

Study Buddies:

Quick Bible Reference Guides

EPHESIANS: Alive in Christ

Note: this sheet was prepared based upon the Contemporary English Version of the Bible, however it is always good to use more than one version as a reference. This practice will enable you to compare the language of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.

Overview

The letter to the Ephesians summarizes many of the important teachings found in the letters of the apostle Paul. It emphasizes that Jesus Christ died on a cross to set humanity free from sin (1:7, 8) and that God raised him from death. (1:20). All who have faith in God are saved (2:8).

The concluding chapters offer practical instructions for living as God's people and includes a description of the "armor" God provides to help believers overcome spiritual trials and strongholds.



Key Points and Verses

Please read the whole book to gain the fullest experience. These points are just a few of the highlights that have been encapsulated from the text.

- 1:19-23 Power from God
- 2: 4, 5 Made alive in Christ
- 4: 1-6 Unity with Christ
- 4:25--5:5 Made new? Now what?
- 6:10-17 The full armor of God

Study Questions

1. Ephesians 1.4 states that even "before the world was created, God had Christ choose us to live with him and to be his...people" (that is, his followers). What does this mean, and how is this possible? Why did Christ choose "us"? (1.5,6).
2. What is the "truth" that Christ has brought? (1.13). How does this truth differ from other kinds of truth?
3. Who belongs to God's family? (2.14-19). How does someone become part of God's family?
4. What seven things do the people of God share (4.4-6)? Choose one of these things and describe in your own words what it means.
5. List the things that are part of a Christian's "old life," and list the "rules" for the "new life" (4.17--5.5). What is the hardest thing about trying to live this new life?
6. What do you think about the letter's description of how husbands and wives should relate to one another? (5.21-33). Why?
7. Re-read the description of "the armor that God gives" (6.10-17). Which pieces of *your* spiritual armor need shining, reinforcing, or sharpening? How can you get your armor in better condition?

Something to Think About

(additional food for thought)

What does 6:12 mean to you? How do you separate a person's actions from the spiritual forces that work through individuals?