

Sermon Notes

Introduction to the Book of Ephesians

Ephesians is not a long book. It's only 6 chapters, 155 verses that take less than 20 minutes to read. But a careful reading of Ephesians quickly reveals that Paul can barely contain himself. It seems his heart is bursting with glorious truth of what God has set in motion in Christ. Nothing can compare with the glory of what God has planned from before the foundation of the world. No words can fully express the glory of what God is now doing through Christ. Human language seems inadequate to communicate God's glorious purposes for the people He is redeeming, renaming, and using to reveal His glory. Stretching from before the foundation of the world into eternity to come, what the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write challenged the categories of his mind and was beyond anything he could imagine.

Ephesians has been called, "the divinest composition of man" (Coleridge), "the Queen of the Epistles" (Barclay), and the greatest piece of writing in all of history" (Carver). Lofty words, indeed!

Kent Hughes says, "Ephesians—carefully, reverently, prayerfully considered—will change our lives. It is not so much a question of what we will do with the epistle, but what it will do with us."

It is our prayer that through our study of this great epistle, *that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph 3:16–19)*

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Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

After reading through Ephesians a few times this week, what portions of the book are you most looking forward to exploring in this sermon series? Why?

Which portions are you anticipating the Lord using to confront/encourage/challenge/grow you in his grace? How can your group pray for you in this way?

Who is one person you could reach out to and invite to come and share in this teaching series? How can your group pray for that?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.*

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship
Katie Austin: Children's Ministry
Coordinator

Contact Us

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www.westwoodfamily.org

Upcoming Events

TODAY - Trail Life Cake Auction
Jan 25 - Tea & Prayer for India
Jan 27 - GriefShare begins
Feb 1 - Sportsman's Banquet
Feb 2 - CentriKid Info Meeting
Feb 6 - Ladies Bible Study
Feb 14-15 - Marriage Retreat

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