

**How to Study the Bible**  
Grace Bible Fellowship Church – Winter 2020

**TEACHING NOTES**

**Week 1: How to Approach the Scriptures**

*January 12, 2020 – Bible Study Overview – taught by Mark Bickel*

**Class Schedule / Goals**

**Notebook / Schedule** (see 1<sup>st</sup> page of notebook)

- **Schedule / Home Study** – 1 short article to read, ~15-20 verse of Ephesians to study  
*{behind schedule in section 1 are questions to aid study as well as articles}*
- First half of class each week – **How to Study** the Bible (using OIA – notes in section 2 of notebook)
- Second half of class each week – **Ephesians** (using Manuscript – manuscript & paper in section 3)

Note: class will be taught by Mark Bickel with some notes by guest leader Mike Plourde

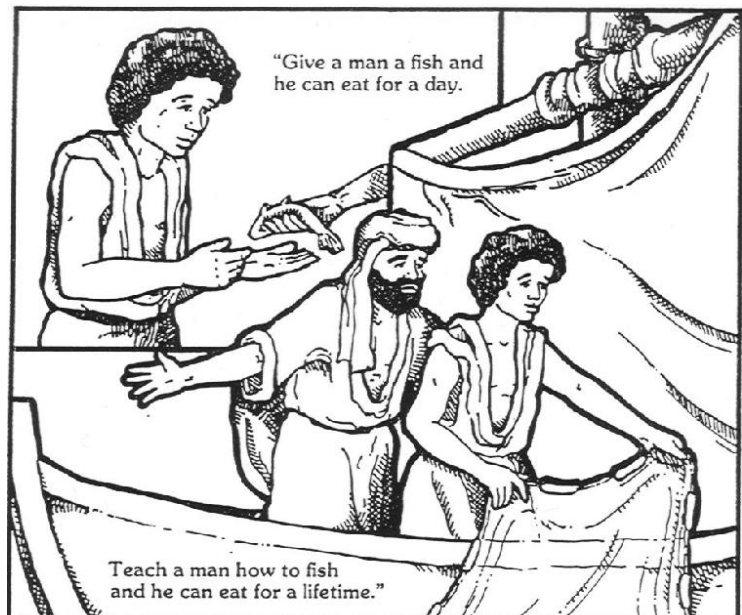
**Three Goals**

- Learn how to study the Bible
- Practice what we are learning by studying Ephesians
- **Meet God and be change by Him!**

**PRAY!**

**Why have a class on Bible Study?**

**Graphic: “Teach a Person to Fish”**



**Quote:** "It is only when truth is discovered that it is appropriated. When a man is simply told the truth, it remains external to him and he can quite easily forget it. When he is led to discover the truth himself, it becomes an integral part of him and he never forgets." -William Barclay

**Story:** College Student manuscript studies ... bring to church ... **80 year old lady**, active in church all of life, read Bible every morning, no one ever taught her how to study Bible!

### **Why should we study the Bible? How should we approach the Scriptures?**

**Quote:** "'Just one out of ten of our country's born-again teenagers believe in absolute moral truth – a statistic that is nearly identical to that of non- born-again teens... The virtual disappearance of this cornerstone of the Christian faith – that is, that God has communicated a series of moral principles in the Bible that are meant to be the basis of our thoughts and actions, regardless of our preferences, feelings or situations – is probably the best indicator of the waning strength of the Christian Church in America today.'" – Barna survey

**Quote:** {number one way to measure health of a church – number of people studying the Bible regularly on their own}

#### **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you have learned it, and how from infancy you **have known the holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you **wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is **God breathed** and useful **for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness**, so that the man of God may **be prepared for every good work**.

**Approach to Scripture:**

- Reverence: they reveal God
- Humility: these words right, not me
- Teachability: desire God to change us

**Scripture Profitable for:**

- Teaching: teaching **truth** / doctrine
- Reproof: confronting **sin**
- Correction: uncovering **folly**
- Instruction in righteousness: imparting **wisdom**

**Goal of Scripture:**

- Make us wise for **salvation**
- Prepare us for every **good work**
- **Know God** (not explicit here, but stated throughout)

### **Hebrews 4:12-13**

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than **any double-edged sword**, it penetrates even to the dividing of soul and spirit, joints and marrow; **it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart**. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. **Everything is uncovered** and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

#### **Practical Application of Scripture:**

- As we come to the **God's Word**, are you willing to obey it?
  - What will you do when you don't want to do what it says?
  - What will you do when you don't understand why God says it?
  - What will you do when what you read disagrees with what you believe?
  
- As we come to **prayer**, are you willing to come to God?
  - Willing to be honest, confess sin, doubts, anger, etc.
  - Lay your burdens down, and leave them there - trust God
  - Hear what God is saying, take it to heart
  
- Are you **coming to God**, the King, the Lord, or not?

### **2 Peter 1: 3,4**

His divine Power has given us **everything we need for life and godliness** through our **knowledge of him** who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very **great and precious promises**, so that through them you might participate in the **divine nature** and **escape the corruption** in the world caused by evil desires.

- God gives everything for:**
- Life
  - Godliness
  - Participate in divine nature
  - Escape corruption of world / evil desires

#### **Do you believe God gives what we need for everything?**

- Do you believe it when tempted to **lust**, or **anger**, or **hatred** ?
- Do you believe it when tempted to **lie**, or **gossip**, or **dishonor God** ?
- Do you look for the **way of escape** ? Or believe the lie you **can not escape** ?
- Do you believe **God gives EVERYTHING** we need,
  - Who defines how business runs, principles on money and ethics?
  - What about engineering? Why did God destroy the tower of Babel?
  - For the artist, who is Beezelel and why God appointed him to build the tabernacle?
  - Does the scientist really believe "God makes the grass to grow for the cattle"? Etc.)
- And what about your relationship to that **oppressive boss**?
- Your **annoying roommate**?
- Your **depressed friend**?
- Your **parents** who abused you and then broke up?
- Your **loneliness** and desire for a **girlfriend**?
  
- **GREAT comfort and encouragement!**

**How?**

- Through knowing Christ

**How know Christ?**

- Faith comes by hearing the Word of God ...  
- All of word points to Christ who is the Word!

***LOTS of other passages, but we will have to limit ourselves to 1 more:***

**Psalm 119** (*excerpts*)

How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By living according to your word.  
I seek you with all my heart;  
Do not let me stray from your commands.  
I have hidden your word in my heart  
That I might not sin against you.  
I am laid low in the dust  
Preserve my life according to your word.  
My soul is weary with sorrow;  
Strengthen me according to your word.  
My comfort in my suffering is this:  
Your promise preserves my life.  
Oh, how I love your law!  
I meditate on it all day long.  
Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,  
For they are ever with me.  
I have more insight than all my teachers,  
For I meditate on your statutes.  
I have more understanding than the elders,  
For I obey your precepts.  
Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.  
Your statutes are my heritage forever;  
They are the joy of my heart.  
My heart is set on keeping your decrees  
To the very end.

## How should we study the Bible?

### 2 Timothy 3:13-17

Remind them of these things, charging them before the **Lord not to strive about words to no profit**, to the ruin of the hearers. Be **diligent** to present yourself **approved to God**, a worker who does **not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth**.

Bible Study is not about arguing over words, trying to win some debate  
Bible Study is not about everyone bringing their opinions  
Bible study is not about me determining how I want to interpret the passage

### **Bible study is about Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth ...**

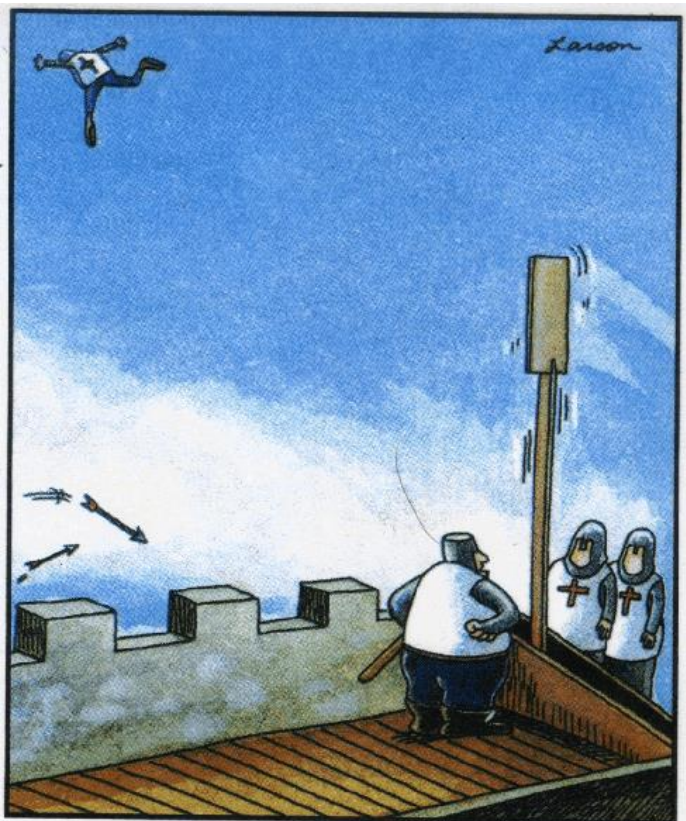
about seeing what God has written,  
hearing how each passage reveals Christ, and  
allowing the Holy Spirit to apply the Word to our lives

Note also we **have to be diligent** - proper Bible Study requires work and attention to details

Graphic: Catapult

Proper Bible Study requires us to:

- 1) **See: Read Well**  
*This is OBSERVATION*
- 2) **Hear: Get Word into Heart**  
*This is INTERPRETATION*
- 3) **Do: Have Word impact Daily Life**  
*This is APPLICATION*



"I told you guys to slow down and take it easy or something like this would happen."

## **Bible Study Method**

### **1) Bible is LITERATURE**

- A. Words:** God choose to speak in written words, so we need to know how to study written word. Use good literary techniques.
- B. People / Events:** Much of the Bible records God working in particular people at particular times and in particular situations. We need to understand these to understand Bible

### **2) Not the same as a NEWSPAPER**

- A. Message:** Is not 'just the facts', it is God's perspective on the facts. Actually, it is more than that. It is God communicating a message He wants to give us, and doing that be presenting particular facts and their right interpretation.
- B. Purpose:** Purpose is not to know about God, but to actually know Him
- C. Power:** It does not go out void. It is the power of God for salvation. God speaks and changes us through these words, so much more than words!

### **3) 2 approaches to Bible Study**

- A. Deductive:** Make a main pint, find texts to support it
- B. Inductive:** Observe a text, allow it to make a point

### **4) Examples**

- A. Love Letter**
  - Read "Methodical Bible Study" pages 97-98
- B. Sherlock Holmes** {NOTE: this is now homework for week 2}
  - Read "Sherlock Holmes" pages 246 - 247
  - What can we learn from Holmes method?
    - A) Careful observation of facts
    - B) Put facts into context (hat is normal, abnormal, etc.)
    - C) Begin to draw implications from those facts
    - D) (not mentioned here) - never settle on conclusion until the end

## 5) OIA

### Observe

- Ask "What Does it Say?"  
this is where you gather the facts

### Interpret

- Ask "What Does it Mean?"  
this is where you understand the facts

### Apply

- Ask "How does it Work?"  
this is where the rubber meets the road - and we profit from our study

### We need all three:

- Without good observation, we have nothing to build interpret upon
- Without good interpretation we just have bunch of isolated facts
- Without application we just have head knowledge, rather than know God
- Errors come when we fail to do due diligence in all 3 areas!

## OIA BOOKMARK

### OIA Bible Bookmark

#### Observation : *What Does it Say ?*

##### Content

Who, What, When, Where  
Why, How

##### Context

Audience, Culture, Geography  
Genre, Structure, Tone  
Chapter, Book, Biblical Theology

#### Interpretation : *What Does it Mean ?*

##### Big Picture

Interpretive Questions  
and Answers

##### Main Point

Author's Point for his Audience,  
God's Central Point for Us

#### Application : *How Does it Work ?*

##### Head

What should I Believe?

##### Hands

What should I Do?

##### Heart

How does God want to  
Change Me?

Conclude With : *Consultation  
Correlation*

#### How to Read:

Thoughtfully  
Repeatedly  
Patiently  
Selectively  
Prayerfully  
Imaginatively  
Meditatively  
Purposefully  
Acquisitively  
Telescopically

#### Grammatical Structure:

Verbs, Subjects, Objects  
Modifiers, Prepositions

#### Literary Structure:

Cause & Effect (when, so, after, because, since)  
Climax (high point)  
Comparison (like)  
Contrast (but, however)  
Explanation, Reason or Illustration  
Interchange (back and forth dialog or action)  
Introduction, Preparatory, or Summary  
Logical Conclusion (if, then, therefore)  
Means to End (so that, in order that)  
Pivot or Hinge (turning point, change direction)  
Proportion or Purpose (emphasis, intention)  
Question and Answer  
Repetition, Continuity (same or similar term)  
Specific to General, General to Specific

#### Interpretive Questions:

Why did the author/ character do ... ?  
What is the **significance** of ...?  
What is the **implication** of ...?  
Why was this **event** included here?

#### Possible Applications:

**S** in for me to repent of  
**P** romise for me to claim  
**E** xample to follow or **E** rror to avoid  
**C** ommand for me to obey  
**K** nowledge of God to believe  
**S** omething to pray about

The Gospel : *Repent and Believe the Good News*



## **How to Study of Ephesians**

### **Manuscript Study**

- **Text only** – no chapters or verse (line numbers simply to help us refer to it as we talk)
- **Mark it up!** – take pages out of binder, draw lines and boxes, write questions and thoughts in margins, use colors and symbols – whatever helps you to see!
- **Stick to passage** – unless passage specifically quotes another we will stick to Ephesians ... certainly at some point in study helpful, even critical to link to all of Bible – BUT need to start with passage and learn to observe well what it says, seeing its unique perspective – so for this class we will normally limit our view to the passage
  - NOTE: Resources can be very helpful ... but again in class we want to stick to the passage – if we need a definition, map, something like that we will grab it – but no reading your study Bible footnotes! – again, we will talk in week 7 about where those fit, but for now resist the temptation

### **House Rules**

- This is a cooking class, not a cafeteria
- The experts are not always right
- We do not always play it straight
- You will reap what you sow!

KEY: **You will reap what you sow!**

## **Intro to Ephesians:**

### **Quotes:**

Calvin's favorite Letter

Coleridge: "the divinest composition of man"

Others: "Pinnacle of Paul's writing"

John Mackay, former President Princeton Seminary:

"to this book I owe my life"

"I saw a new world ... Everything was new ... I had a new outlook, new experiences, new attitudes to other people. I loved God. Jesus Christ became the centre of everything ... I had been 'quicken'd'; I was really alive."



## **Overview of Ephesians:**

**Genre:** Epistle / Letter

**Two Parts:** Chapter 1-3: Theological Foundation, What God has Done  
Chapter 4-6: Application, How We Should Live

**Outline** (from John Stott)

Introduction (1:1-2)

**I] New Life**

- A) Every spiritual blessing (1:3-14)
- B) A prayer for knowledge (1:15-23)
- C) Resurrected with Christ (2:1-10)

**II] New Society**

- A) A Single new humanity (2:11-22)
- B) Paul's unique privilege (3:1-13)
- C) Confidence in God's power (3:14-21)

**III] New Standards**

- A) Unity and diversity in the Church {service and maturity}{4:1-16}
- B) A new set of clothes {put off and put on} (4:17-5:4)
- C) More incentives to righteousness (5:5-21)

**IV] New Relationships**

- A) Husbands and wives (5:21-33)
- B) Parents and children, Masters and slaves (6:1-9)
- C) Principalities and Powers (6:10-20)

Conclusion (6:21-24)

***NOTE: There are several helpful charts, maps, summaries of Ephesians in the notebook immediately after the Ephesians Manuscript***

**Today's Study:** Ephesians 1:1-2 {Page 1, Line 1 - Page 1, Line 3}

**Home Study:** Ephesians 1:3-14 {Page 1, Line 3 – Page 2, Line 18}

Read: "The Student, The Fish and Agassi"

## Week 1: Ephesians 1:1-2

April 29, 2012 – Intro to Ephesians – taught by Mark Bickel

### **Ephesians 1:1-2 {Page 1, Line 1 – Page 1, Line 3}**

#### **OBSERVATION**

**Opening 2 Verses set scene – since it is a letter, we are looking at the salutation:**

~ look for Who, What, Where, When Why or How

**Salutation:** Why does the salutation matter?

**Example:** You get a letter that starts: “**We have 1 Million Dollars in an account for you**, just fill out the enclosed paperwork and send them back to headquarter immediately”

- if top of letter has a picture of Ed McMann and Publishers Clearinghouse Sweepstakes across the top, you most likely throw it away, or at best send it back with the assumption it is worthless.
- If, on the other hand, the top corner contains the seal of “Goldfinkel and Sons, attorneys at law”, and the address says “To the Heirs of the Estate of the late John Doe Millionaire”, after picking yourself off the floor, you would be careful to read every word of the letter, fill in every blank on the form fully and completely, and most likely hand deliver it to Mr. Godfinkel immediately!
- The person writing made all the difference
- This is especially true when looking at epistles, which are letters. And as such normally start with a Salutation telling who it is from, who it is to, and giving an opening greeting.

**From:** **Paul** - not just anyone, but Paul himself. tie into rest of writings an apostle - anointed one, who saw Christ, leader in the church by the will of God - not on his own - writing with God’s authority

**To:** **The saints** - to Christians  
Faithful in Christ - not just Christian in name, but the faithful

**Ephesus:** - Most early manuscripts NOT contain city  
- Many believe it is a circular letter to gentile church in Asia Minor  
- Ephesus is a capital city of Asia Minor,  
- key commercial port, Temple of Dianne

**Purpose:** - Seems to be written to do 3 things:  
1) Encourage gentile Christians  
2) Help them know more fully all God has done  
3) Call them to fully live out what God's done

**Greeting:** - Grace and Peace, from God, in Jesus  
- Typical greeting, but also major themes of entire book

## Biblical Background to Ephesians

### Acts 18:18-22

<sup>18</sup> Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchrea because of a vow he had taken. <sup>19</sup> **They arrived at Ephesus**, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself **went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.** <sup>20</sup> When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. <sup>21</sup> **But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is God's will."** Then he set sail from Ephesus. <sup>22</sup> When he landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.

### Acts 19:1-20:1

<sup>1</sup> While Apollos was at Corinth, **Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples** <sup>2</sup> and asked them, **"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"**

They answered, **"No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."**

<sup>3</sup> So Paul asked, **"Then what baptism did you receive?"**

"John's baptism," they replied.

<sup>4</sup> Paul said, **"John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus."** <sup>5</sup> **On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.** <sup>6</sup> When Paul placed his hands on them, the **Holy Spirit came on** them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all.

<sup>8</sup> **Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months**, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup> But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had **discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.** <sup>10</sup> This went on for **two years**, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the **province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> **God did extraordinary miracles through Paul**, <sup>12</sup> so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

<sup>13</sup> Some **Jews who went around driving out evil spirits** tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, **"In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."** <sup>14</sup> Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. <sup>15</sup> One day the evil spirit answered them, **"Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"** <sup>16</sup> Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

<sup>17</sup> When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all **seized with fear**, and the **name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.** <sup>18</sup> Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup> **A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly.** When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. <sup>20</sup> **In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.**

<sup>21</sup> After all this had happened, Paul decided to **go to Jerusalem**, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. “After I have been there,” he said, “I must visit Rome also.” <sup>22</sup> He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.

<sup>23</sup> About that time there **arose a great disturbance** about the Way. <sup>24</sup> A **silversmith named Demetrius**, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen. <sup>25</sup> He called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: “Men, you know we receive a good income from this business. <sup>26</sup> And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. **He says that man-made gods are no gods at all.** <sup>27</sup> There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty.”

<sup>28</sup> When they heard this, they were furious and **began shouting: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”** <sup>29</sup> Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia, and rushed as one man into the theater. <sup>30</sup> Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. <sup>31</sup> Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater.

<sup>32</sup> The **assembly was in confusion**: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. <sup>33</sup> The Jews pushed Alexander to the front, and some of the crowd shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people. <sup>34</sup> But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

<sup>35</sup> The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: “Men of Ephesus, doesn’t all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? <sup>36</sup> Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to be quiet and not do anything rash. <sup>37</sup> You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess. <sup>38</sup> If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges. <sup>39</sup> If there is anything further you want to bring up, **it must be settled in a legal assembly.** <sup>40</sup> As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of today’s events. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it.” <sup>41</sup> After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

<sup>1</sup> **When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said good-by and set out for Macedonia.**

## INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION

### Home Study

- Read: “**The Student, The Fish and Agassi**”
- Read and Observe: **Ephesians 1:3-14** (Page 1 Line 3 – Page 2 Line 18)