



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH

EPHESIANS

INTRODUCTION #2

Ephesians is a letter of encouragement, not written to counteract heresy or confront any specific problem. In it Paul describes the nature and appearance of the church, and he challenges believers to function as the living body of Christ on earth.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE LETTER

After a warm greeting Paul affirms the nature of the church - the glorious fact that believers in Christ have been showered with God's kindness (1:3-8), chosen for greatness (1:9-12), marked by the Holy Spirit (1:13,14), filled with the power (1:15-23), freed from sin's curse and bondage (2:1-10), and brought near to God (2:11-19). As part of God's "house," we stand with the prophets, apostles, Jews, Gentiles, and Christ himself (2:20-3:11). Then, as though overcome with emotion by remembering all that God has done, Paul challenges them to live close to Christ - breaking into spontaneous praise (3:12- 21). Paul then turns his attention to the implications of being in the body of Christ, the church. Believers should have unity in their commitment to Christ and their use of spiritual gifts (4:1-16). They should have the highest moral standards (4:17-6:9). For the individual, this means rejecting heathen practices (4:17-5:20), and for the family, this means mutual submission and love (5:21-6:9). Paul then reminds them that the church is in a constant battle with the forces of darkness, and that they should use every spiritual weapon at their disposal (6:10-17). He concludes by asking for their prayers, commissioning Tychicus, and giving a benediction (6:18-24).

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. How have you been blessed by following Jesus? _____
 - Paul speaks in terms of "spiritual blessings" in this first part of Ephesians. What is a spiritual blessing in your life? _____
2. What do the following verses indicate about whether Jesus died for all?
 - Romans 5:18 _____
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14, 19 _____
 - 1 Timothy 2:3-4 _____

- 2 Peter 2:1 _____
- 2 Peter 3:9 _____
- 1 John 2:2 _____
- Hebrews 2:9 _____

2. Does Jesus make a big enough difference in your life that others take notice? _____

3. What do the following verses indicate about the possibility of rejecting Jesus?

- Matthew 23:37 _____
- Matthew 11:20 _____
- Luke 7:30 _____
- Acts 7:51 _____

4. Consider John 6:39-40 and John 10:27-30. Is it possible to lose your salvation? _____

5. What assurance do we find in Romans 8:16? _____

6. What does it mean in Ephesians 1:13 to be "sealed with the Holy Spirit"? _____

- What must a person do to receive this? _____

- How does this sealing relate to our inheritance and redemption? _____

7. In light of God's grace, how should we live our lives? _____
