but rather tell the truth
 - Don't lose your temper, rather ensure that your anger is righteous
 - Don't steal, rather work and give
 - Don't use your mouth for evil, but rather for good
 - Don't be unkind or bitter, but rather kind and loving
 - Don't joke about sex, but rather give thanks for it
 - *Don't grieve the Spirit*
 - Live a life that is "worthy" (4:1) and "fitting" (5:3) among the saints
- 5:5-21 - Incentives for righteous living
 - The certainty of judgement (vv. 5-7)
 - The fruit of light (vv. 8-14)
 - The nature of wisdom (vv. 15-17)
 - The fullness of the Spirit (vv. 18-21)
 - 2 imperatives & 4 present participles

New life.

New society.

New standards.

Next: new relationships.