

Greenvine Baptist Church

Newsletter

February 1, 2022



When you are here... You are home

Ephesians

Upcoming Events

Bible Study

Wednesday's @ 6pm –
1st and 2nd Timothy

Greenvine Girl's of Grace

Tuesday February 8 @ 6pm

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday February 23 @ 7am

Church Directory

Emails will start going out this week to sign up for the new church directory. If you have trouble, call Charlotte @ 979-203-4524

For some reason, my mind has been drawn to the book of Ephesians. I know that the Holy Spirit of God interjects thoughts into our minds, so I will concede that it is He who is taking me there. Ephesians 6 is one of Karen's favorite passages, so I get good input from her as we share together from God's Word.

Yesterday I spent some time reading Ephesians. While waiting for a tire to be fixed I read it through three times. By the way, I really enjoy multiple readings of the same passages over and over again. I believe that the Holy Spirit uses that to show us lessons and truths that He wishes to teach us. So, I will spend some time in the next several newsletters starting a discussion about the book of Ephesians. My plan is to get you to start thinking about what is contained there, and to eventually preach the book on Sunday mornings.

As an overview, Ephesians was a letter written by the Apostle Paul after he had planted a church in Ephesus on one of his missionary journeys. You probably remember that Paul visited Ephesus in Acts 19 where he stayed for three years preaching and evangelizing the people around the province. He caused a huge uproar simply because a part of his message was that there is only one God, and His Son came to earth and paid the price for the penalty of our sins. Most of the people in Ephesus worshipped graven images and had a multitude of gods that they worshipped. The main goddess in the city was Artemis, the goddess of the hunt and protector of women and children. The temple of Artemis was in Ephesus, and was considered one of the 7 Wonders of the ancient world.

So when Paul brought in a construct of worship that was directly against worshipping what we would call “false gods”, the people of Ephesus was ready to kill him and his associates there.

With this background from the city, Paul writes to the people who had become a part of the “called out ones” from Ephesus. We would call them “the church in Ephesus.” Not a building, but a people called by God Himself. They struggled in life. They dearly wanted to follow Christ completely, but confused service to Him taking the place of worship of Him. They thought that things that they did, ministry, was way more important than worshipping the God of the universe.

The apostle John reminds us of that fact when Jesus dictates to him the Revelation. When looking at the church in Ephesus, you will remember that Jesus said, “you have lost your first love.” Their works were wonderful. Their ministry to the poor, the widows, the orphans and the destitute was worth looking at and admiring. However, they stopped worshipping God in order to perform those works. They left out the very truth that considered those works good, as they prioritized worship and made God the main truth in their lives.

This is what the people were like when Paul wrote his letter to them. You can imagine that Paul had ulterior motives to write and to share great truths of Christianity to those people. He not only wanted to correct the false behavior, but also to interject into their lives the truth of the centrality of the relationship with Christ as central and all important.

This little letter to the folks in Ephesus contains important as well as popular themes in its content. We get, “By grace you have been saved through faith...the gift of God, not of works.” We get a prayer for them that includes, “you should grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” We get, “He is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine.” We get, “Christ Himself gave some apostles, prophets, evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip His people for works of service,” so that they may become mature in the faith. We also get instructions for husbands, wives, children, slaves and free men. We get “the whole armor of God” to consider and make a part of our lives that we might be able to be a part of the battle that is continually going on in our lives: good versus evil.

As we look together at the Letter to the Ephesian believers, we will find many truths and points that make the letter important, not just as a historical Christian work, but an instruct for us to follow as well, even though the letter is over 2000 years old. That tells us that it is an important part of the Word of God that instructs us as we live our lives here and now.

I hope that you will enjoy this little letter as Karen and I have. Read it all in one sitting. Read it several times. You might even want to have pen and pencil ready to make your own remarks and thoughts as the Holy Spirit takes you on this wonderful journey through Ephesians.

Let me quote the end of the letter to you....

“Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.”

Blessings to you all from Jack and Karen this week...

Prayer Requests

Pray for all of those in our church and our families that have been sick.

Deborah and her family in the loss of Charlie

The Easley family in the loss of Sadie

Raymond Anderson – Undergoing Chemo treatments

Tom Nugent – Recovery and overall health

Donna Richardson – Recovering from leg amputation

David Richardson – As he cares for Donna

Debbie and Cliff Reed – Cliff having an MRI this week

Jack and Karen's Nephew – Back at school at A&M

Debbie Reed's granddaughter Brittany and husband Raymond in the loss of their baby

Billy Montgomery as he heals from a quadruple by-pass

Mary and Chuck's granddaughter Brecken for comfort and healing

Patty's sister Thelma – Pray for healing in her feet

Carol's sister Lynn has bronchitis and now has Covid. She is high risk due to lung issues.

Sandra's daughter Alicia now has Covid. She is taking care of her 92 yr old mother in law and also a school teacher.

Ricky Eckert recovering from a leg amputation.

Carolyn Cox -Pray for continued healing

Denny's Sister is in need of a Kidney Transplant

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Sandra Pulliam's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Brayden Lopez - Mental and Spiritual health

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Lee Ehring's brother, Bill Hoot, undergoing treatments for lung cancer

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

***** If you have a new prayer request or would like to update a current one, please call Charlotte at 979-203-4524 or email the church @ greenvinebaptist@gmail.com**