

## Ephesians Class Lesson Notes Feb. 26, 2012

Ephesians 4:1-6

Key verse 3

In chapters 1-3, Paul has been talking about what God has done for us through his son, Jesus. In his commentary, James Wood, tells us the Father has predestined us, he has saved us by grace, he has united us, he has made us works of art, and he has invited us into his family. Now, in chapter 4 Paul begins to focus on our activity in response to the grace God has shown us through his son.

I have spent more time preparing this lesson than I have on any of the prior lessons. One of the reasons is the widely held views on verses 1-6 by many who identify themselves as Christians. I have looked at several different translations and more than one commentary. After looking at so many different opinions, it is no surprise to me why there is so much division among people who identify themselves as Christians. Before we look at what God has to say in his word, I would like to read some of the comments made by two men who are both members of the body of Christ. Mr. James Wood, the author of our study guide and Mr. Roy Osborne, a well known Bible scholar.

James Wood writes; in verse 1 Paul urges us to live a life worthy of the calling we have received. He says we should read verse 1 in the context of everything that Paul has said in chapters 1-3. James says therefore, our calling is God's free gift of salvation. We can't earn it, it is from the Father alone. When we are told to live a life worthy, it is not an attempt to earn our salvation. It is however, the natural response to what God has done for us. Our obedience to his will is a response to God's free gift of grace. Our obedience does not earn God's love, his love is always there. Our obedience shows that we fully accept his love for us.

Roy Osborne writes; Paul addresses two major concerns in Ephesians chapter 4. One is unity, or oneness of the body of Christ, which is the Church. Two, is the consistency of those who are the Church. Roy states these two are still major concerns in modern day Christianity. The failure of those who profess Christianity to live up to their commitment are the tragedies of the modern day Christian world.

Mr. Osborne points out a number of passages written in the New Testament that warns members of the early Church and us to heed our Savior's commands so we do not drift away from God's truths. Roy says and I quote "All of these scriptures impress on us the necessity of staying close to the Lord and continually renewing our commitment that he is Lord of our lives. The false doctrine that teaches that we cannot fall from grace is contradicted by these and a host of other passages. Roy names Romans 8 and 12, I Corinthians 5 and 6, Hebrews 2 and 6 and I Thessalonians 4. We will look at I Thessalonians 4: 1-8.

Vs. 2

Paul's description in how we should act in verse 2 is exactly how Jesus lived in life on earth.

Vs. 3

Paul instructs us to leave no stone unturned in our effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. Col. 3:13-17 and I Cor. 1:10.

Vs. 4-6

In these three verses Paul tells us about the oneness of God's people and it is the same thing Jesus talked about in John 17:20-24.

One body---One church. In Mt. 16 Jesus says I will build my Church. Luke referred to the Church in Acts 20:28 as the Church of God. In Romans 16 Paul writes the Churches of Christ greets you and in Colossians 1 Paul writes that Jesus is the Head of the Body which is the Church.

One Spirit---The Holy Spirit. In I Corinthians 12:4, Paul speaking about spiritual gifts says there are different gifts but only one spirit. There are many passages that speak about the Holy Spirit of God, however, the one that moves me is II Peter 1:20-21

One Hope---The One Hope for all Christians is salvation through Jesus Christ. Without Jesus there is no hope for anyone.

One Lord---Jesus Christ. In John 3:16, we are told that God loved mankind so much he sent his one and only son to this earth to be a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. That who so ever would believe in Jesus could have eternal life. Phil. 2:11, says every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

One Faith---All members of the body of Christ are bound together in a complete surrender to the love and will of Jesus. This is the one faith. In II Cor. 13:5, Paul writes; examine your selves to see if you are in the faith. In Hebrews 12: 2-3, we are told that Jesus is the author and prefecture of our faith.

One Baptism---We are baptized into the body of Christ. This is not a work, it is however being obedient to God's will. Romans 6:1-6

One God and Father---it is the Christian belief that we live in a God-created, God-controlled, God-sustained, God-filled world. Deut.5:6-7.