

Ephesians and Colossians

God Has a Plan

Lesson 1 Eph. 1 & Col. 1:15-20, 26-28

Section 1: Read Ephesians 1:1-8

1. The author of Ephesians introduced himself as Paul, an apostle of Christ. By whose authority/will did Paul become an apostle?
2. a. Where was the apostle Paul when he wrote to encourage and admonish the saints at Ephesus (Eph. 3:1; 4:1)?
b. Recall a time when someone encouraged you even though they were involved in a great trial of their own.
3. a. Paul often referred to “saints” in Ephesians (1:1, 15, 18; 3:18; 6:18) and Colossians (1:4, 12, 26). In the verses below what are some blessings of being a saint?
I Sam. 2:9 _____
Psalm 34:9 _____
Rom. 8:27 _____
Col. 1:26 _____
Jude 3 _____
b. Share which blessings of being a saint encourage you the most. Why?
4. a. List several things Paul said God has blessed you with in verses 3-8.
b. Discuss how one of these blessings affects your daily walk with the Lord.

Section 2: Read Ephesians 1:7-12 & Colossians 1:26-28

5. What is God’s plan/will that is mentioned in Ephesians 1:9-10?

6. a. How is the mystery mentioned defined by the following scriptures?
Rom. 16:25-26 _____
Eph. 3:6 _____
Col. 1:26-28 _____
I Tim. 3:16 _____
- b. In your own words, state what the mystery is.

Section 3: Read Ephesians 1:13-14

7. What is the role of each of the following in the fulfillment of God's plan?
- The Father's part (3-6).
 - Jesus' part (7-12).
 - The Spirit's part (13-14).
 - Your part (12-13).
8. a. Give the dictionary definition of "deposit."
- b. What does the deposit of the Holy Spirit guarantee?
- c. Using your experience in the world of "putting down a deposit," describe what the Holy Spirit has done for you.

Section 4: Read the prayer offered up for the saints by Paul in Ephesians 1:15-23

9. a. What had Paul heard about the Christians in Ephesus and what response had this evoked from him?
- b. Share a time in your life that you had a similar response to believers with these characteristics.
- 10.a. About what 3 things did Paul pray the Ephesians would be enlightened?

10.b. Stop now and pray these three things for your group. How do you expect God to bring about the changes for which you have prayed?

Section 5: Read Ephesians 1:19-23 and Colossians 1:15-20

11.a What did God put under Christ's rule (Eph. 1:10, 20-23)?

b. From your knowledge of the Old Testament, describe how God's people act when they have a strong ruler (e.g. Joshua or David) versus when they have a weak ruler (e.g. Rehoboam or Ahab).

c. What do you think the church would be like today without Christ as the head?

12.Fill in the blanks from Col. 1:16-18. By Christ all things were created: things in heaven and on _____, visible and _____, whether thrones or powers or _____ or authorities; all things were created by _____ and for _____. He is _____ all things, and in Him all things hold _____...so that in _____ He might have the _____.

13.a. What is the dictionary definition of "supremacy/supreme?"

b. In what area(s) of your life have you failed to let Christ have supremacy?

c. What blessings do you receive when you live like ALL THINGS were created by Christ and He has supremacy in EVERYTHING?

Praise God now in prayer for revealing His plan and for the spiritual blessings you receive through Jesus Christ having supremacy in your life!