

# Bethel Bible Series

## The Church

### New Testament Week 15

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - Why is it important to live godly lives now if faith is the only thing needed for eternal life?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

## Review of Last Week - 1 & 2 Corinthians

Corinth

Fourth largest city in the Roman empire (after Rome, Alexandria & Antioch)

50 mi west of Athens, capital of Achaia (Southern Greece), major trade port

Paul's Second Journey

Paul met Aquila & Priscilla in Corinth, stayed & worked with them

Paul stayed 1½ years, despite threats by Jews, God promised to protect him there

Paul returned to Antioch, left Aquila & Priscilla in Ephesus

Apollos was trained by Aquila & Priscilla, Sent to Corinth

Paul's Third Journey

Antioch to Galatia/Phrygia, Ephesus for 2 years, then 3 months in Corinth

*Structures in Background* = The city of Corinth

*Green Vapors & Ominous Sky* = Idolatry, immorality & paganism filled Corinth

*Group of People* = Corinthian Church existed in the midst of this culture

First Corinthians

*Column on Right* = Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth

Written Spring 57 from Ephesus, Winter plans for Corinth, Sent letter ahead with Timothy

*Columns are Separated* = Church rebuked for allowing worldly factions

Heard of divisions; Follow Paul, Apollos, Peter, Christ; Fellow workers

*Figure Holding Books* = Warns against undue emphasis upon worldly wisdom

Greeks loved to philosophize, God's foolishness is wiser than man's wisdom

*Figure in Dark Cloak* = Deep concern over open immorality within the church

Incest problem, Church told to act quickly, Avoid wicked "Christians"

*Figure Holding Gavel* = Folly of lawsuits between believers

Disputes between Christians should be decided by Christians

*Woman in Wedding Veil* = Counsel given on marriage and divorce

Stay single unless you can't control yourself; If married, stay married

*Stone on Monument Edge* = Don't let Christian Liberty be a stumbling block

Don't do anything that causes brother to stumble; Do all to the glory of God

*Figure with Clasped Hands* = All temptations can be resisted with God's power

No new temptations, God won't let you be tempted beyond your means

*Figure Holding Chalice & Bread* = Speaks against misuse of the Lord's Supper

Don't sin against body & blood of Christ (wait for others, don't get drunk)

*Figure with Multicolored Garment* = Church is a body with different members

Parts arranged as God wants, Parts are dependent & vital to each other

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Review of Last Week - First Corinthians (continued)

*Prism on Manuscript* = People are given gifts to build Christ's body

Different kinds of gifts, but the same Lord

*Figure Aiding Fallen Person* = Love is the prime virtue of the Christian life

These 3 remain: faith, hope & love. The greatest is love.

*Figure with Hand at Forehead* = Answers questions about the resurrected body

Christ is proof resurrection exists; Earthly body is seed to heavenly body

Second Corinthians

*Dual Columns* = Paul's Second Letter to the Church at Corinth

Written Fall 57 from Macedonia on way to Corinth, Sent letter with Titus

*Descending Dove on Column* = God's grace is sufficient for all things

God gives comfort during trouble & strength in difficult situations

*Crown on Column* = Those in Christ become new creatures

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation

*Grain Sheaf on Column* = Motives and attitudes about true Christian giving

Reap what you sow, Be a cheerful giver

## Lesson - The Church

Ephesus

Capital of Roman province of Asia, Nearly as large as Corinth

Harbor town on Aegean Sea, Connected by highways to major trade routes

Very wealthy city with running water & 24,000 seat theater

Temple of Artemis (Diana) - One of the Seven Wonders of the World

Paul's Second Journey

Acts 18:18-19 = Paul left Corinth, stopped at Ephesus and left Aquila & Priscilla

Acts 18:20-21 = Went to synagogue, declined offer to stay, left planning to return

Acts 18:24-28 = Apollos was trained by A&P, then went to work in Corinth

1 Corinthians 6:12 = Apollos returned to Ephesus and was there when Paul wrote to Corinth

Paul's Third Journey

Acts 18:23 = Paul left Antioch and traveled throughout Galatia and Phrygia

Acts 19:1-7 = Paul arrived in Ephesus and immediately converted twelve men

Acts 19:8-10 = Taught in synagogue 3 months, then in a lecture hall for 2 years

Acts 19:11-12 = Paul performed many miracles and healings

Acts 19:13-20 = Story of 7 sons of priest trying to exorcise demon

Acts 19:23-41 = Story of uprising by silversmiths for Temple of Artemis

Acts 19:21-22 = Paul decided to go through Greece on way to Jerusalem

Acts 20:1 = After silversmith uprising, Paul left for Macedonia, Sent Timothy with letters

Acts 20:13-16 = Paul purposely sailed past Ephesus to avoid delay to Jerusalem

Acts 20:17-18, 25, 28, 32 = Paul sent for Ephesian elders and gave goodbye blessings

Acts 20:36-38 = Emotional goodbyes

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### Ephesus (continued)

#### Paul in Rome

Acts 21:33; 24:1; 25:12 = Paul arrested, tried before Festus, appealed to Caesar

Acts 28:16, 30-31 = Paul held under house arrest for 2 years in Rome

#### Occasion of the Letter

Ephesians 6:19-20 = Written while Paul was imprisoned in Rome

Ephesians 6:21-22 = Sent via Tychicus with letters to Colossians & Philemon

(See also Colossians 4:7-14 and Philemon 10-12, 23-24)

### The Church

#### What is the Church?

Ekklesia = Greek word for church (Ek - Out, Kaleo - To Call)

Those who are called out = Never used in Bible for a building

#### The Old Testament Church

Deuteronomy 7:6 = God's chosen people

Isaiah 42:6 = Israel was called to be a light to the Gentiles

Matthew 21:43 = God's kingdom will be given to a people who will produce fruit

Galatians 3:26-29 = If you belong to Christ, you are Abraham's seed

### Outline of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

#### Spiritual Blessings

1:1-2 Salutation

1:3-14 All Things Are United in Christ

1:15-23 Thanksgiving and Prayer

#### All, Including Gentiles, Can Be The Church

2:1-10 Saved by Grace Through Faith

2:11-22 One in Christ (Gentile & Jew Reconciled)

3:1-13 Paul's Calling to Reveal God's Mystery to the Gentiles

3:14-21 Paul's Prayer that the Ephesians Understand this Mystery

#### Life in the Church

4:1-16 Maintain the Unity in Christ's Body

4:17-5:20 Living as a Member of Christ's Body

5:21-6:9 Christian Relationships at Home and at Work

6:10-18 The Church's Armor

#### Concluding Remarks

6:19-20 Prayer Requests

6:21-24 Final Greetings

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### *The Church - Picture Concepts*

*People* = The church is a people

Acts 14:27 = *On arriving, they gathered the church together ...*

Colossians 4:15 = *Greet ... Nympha and the church in her house.*

*Uplifting Hands* = The church is a people that is born, nurtured and sustained by God

John 15:16 = *I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit*

Ephesians 4:11-13 = *He gave gifts to prepare people and build up the Church*

*Scroll in Crown* = The church is a people that shares the Abrahamic Mission

Acts 3:25-26 = *God sent Christ to bless the Church so it can be a blessing*

Ephesians 2:19-20 = *You're members of God's house, built on apostles & prophets*

*Servant Seal on Scroll & Clothing* = Church is servant people imitating Jesus' life

Matthew 20:26-28 = *the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve*

1 Corinthians 4:1 = *men ought to regard us as servants of Christ ...*

Ephesians 5:21 = *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

*Crown* = Church is a people that takes its directives from Christ, its head

Ephesians 1:22-23 = *God appointed him as head of the church, which is his body*

Ephesians 4:15-16 = *From Christ, the Head, the body grows and builds itself up*

*Ray of Light* = Church is a people who receive Christ's love and live it

John 15:12 = *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

Ephesians 5:1-2 = *Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us*

*Trumpet* = Church is the proclaiming agency of God's purpose and will

Ephesians 3:10-11 = *God's intent was that the Church should reveal His wisdom*

*Silhouetted Sphere* = Church is a people looking ahead to a second world

John 14:2-3 = *I go to prepare a place for you ... you also may be where I am*

Romans 6:5 = *If we unite with him in death, we will also be united in resurrection*

Ephesians 2:6 = *God raised us up with Christ ... in the heavenly realms*

*Ethnic Mixture* = Church is a Reconciled People, Gathered & Reunited With God & Each Other

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 = *God has reconciled us to himself & given us the message*

Ephesians 2:14-16 = *He made the two one and reconciled both to God*

*Cross on Scroll* = Church is a Redemptive Agency in its world

2 Corinthians 2:15-16 = *We are the aroma of Christ among those being saved*

Ephesians 1:13-14 = *You were marked guaranteeing inheritance of redemption*

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 15 and Assignment 16

Next Week - 1 and 2 Timothy