

CampusDei Ministry

Ephesians Bible Study Syllabus Part I

Instructor: Rev. Chae Chong

Time: Lord's Day 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm

Period: March 3rd, 2024 - 8 weeks

Place: EM Small Chapel

Purpose

This course aims to explore the Epistle to the Ephesians, which F.F. Bruce called the "quintessence of Pauline theology." We will engage with this theological and Pauline epistle both exegetically, using the inductive method for text observation, and theologically, employing the deductive method to uncover its main themes. Through discussion, reflection, and practical assignments, participants will be invited to delve deep into the text, enriching their spiritual journey and understanding of Paul's message to the Ephesians.

Course Objectives

- To understand the historical, cultural, and theological context of Ephesians.
- To apply inductive and deductive study methods to biblical texts.
- To encourage reading Scripture deeply and reflectively.
- To create a community of learning where participants can share insights and be mutually edified.

Assignments

- Weekly reading of the designated Ephesians passage in multiple English versions, if possible, to facilitate comparison and deeper understanding.
- Creation of a simple chart each week to help visualize key observations, themes, and theological insights.
- Engage in reflective journaling, noting personal insights and questions that arise during study and reading.
- Schedule and Weekly Focus

Week 1: Introduction

Overview of Ephesians

Historical and cultural context

Introduction to inductive and deductive methods

Week 2: Chart Making and Observational Techniques

Training on how to create effective charts for Bible study
 Overview of different English translations and their nuances

Week 3: Ephesians 1:1-2 - Greeting and Blessing

Observing Paul's greeting and its significance
 Reflecting on the themes of grace and peace

Week 4: Ephesians 1:3-14 - Spiritual Blessings in Christ

Inductive study of spiritual blessings
 Deductive exploration of predestination and adoption

Week 5: Ephesians 1:15-23 - Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom

Understanding Paul's prayer and its implications for the church
 Observing the power of Christ and His headship over the church

Week 6: Ephesians 2:1-10 - Made Alive in Christ

Inductive study on transformation from death to life
 Discussing grace, faith, and works

Week 7: Ephesians 2:11-22 - One in Christ

Exploring the breakdown of the barrier between Jew and Gentile
 The concept of the Church as the household of God

Week 8: Ephesians 3:1-13 - The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed

Paul's stewardship of the mystery
 The role of the church in revealing the manifold wisdom of God
 Final Reflections and Closing Discussion

Sharing insights and personal reflections from the study
 Discussing the application of Ephesians in contemporary Christian life and ministry

Recommended Resources

Commentaries on Ephesians (suggestions include works by F.F. Bruce, John Stott, and the NIV Application Commentary series)

Access to multiple Bible translations for comparative study

Journal for reflective writing and note-taking

Bibliography for Ephesians Bible Study

Commentaries on Ephesians

Bruce, F.F. - The Epistle to the Ephesians: A Commentary on the Greek Text. New International Greek Testament Commentary (NIGTC). Eerdmans, 1984.

A detailed and scholarly commentary, ideal for those interested in the Greek text and in-depth theological analysis.

Stott, John. - *The Message of Ephesians: God's New Society*. The Bible Speaks Today Series. InterVarsity Press, 1979.

Provides clear and concise exposition of Ephesians, emphasizing practical application for the church today.

Hoehner, Harold W. - *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary*. Baker Academic, 2002.

An exhaustive exegetical commentary, noted for its comprehensive scholarly research and detailed analysis of the text.

O'Brien, Peter T. - *The Letter to the Ephesians*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary (PNTC). Eerdmans, 1999.

Offers thorough exegesis and focuses on Ephesians within the broader context of Pauline theology.

Thielman, Frank. - *Ephesians*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (BECNT). Baker Academic, 2010.

Combines critical exegesis with theological insight, useful for pastors and students alike.

Arnold, Clinton E. - *Ephesians*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Zondervan, 2010.

Features background information, detailed exegesis, and application for each passage of Ephesians.

Related Books on Pauline Theology and Christian Living

Wright, N.T. - *Paul: A Biography*. HarperOne, 2018.

An engaging and accessible biography of the Apostle Paul, providing insights into his life, context, and theology.

Barth, Markus. - *Ephesians: Introduction, Translation, and Commentary on Chapters 1-3*. Anchor Bible Series. Doubleday, 1974.

A two-volume work that offers a detailed analysis of the first half of Ephesians, focusing on theological themes and ecclesiology.

Snodgrass, Klyne. - *Ephesians*. The NIV Application Commentary. Zondervan, 1996.

Blends scholarly exegesis with contemporary application, addressing how Ephesians speaks to modern issues and challenges.

MacArthur, John. - Ephesians: The MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Moody Publishers, 1986.

Provides verse-by-verse analysis and practical insights, aimed at pastors and lay readers.