

Summary of Ephesians

Notes for 23 Sep

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Read: [Ephesians](#), [Acts 19](#), [Rev 2:1-7](#)

I was asked to do a summary of the Epistle to Ephesians. Paul is a prisoner, chained to a soldier. Timing is around 60-62 AD, so it is not so long before his death. He knows that fact (Agabus prophesied it in Acts 21:10-11), and this is a good time to write a word of encouragement to people who were dear to him.

The above passages mainly focus on the church of Ephesus. They are well-known to most readers, and probably we could spend hours on just each of them. Because it is a summary, I don't think we will study everything in great detail because there won't be enough time to do it.

Question to discuss:

1. While you read the epistle, try to think of the main themes of the letter.
 - Is there any topic you will not find in any other epistle?
 - Why do you think Paul decided to compose his writing that way?
 - What do you think these themes were based on?
2. If someone asked you "is it worth studying the book of Ephesians over other NT books?", how would you encourage that person to do so?
 - Is Ephesians important to understand?
 - How is it relevant or not relevant for us today?
 - What do you think is a big idea of the Ephesians? (core message)
 - Can you find the gospel in Ephesians if this would be the only piece of Scripture you possess?
3. I am sure there are many parts of the epistle which are well-known, but I venture to say that chapters 2:1-10, and the second part of chapter 6 are probably the best known by far.
 - Was it a problem in this church regarding the way it works? Why yes or no?
 - Do we, as Christians, still have a problem between works and faith?
 - Can we have faith only or works only?
 - Can works help us with our salvation or prevent us from it if we are saved by faith only?
 - Look at the chapters 4, 5, and first part of chapter 6. What are they talking about? Why do you think Paul "jumped" to the conclusion of Armour of God after what he wrote in those chapters?
 - Is the metaphor of full armour still relevant in 21st century world? Why yes or no?
4. While reading chapter by chapter, idea by idea, is there anything you struggle to understand, something you find difficult to explain, or you feel your ideas don't have firm ground to stand on?

5. What are the "dangerous" ideas "hidden" in the epistle to Ephesians?
 - Subjects that are controversial within the Christian community
 - Slaves, submission of wives to husbands, etc.
6. Read the passage in Rev 2:1-7. Is it just a metaphor/vision of the church of Ephesus regarding the future or is there a lesson hidden in these verses?
 - How accurate is the above passage with the condition of the church in Ephesus? (do we have any record?)
 - How accurate is the above passage with the condition of today's Christianity; your own church; and even further, with your own state of heart?
7. How relevant is the epistle to Ephesians, especially to you? Do you find it compelling in your search for God in your life?

As you can see, the first two questions can be taken as summary questions. Further ones can be taken as singular subjects. I am not sure whether we even scratch them at all, but I find it difficult to create all the discussion around summary of 155 verses.