

Bethel Bible Series

The Church

NT Study 15

*What keeps people together? Forgiveness.
What keeps the church together? Forgiveness of sins. - PK*

Welcome

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), Major Greek center
Paul's Second Journey - Stayed 1½ years, God promised to protect him, Worked with Aquilla & Priscilla
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 and Ominous Sky = Idolatry, immorality and 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 and Bread = Speaks against misuse of the Lord's Supper
Don't sin against body and 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 and vital to each other

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 and 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

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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 and 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 and 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 and Priscilla

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

Acts 18:24-28 = Apollos was trained by Aquila and Priscilla, then went to work in Corinth

1 Corinthians 16:12 = 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 19:21-22 = Paul decided to go through Greece on way to Jerusalem

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

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

Acts 20:16 = On way back, Paul purposely sailed past Ephesus to avoid delay to Jerusalem

Acts 20:17-18, 25, 28, 32 (17-35) = Paul sent for Ephesian elders, gave goodbye blessings

Acts 20:36-38 = Emotional goodbyes

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 and Philemon

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

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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 and 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

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 and prophets

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Servant Seal on Scroll and Clothing = Church is a 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 and Reunited With God and Each Other

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 = God has reconciled us to himself and 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

Redemptive Activities

Distributor of God's Compassion

1 John 3:16-18 = Love not just in words, but in action – as Christ laid down His life for us

Duplicator of God's Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 = *Forgive each other, just as Christ in God forgave you*

Mediator of God's Love

John 13:34-35 = *Men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another*

Embodiment of God's Justice

Micah 6:8 = God requires us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 15 and Assignment 16

Next Week - 1 and 2 Timothy