

Ephesians—Series Overview

God's Glory in His Church

The book of Ephesians was written to show Christ's glory at work in winning/perfecting the Church as His bride. It exhorts Christians to walk in the newness of life He has won for us according to the Father's kind intention in adopting us. It shows us who we are—the dead raised to life and made fellow citizens with all the saints. Based on who we already are, it invites us to walk in a manner worthy of our calling.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

1. **Prayer.** We have an example here of how to *pray* for one another. How does this prayer compare with our typical prayers? What might we want to include in our prayers based on this one?
2. **Service.** How are you (we) using the riches of Christ to serve others?
3. **Community.** We see here the necessity of serving Christ *together* to be able to comprehend the scope of our inheritance. How can we better work together as one body?

Ezra-Nehemiah—Series Overview

A Community Restored for Worship

The book of Ezra-Nehemiah was written to encourage God's people returning after exile to believe the covenant promises and restore the temple in Jerusalem. God's people were being restored in the place of promise as a worshipping community. The restoration of purpose was far greater than their real estate. The place always has to do with what God promised would happen there.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
November 4th, 2018

Morning Service:

Ephesians 3: 14-21

Overflowing Family Inheritance

1. We Are to Use Our Access to Bless Our Siblings (14-15).
2. The Dimensions of Our Inheritance—4D (16-19).
3. All These Things Bring Glory to God (20-21).

The glorious riches of Christ are given to us as His family so that we might bless others. Our apprehension of the vastness of our spiritual wealth is vital to our generous service of others. As we serve one another Christ is glorified and praised as He ought to be forever.

Evening Service

Nehemiah 10: 1-11

Lamenting the Disgrace of God's People

1. Are We Troubled by the Disgrace of God's People?
2. Nehemiah Prays According to God's Word.
3. Jesus Intercedes for Us as the Victorious King.

Nehemiah continues the work of Ezra in rebuilding Jerusalem as the place of God's promise. Jerusalem and the temple there point us forward to Christ as the Temple of God. We continue to await the fullness of these promises in a land of disgrace and shame, but we have the confidence of the resurrection while we wait.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

What would you do with incalculable riches? How do you measure the vastness of the inheritance we have in Christ? To what end does all this wealth serve? These are some of the questions we need to grapple with as we look at this week's passage.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ today's passage: **Ephesians 3:14-21**. DISCUSS: What stood out to you in the sermon? Why has Christ given us such an inheritance? PRAY for God to enable us to comprehend the riches we have in Christ and to use them to bless one another.

Sunday PM

READ today's passage: **Nehemiah 1:1-11**. Why was Nehemiah so troubled? What did he do with his grief? PRAISE God for His loving care for us. REPENT of ways we give His glory to others.

Monday

READ **Ephesians 2: 4-7; 3:14-21**. What are the unsearchable riches of Christ? Why does God want us to understand how great they are? REJOICE for God has lavished His blessing on us. PRAY for your neighbors, peers, friends & family that God might use us to bless them. EXTEND His grace to someone today. As you have been blessed in Christ bless others.

Tuesday

READ **Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 4:14-20**. How is the Philippians passage an example of God's living out our passage in Ephesians? What might that look like in your life today? What about our life together as a congregation? MEDITATE on this reality—we have EVERYTHING we need in Christ! PRAY, "Father God, thank you for making us Yours in Christ. Jesus, we praise Your name and renew our love for You. Holy Spirit, enable us to keep this pledge and so honor the Father and Son by Your work through us."

Wednesday

READ **Ephesians 3:14-21; Colossians 1:27-29**. How are the riches and power of Christ related? What are we to do together? How? Why? MEDITATE on the astonishing grace God has given to us. REJOICE if you have been adopted into Christ's family by grace through faith. PRAY and thank God for uniting us to Himself. EXTEND His grace to others you know at work, school, and home.

Thursday

READ **Ephesians 3:14-21; Colossians 2:1-5**. What does it mean "to reach all the riches of full assurance ... of wisdom and knowledge" in Colossians? How does this relate to what we see in Ephesians? How is this only possible in the gospel of Jesus? PRAY, "Heavenly Father, thank You for all Your promises. Thank You for the fulfillment of all of them in Christ. Help us to see them more clearly and to believe them more fully than anything else. Strengthen our faith and allow us to know Your faithfulness. Amen."

Friday

READ Ephesians 3:14-21; Deuteronomy 18:1-5. The Levites' inheritance was not land, but God Himself. DISCUSS: Does it seem like the Levites were given a bum deal? What does it mean for them to have the Lord as their inheritance? What about us? PRAY for your neighbors who are deceived and unable to even see their own sin for what it really is. Pray for their repentance. Pray that God will use you to bring them into His kingdom to the honor and praise of His name.

Saturday

READ **Ephesians 3:14-21**. What have you been learning this week? READ tomorrow's sermon passage **Ephesians 4:1-6**. PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. PRAY for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Ask Him to use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.