



# The Park Church: Corporate Bible Study

BIBLE JOURNEY: THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

LESSON 2: AUTHORITY AND POWER

LESSON 3: AUTHOR AND AUDIENCE

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# Reflection: Looking Back - Moving Forward

## Looking back:

### Overview of Ephesians

Paul writes to a church who is rooted in the surrounding culture that includes layers of:

- Polytheistic religion (many gods versus the one true God)
- Pagan philosophy

Paul had to bring this church up to speed on the personhood and accomplished purpose of Jesus Christ. While believers, they were still believing only the preaching and teachings of John the Baptist and had not as of yet been introduced to the Holy Spirit.

## Moving Forward:

### ▶ Authority and Power

- ▶ False teaching and teachers trying to mimic the power of God and authority of Jesus without possessing the Holy Spirit and the authority He provides

### ▶ Author and Audience

- ▶ The issue of unity among a diverse group of believers



**For Studio P ONLY:**

# Getting Started Introduction video

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS LESSON 2 & 3

GETTING STARTED INTRODUCTION [VIDEO]

# In Christ (before and after)

In the beginning of chapter 2 Paul describes for us what it meant to be dead in our transgressions and sins. Before Christ in our lives, we had these tendencies:

- Followed the ways of the world
- Obeyed the spirit of disobedience
- Gratified the cravings of the flesh

But God made us alive with Christ through faith in His finished work

- By grace we have been saved
- We are now seated with him in heavenly places
- For we are now God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works by the power of God now living in us

# We now have Peace with God

## “PEACE” IN EPHESIANS

PEACE	EPHESIANS
OPENING AND GREETING IN PEACE	1:1-23
THE HUMAN CONDITION OF DEATH AND ESTRANGEMENT/HOSTILITY, AND THE DIVINE SOLUTION OF LIFE AND PEACE	2:1-22
PAUL'S ROLE, AND PRAYER FOR THE EPHESIANS, IN GOD'S PEACE MISSION	3:1-21
THE CHURCH AS A PLACE OF UNITY AND PEACE	4:1-6:9
THE CHURCH AND PAUL AS PROCLAIMERS OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE	6:10-22
CLOSING IN PEACE TO ALL	6:23-24

# We Received this Peace Thru Grace

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.* Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

<b>Ephesians 2:8-9</b>	<b>Major Letters</b>
For it is by grace	Romans 3:24, 11:6
you have been saved,	Galatians 2:6, Romans 5:1, 9
through faith—	Galatians 2:16
and this is not from yourselves,	Romans 4:16
it is the gift of God—	Romans 3:24
not by works,	Romans 3:20, 4:2
so that no one can boast.	1 Corinthians 1:29

# Peace and Unity

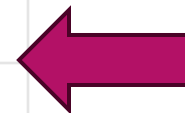
We can also see Ephesians 4:4-6 as a summary statement on peace and unity in Christ:

*“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”* Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV)

We can see from the table on the following slide that the theme of peace and unity in the church is not new to Paul as he has emphasized those tenets throughout his epistles. With the Church being inhabited by Jews and Gentiles bond, and free it was and was essential for the bond of peace to be preached and practiced both then and now.

# The Theme of Peace and Unity among the body of Christ

Ephesians 4:4-6	Major Letters
There is one body	Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 10:17, 12:12
and one Spirit,	1 Corinthians 12:4, 13
just as you were called	1 Corinthians 7:20
when you were called;	1 Corinthians 7:20
one Lord,	1 Corinthians 8:6, 12:5
one baptism;	1 Corinthians 12:13
one God	1 Corinthians 6:6, 12:6
and Father of all,	1 Corinthians 8:6; cf Romans 9:5
who is over all.	Romans 9:5; cf Romans 11:36
and through all	Romans 11:36
and in all.	Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 12:6



Note: While there is debate among biblical scholars as to the Pauline authorship of Ephesians the comparisons found in the book with other passages in Paul's letters to other churches lends strong credence to Pauline authorship

# Authority and Power

As we move further in our study, we also see in Paul's stay in Ephesus that he had to tackle local pagan beliefs and practices and show that they really had no power in contrast to the power of God.

Naming the names of spiritual forces or beings was one way of doing magic in the Greco-Roman world. Lists of names were circulated and repeated in moments of need in order to manipulate celestial powers. References to this practice have been found on ancient magical papyri:

*I conjure you by the great names.*

*You, these holy names and these powers, confirm and carry out this perfect enchantment.*

*A phylactery, a bodyguard against demons, against phantasms, against every sickness and suffering .... When worn it works mightily, for it is the name of power of the great god and his seal, and it is as follows: [fourteen magical names are given].*

For additional background let's view the following lecture.

# For Studio P ONLY:

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS LESSON 2 & 3

BEHIND | ARTEMIS/DIANA (ACTS 19) LECTURE – 4 MIN [VIDEO]

# There is no Power but of God

*“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”* Ephesians 1: 18-23

Notice Paul’s comment about Christ being “far above ... every name that is named” while keeping in mind the Ephesians’ preoccupation with magic and celestial powers.

Rather than debunking this practice of naming of magical names in this passage, Paul simply insists that Christ is, and always will be, far above them. Christ is in the celestial realm, “the heavenly places,” and he towers over any divine power the people have yet imagined.

# For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...

12

In ancient Greece, magic rituals, sacrifices, and even magic words were used to combat the forces of the universe. As desperate as these approaches may seem to us today, they provided a sense of security and control, and may have comforted those who knew nothing better. With this in mind, read the following verses:

*“<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV)*

Our charge is to stand against and not run from evil forces. How and Why?

# For Studio P ONLY:

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS LESSON 2 & 3  
BEHIND | ROMAN MILITARY SYMBOLISM  
LECTURE – 3 MIN [VIDEO]

# For Studio P ONLY:

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS LESSON 2 & 3

BEHIND | THE RAMIFICATIONS OF ROMAN ARMOR

LECTURE – 3 MIN [VIDEO]

# Defense

15

*<sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, Ephesians 6: 13-17a)*

*Four pieces of our armor are for defensive purposes.*

# Offense

16

<sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6: 17)

<sup>12</sup> *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)*

# Take it Up and use it!

The one piece of armor that is both offensive and defensive that the Lord has supplied us with is the sword, which is the Word of the living God.

When we go into battle, and that is on a daily basis saints, we don't beat our enemy with our shield or try to defeat him with our belt or chase him down with our sandals or throw our helmet at him. We pull our sword out of its sheath and we use it.

Ephesians 6:17 tells us to take up the sword of the Spirit. When we are tempted, the most effective weapon that God has given to us as believers is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.



**For Studio P ONLY:**

Wrap up conclusion

LESSON 2 & 3 AUTHORITY & POWER

1 MIN [VIDEO]