

One Bible, One Story

New Testament Survey - Core@9 - March 17, 2013

Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon ***Paul's Prison Epistles***

Review Galatians

Stephanie so beautifully led us through the themes of Galatians focusing on God's unconditional love for us and the incomplete nature of the Law.

I. Introduction

A bit of personal disclosure.

II. The Ancient Cities of Ephesus and Colosse, an Historical Geographical Perspective

1. Ephesus was a city of great importance in the ancient/apostolic world and for both Paul and John in particular.
 - a. Scripture is grounded in the "here and now", it has place and time.
 - b. Ephesus and Colosse (about 120 miles to the east and a little south), were part of Roman Empire.
 - c. Acts 19:23-41 story of Demetrius the silversmith.
2. The Great Theatre, Arcadian Avenue, the Temple of Artemis
 - a. a culture steeped in polytheism and multi-cultural in nature
3. Market Place, Library and Institutions of higher learning
 - a. cosmopolitan, international importance, sophisticated

III. The Heart of Paul

I can almost hear the voice of Paul pleading in the books of Ephesians and Colossians to remember the power of Christ, and reflect His character. The entire theme of Ephesians seems to be a portrait of the Body of Christ.

IV. Themes in Ephesians, Paul's desire for his children

Gifts of the Saints through Jesus

chapter 1

- Prayers for fellow believers in Christ
- God's work of grace

chapter 2

- From Death to Life
- We are all made one in Jesus

chapter 3

- The mystery of the Gentiles revealed
- The Power of Love in Christ

chptr 4

- Unity in the Church
- Righteous Living in Christ

chptr 5

- Children of light vs. Children of darkness
- Living in Submission to Christ

chptr 6

- Obedience to those in authority
- Fighting the fight with God's armor

IV. Themes in Colossians

Come into "complete knowledge of God's will. (Col 1:9-12)

chapter 1

- Come into complete knowledge of God's will
- A review of Christ's amazing work

chptr 2

- Christ holds hidden treasure
- Christ, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else

chptr 3

- Becoming like Christ
- The new "10 commandments" or garments of Christianity

chptr 4

- A plea for prayer (with an alert mind and thankful heart)
- Final words of love and desire

V. Themes in Philemon

An appeal for Onesimus

VI. Focus passage - Ephesians 4:17-23

Given what we have learned about the culture of Ephesus, how does it compare to our own culture today and how does that shed light on our focus passage?

How can we live as children of the light? (Eph. 5:8) What spiritual practices do you use to open yourselves to the light and keep your hearts tender towards the things of God cooperating with the Holy Spirit each day?