



Ephesians Notes

Chapter 1 - The Salvation of the Church



Chapter Summary

In this chapter we will look at the work of the Triune God in the Creation of His Church. The Father plans it, the son purchases it, and the Spirit preserves it. As you teach through this chapter make sure to stay focused on the work of God in saving His church. The grace that He showed towards us and the worship that should be in us as benefactors of this amazing work of God.

Leader Instruction

This may be a difficult chapter to teach because of questions and debates that may arise or your own internal struggle with how this all works. I encourage all groups to just stay focused on that active work of God in our salvation and how exciting that it is that God would do such an amazing work in choosing us, paying for us, and preserving us. As you study the notes pray for help from the Holy Spirit on what sections your group needs to focus on and do not try to answer all the questions that could arise if you do not know that answer. As leaders approach it humbly, doctrinally, and unapologetically.

Note: This is just an outline of the chapter please study and be creative in your presentation and discussion.



Ephesians Notes

Date: April 19th, 2009

Connection Group Notes

Location: Phoenix, AZ

Intro:

1. In most of his letters Paul begins with doctrinal knowledge or orthodoxy and ends with practical knowledge or orthopraxy. As we study Ephesians the first three chapters deal with doctrine (the calling and salvation of the church) and the last three chapters with application (the conduct and actions of the church).
 - 1.1. **Question:** What would you say you need the most growth in Doctrine or Practice or Both?
 - 1.2. **Question:** Why do you feel Paul starts the book with Doctrine first?

Ephesians 1

- I. THE Salvation OF His Church (1:1–14): The entire Trinity was involved.
 - A. It was **planned** by the Father (1:1–6).
 1. He blessed us (1:1–3).
 2. He selected us (1:4).
 3. He adopted us (1:5–6).

A few biblical reasons to rejoice in election:

“Try to explain election and you may lose your mind. But try to explain it away and you may lose your soul!”



- Election ensures that our salvation depends on mercy, not ourselves:
 - "It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy" (Rom. 9:16).
- Election establishes grace:
 - "So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace, then it is no longer works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace" (Rom. 11:6).
- Election accords with God's plan to make us holy and blameless:
 - "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight." (Eph. 1:4)
- Election coincides with the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit:
 - "To God's elect, strangers in the world... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood" (1 Pet. 1:1-2).
 - "But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth" (2 Thes. 2:13).

INSTRUCTIONS TO LEADER: As you teach through the doctrine of election and God adopting us do not let it become a point of division. Just remind the group that scripture would teach this to excite the church about the work that God has done for them and we need to rejoice not divide. If you see discussion start to drift make sure to unite everyone around this truth.

- That salvation begins with God, and not with man, all Christians will agree. "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you" (John 15:16). The lost sinner, left to his own ways, does not seek God (Rom. 3:10–11); There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. (Proverbs 14:12) God in His love seeks the sinner (Luke 19:10).
- Note that God chose us even before He created the universe, so that our salvation is wholly of His grace and not on the basis of anything we ourselves have done. He chose us in Christ, not in ourselves. And He chose us for a purpose: to be holy



and without blame.

B. It was **purchased** by the Son (1:7–12).

1. What Jesus did (1:7–10)
 - a. He redeemed us by his blood (1:7–8).
 - b. He will someday gather us in His name (1:9–10).
2. Why Jesus did it (1:11–12): That we might give praise to God.

C. It is **preserved** by the Spirit (1:13–14).

1. What the Holy Spirit does (1:13): His presence serves as a special seal on our heart.
2. Why the Holy Spirit does it (1:14): His presence guarantees our eternal security.