

# ***The Letter to the Ephesians***



**GULF SHORES**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
*Gulf Shores, AL*

***BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE***

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# *Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians*

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# *Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians*

## INTRODUCTION

### Author:

Paul, the apostle (**Ephesians 1:1, 3:1**), formerly Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 8-9**) identifies himself as the author of this letter. The early church unanimously accepted it as from Paul. However, there are critics of his authorship because of the likeness to Colossians, but we should consider the similarities between Romans and Galatians. It wasn't unlike Paul to do this. In fact, both Ephesians and Colossians share similar outlines, outlook, and theme. Also, both letters were delivered by Tychicus (**Ephesians 6:21-22, Colossians 4:7-8**).

### Date:

It is generally accepted that Paul wrote it around 60-62 AD in the city of Rome, while in a Roman prison (**Ephesians 3:1, 4:1, 6:20**). This is why it is lumped with the other prison epistles. Paul wrote it after he wrote the letter to Colossae (see Colossians notes).

### Theme:

This letter is about Christian unity and reconciliation in Christ. For this reason some consider Ephesians to be one of Paul's most moving letters. No book in the Bible exalts Christ and the church more than the book of Ephesians (**Ephesians 3:21**). This is important because religiously speaking the city was more diverse in religion than any other city in the Empire (emperor worship, Greek and Roman temples, etc.). The Jews that lived in Ephesus maintained a large synagogue, but were heavily influenced by pagans. In his letter, Paul calls them "Jewish exorcists."

Paul may have helped in the establishment of the church in Ephesus at the end of his second missionary journey (**Acts 18:20-21**). He spent three months there (**Acts 19:8-9**), but Aquila and Priscilla stayed a while longer and converted Apollos (**Acts 18:24-26**), a young man from Alexandria (Egypt). Paul returned to Ephesus (**Acts 19:1-7**) to find 12 other God-fearers like Apollos. He teaches them and they are baptized. Paul decided to stay an additional three months to teach in the synagogue (**Acts 19:8-9**). There is little doubt that Paul's work brought hardship upon himself and the church in that community. Eventually he was not welcome in the synagogue. He performed many miracles and conducted himself admirably, but the people in this area were critical of those of "the Way" and persecuted the entire community of believers.

Paul probably rented a lecture hall named after Tyrannus (Tyrant - students gave the nickname) or was a part of the university lifestyle while in Ephesus (**Acts 19:10**). Early writings tell us he lectured daily from 11 AM to 4 PM (for two years). It was also at this time that Paul supervised many other missionaries, works, and ministries from this location. He worked with Timothy, Apollos, and Epaphras. He was overseeing the work in Laodicea and Colossae. **Acts 19:10** says, "All the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord" (Jews/Greeks). He hopes his letter will keep the church together and united.

### Audience:

The title and the first verse show us that the intended audience is the church in Ephesus. However, this has been the source of some debate as it may have been intended for a universal audience. There is a close connection between Ephesians and Colossians as we have already noted. Any good reference Bible will show the close relationship between these two books. It is interesting to note that the words "in Ephesus" (**Ephesians 1:1**) are missing in our three oldest existing copies of this letter (Chester Beatty papyrus, Codex Sinaiticus, and Codex Vaticanus). This accounts for the different ways the first verse is translated (KJV and RSV). This omission allows scholars to speculate on "to whom" the letter was written. The title, "to the Ephesians" may not have been part of the original letter, as is true of many of the titles of New Testament books, but it is clear who was intended to read the book.

The audience, whether general or specific, need to know God's seven-fold plan for unity that is found in this book (**Ephesians 4:1-7**). Ephesus may have been a very successful and thriving congregation, with many significant leaders (Paul, John, Timothy, etc.) but it is not enough for them to be without criticism. There is no "perfect" church.

No doubt Paul faced some adversity during the latter years of his ministry in Ephesus which led them to respect him even more. One significant event was when he became embroiled in a dispute with artisans, whose livelihood depended on selling the statuettes of Artemis in the Temple of Artemis (**Acts 19:23-41**). This story would have been one of the famous tales of the apostle Paul. During his time in this city he also wrote I Corinthians (see I Corinthians notes) which helped to keep the church on the spiritual map.

There may be no other church with so much emphasis in the New Testament, with maybe the exception of Antioch and Jerusalem. John's ministry in Ephesus was also successful. In fact, it was associated with John more than Paul (see John, I-III John, and Revelation notes). Timothy also served the congregation as a minister and a bishop/elder (traditionally Onesimus too). Church history tells us that Timothy served as a shepherd in Ephesus for about 15 years along with John (see Philemon, I & II Timothy notes).

There are also several women had successful ministries in the city of Ephesus. Pricilla and her husband Aquila are well-known for their work in this city. Jesus' mother Mary lived here and worshipped with this congregation. History also tells us that Mary Magdalene was a teacher here in Ephesus.

### Key Verses:

**Ephesians 1:3, 2:19-22, 3:5, 3:20-21, 4:1-6, 4:11-16, 4:30, 5:15, 5:22-23, 6:10-20**

### Outline:

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>I. Our Will in Christ (1)</i>    | <i>IV. Our Walk in Christ (4)</i>    |
| <i>II. Our Wealth in Christ (2)</i> | <i>V. Our Ways in Christ (5)</i>     |
| <i>III. Our Work in Christ (3)</i>  | <i>VI. Our Warfare in Christ (6)</i> |

# *Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians*

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson One = THE BLESSINGS IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1:1-14)

Introduction: The city of Ephesus first appears in the Bible in **Acts 18**. Paul lived, worked, and ministered there in the late 50s AD. Many influential people in the New Testament had connections to the church at Ephesus (John, Timothy, Mary Magdalene, etc.). Sadly, Jesus had to rebuke them (**Revelation 2:1-7**). Why didn't they heed Paul's advice? What can we learn from Paul's letter to the Ephesians? What can we do to ensure that we do not leave our first love? For the next several weeks we will see 12 reasons for falling in love with Jesus! These things were apparently forgotten by the Ephesians soon after Paul's letter reached them. Let's study together....

Discussion:

- I.      **The Beloved Fellowship in the Kingdom** (Ephesians 1:1-3)  
          *What is so special about fellowship with God's people?**
- II.     **The Beautiful Foresight of God** (Ephesians 1:4)  
          *What can we learn about what God has planned?**
- III.    **The Blended Family of the Saints** (Ephesians 1:5)  
          *Why is it important for us to remember that we are a blended church family?**
- IV.    **The Bountiful Favor of the Father** (Ephesians 1:6)  
          *What does it mean to be accepted?**
- V.     **The Bought Freedom of the Blood** (Ephesians 1:7)  
          *How can we be purchased by the blood of Christ?**
- VI.    **The Broad Forgiveness of the Master** (Ephesians 1:7-10)  
          *What is the mystery of His Will? What is its purpose?**
- VII.   **The Bright Future of a Christian** (Ephesians 1:11-14)  
          *How can these verses give Christians great hope?**

Conclusion: Do not forget that the last two words of **Ephesians 1:3** which tell us what a person must do to enjoy these benefits. We have to be *"in Christ"* to enjoy these spiritual blessings! The only way for anyone to enjoy the spiritual blessings of the Lord is for that person to be saved by the grace of God! Are you in Christ? Have you taken the steps necessary for salvation? Have you been in Christ but left your first love? It's time to return to God! It's time to seek God's face so that He can begin blessing you again and walking with you again! He loves you! He wants to bless you right now!

# *Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians*

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Two = THE POWER OF CHRIST (Ephesians 1:15-23)

Introduction: Who is your first love? Not, who was your first love. First in principle, not in chronological order. The church in Ephesus left their first love! If they had only listened to the apostle Paul things would've turned out differently. The Lord Jesus Christ must always come first. In our lesson today we will notice another reason for which we fall in love with Jesus... His power. Last week we noticed His blessings and promises, but those mean nothing if Christ is not have the power and authority to fulfill them. What do we need to know about the power of Christ? Paul tells us. Let's study together....

Discussion:

- I. The Praise for the Power of Christ (Ephesians 1:15)  
What did Paul do when he heard of their faith?*
- II. The Profession of the Power of Christ (Ephesians 1:16)  
Where else does Paul speak of praying without ceasing?*
- III. The Perception of the Power of Christ (Ephesians 1:17)  
How can we receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation?*
- IV. The Persuasion of the Power of Christ (Ephesians 1:18-19)  
What does it mean to be enlightened?*
- V. The Proof of the Power of Christ (Ephesians 1:20)  
Where is the proof of the power of Christ? Explain.*
- VI. The Potency of the Power of Christ (Ephesians 1:21-22)  
How far does the work of Christ reach?*
- VII. The Pledge of the Power of Christ (Ephesians 1:23)  
What is the Body of Christ?*

Conclusion: Not only is Christ our "head," He is also our "fullness." What does that mean? He fills His body. He is in us. His Holy Spirit makes His home inside of us. Paul reveals that Christ is so united with His church, that He is incomplete until His church is complete. He is not satisfied without us! He will not allow anything to come between us! He wants us to become an intimate part of Him not just to complete a task, or to fulfill a mission, but because He loves us more than we can comprehend. Paul is revealing an amazing truth... Jesus may be your first love, but don't forget you are His first love (**John 3:16, Romans 5:8, I John 4:19**)! Will you accept His sentiments or will you rebuff His love? Are you ready to experience the power of His love? Are you ready to feel the grasp of His amazing grace?

# *Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians*

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Three = THE LIFE OF CHRIST (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Introduction: For the past two weeks we have noted the sad condition of the church in Ephesus. I have suggested that if the Ephesians had applied Paul's letter to them, they would have avoided the condemnation they received from Jesus in **Revelation 2:1-7**. Jesus was disappointed that they had left their first love! They left Him for the world. In Ephesians Paul is trying to show them why they should love Jesus. The first reason was His blessings, second was His power, but the third reason why we should fall in love with Christ... is the quality of life we can have in Him! Let's study together....

Discussion:

## *I. Life in Christ = Abandoning the World (Ephesians 2:1-3)*

*How are we made alive in Christ Jesus?*

*Why must we abandon the ways of the world?*

*How can we escape the wrath of God?*

## *II. The Life in Christ = Accepting the Way (Ephesians 2:4-6)*

*What does it mean to be rich in mercy?*

*Why must we accept the way of love?*

*How can these verses give us great hope?*

## *III. The Life in Christ = Acknowledging the Walk (Ephesians 2:7-10)*

*How can we experience the grace of God?*

*How can our faith help us in our walk?*

*For what purpose were we created? Explain.*

Conclusion: We are all "UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT" and we have to learn to be patient with one another. Our new life in Christ is going to be difficult. We often fall back into the old pattern, return to our old ways, and look like the old man. The prophet Jeremiah asked, "*Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots?*" (**Jeremiah 13:23**). The truth is, we are ALL sinners, we are ALL lost and undone, and we are ALL separated from God by a wide chasm of sin, but Jesus can bridge that gap! Are you ready to be under new construction? Are you ready to start a new life in Christ Jesus? Have you walked away, but are ready to return to Lord? Start your new life in Christ!

# ***Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians***

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Four = THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST (Ephesians 2:11-22)

Introduction: In **Revelation 2:1-7** we read a letter from Jesus to the church at Ephesus. In that letter, Jesus tells the Ephesians that He was disappointed that they had left their first love. They left Him, for the world. In this series we are considering some of the things that Paul taught regarding Jesus in his letter to them (12 reasons we should fall in love with Jesus). This particular section of Scripture reminds Christians that we are a part of something bigger and better. We are a part of the kingdom of God! In God's kingdom there are certain rights and privileges that no one can take away from you. These new things were not available to those under the old law. Let's study together....

Discussion:

## ***I. Kingdom People Benefit From A New Promise (Ephesians 2:11-13)***

*Why does Paul emphasize the Gentiles in this context?*

*What descriptions can be given to those outside of the faith?*

*How can we be brought here to Christ?*

## ***II. Kingdom People Benefit From A New Position (Ephesians 2:14-18)***

*Who is our peace? How is this possible?*

*What has Christ done for us? How did He accomplish this?*

*What does it mean to have access to God?*

## ***III. Kingdom People Benefit From A New Purpose (Ephesians 2:19-22)***

*What does it mean to be a stranger/foreigner from God?*

*Why must we remember our foundation? What is it?*

*How are we fit together as a holy temple of God?*

Conclusion: In Christ we have a new promise, a new position, and a new purpose. The question we have to ask ourselves is: "What are we going to do with these things?" When we are added to the kingdom of God how should it affect our everyday walk? How can we be salt and light? What good is kingdom living if we choose to be invisible to the world? Isn't it time we let God use us for His glory? Are you ready to walk with Jesus every day? Are you ready to surrender to Him fully? The kingdom is advancing. You should be too.

# *Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians*

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Five = THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST (Ephesians 3:1-13)

Introduction: Jesus told the Ephesians in **Revelation 2:1-7** that He was disappointed that they had left their first love! If they had listened to the apostle Paul, they would have recognized the signs. Paul gives them multiple reasons why they should have fallen in love with Jesus. In this lesson we are going to focus on the message of Christ. Paul recognizes that God wanted to include ALL of humanity in His plan for salvation (**Romans 1:16, Acts 1:9-11**). There is no doubt that this was one of Paul's greatest achievements... to take the gospel into the entire world, especially to the Gentiles. Let's study together....

Discussion:

**I. The Message of a Prisoner of Christ (Ephesians 3:1-2)**

*What was the context of Paul's imprisonment?*

*How did he feel about this?*

**II. The Message of a Pioneer for Christ (Ephesians 3:3-7)**

*What was the plan for the Gentiles?*

*Why does he remind us of God's promises?*

*Why do you think Paul keeps mentioning grace of God?*

**III. The Message of a Preacher of Christ (Ephesians 3:8-12)**

*What is the significance of Paul's calling and commitment to Christ?*

*What can we learn from Paul's confidence?*

*How can we have this boldness?*

**IV. The Message of a Prophet of Christ (Ephesians 3:13)**

*Why do people lose heart?*

*What are the dangers of a hard heart? How does it develop?*

*Why must we look for life lessons?*

Conclusion: The message of Jesus was clear. A major theme of His ministry was compassion. He wanted the whole world to hear of the grace and mercy of God and witness it in action. The religious people of His day focused on negative things. It was time for some good news! So God gave them the gospel. When you hear the message of Christ compels you to take action. Are you ready to obey the good news of Jesus Christ? Are you ready to surrender to His will?

# *Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians*

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Six = THE LOVE OF CHRIST (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Introduction: In **Revelation 2:1-7** Jesus tells the Ephesians that He was disappointed in them for leaving their first love! The book of Ephesians is full of warning signs. We should be falling IN love with Jesus, not OUT of love! In this lesson we are going to focus on the love of Christ. His love for us is amazing! As we dig through these verses, I think we will grow in our own relationship with Jesus. We will see Him as He sees us! Let's study together...

Discussion:

**I. *The Lord's Love is Overreaching* (Ephesians 3:14-15)**

*How can we know that our Creator loves us?*

*What do we know about the kingdom of God?*

*Why must we remember that we are all part of God's family?*

**II. *The Lord's Love is Overwhelming* (Ephesians 3:16-17)**

*What do we know about the riches of God's glory?*

*How can reflecting on God strengthen us?*

*What can faith do to our hearts?*

**III. *The Lord's Love is Overshadowing* (Ephesians 3:18-19)**

*Why must we never forget the love of God?*

*How does God cover us with grace and mercy from the inside out?*

*Why does He want us to be filled? How does He do that?*

**IV. *The Lord's Love is Overflowing* (Ephesians 3:20-21)**

*How does Paul describe God's work in this context?*

*What is the "power" that works in us?*

*What does Paul mean when he speaks of the church in all generations?*

Conclusion: The love of God is recorded on every page of Scripture. God gave His only Son. The Son gave His life willingly on the cross for our sins. **Romans 5:8** says, "God shows His great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners." John said, "We love because God first loved us" (**1 John 4:19**). Are you falling in love with Jesus? When you hear the message of Christ it should compel you to take action. Are you moved by the love of Christ? Are you ready to obey the good news of Jesus Christ? Are you ready to be covered by His blood in baptism? Are you ready to be filled with his Holy Spirit? Are you ready to walk with Jesus every day of your life? Are you ready to surrender to His will?

# *Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians*

## GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Lesson Seven = THE UNITY IN CHRIST (Ephesians 4:1-16)

Introduction: In **Revelation 2:1-7** Jesus condemns the Ephesians because they left their first love. If they had listened to the apostle Paul they would have avoided that terrible fate. Today we are going to consider the unity we have in Christ. Our nation was founded with an ideal of unity (*E Pluribus Unum*). The church must decide if it wishes to be a spiritual nation under God. Will we follow God's vision for this new society, this new Kingdom, the church of Jesus Christ? Let's see His vision and study together....

#### Discussion:

#### **I. The Reason for Our Unity (Ephesians 4:1-6)**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| A. We are called by the same Lord.    | G. We are motivated by the same faith. |
| B. We are bound by the same love.     | H. We are saved by the same baptism.   |
| C. We are indwelt by the same Spirit. | I. We are committed to the same cause. |
| D. We are added to the same body.     | J. We are adopted by the same Heavenly |
| E. We are filled with the same hope.  | Father (same brothers and sisters).    |
| F. We are dedicated to the same God.  | K. We are created for the same reason. |

*How can these things inspire Christians to seek unity?*

#### **II. The Root of Our Unity (Ephesians 4:7-11)**

*What is the heart of the unity of the church?*

*What was the role of the apostles? Prophets? Evangelists? Pastors? Teachers?*

*Who called them and gave them this role?*

#### **III. The Resolve for Our Unity (Ephesians 4:12-14)**

*Who should equip the saints for ministry?*

*How can this edify the body of Christ?*

*What are the dangers of being immature?*

#### **IV. The Result of Our Unity (Ephesians 4:15-16)**

*How can we speak the truth in love?*

*Why must we remember that every part of the body has a purpose?*

*What will happen if one part of the body does not do its share?*

Conclusion: As our nation was once focused on "*E Pluribus Enum*" (*out of many, one*). What about God's spiritual nation? We are one and we must always be one! Do you have unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ? Are you committed to working and serving in the kingdom of God?

# ***Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians***

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Eight = THE RENEWAL IN CHRIST (Ephesians 4:17-32)

**Introduction:** Jesus condemns the Ephesians for leaving their first love (**Revelation 2:1-7**). In this series we are noticing that if the Ephesian Christians had just listened to the apostle Paul they would have avoided that terrible fate. Today we are going to consider the renewal we can have in Christ. Paul issues some very specific challenges for all those who have been renewed. Let's study together....

**Discussion:**

***I. Renewal in Christ Compels Us To Be Different (Ephesians 4:17-19)***

*How can walking like the Gentiles hinder our spirituality?*

*What is the danger of being alienated?*

*What descriptions are given to the old man?*

***II. Renewal in Christ Compels Us To Be Decisive (Ephesians 4:20-21)***

*Why must we learn about Christ as a Christian?*

*What are the dangers of saying you are a Christian not living like Jesus*

*How can we be taught by Christ?*

***III. Renewal in Christ Compels Us To Be Declarative (Ephesians 4:22-24)***

*What must we put away?*

*What must we put on?*

*Why does the world need to know we have changed?*

***IV. Renewal in Christ Compels Us To Be Dependable (Ephesians 4:25-32)***

*Why must lying be replaced by truth?*

*Why must anger be replaced by forgiveness?*

*Why must stealing be replaced by giving?*

*Why must corrupt speech be replaced by edifying speech?*

*Why must bitterness be replaced by kindness?*

**Conclusion:** We work hard to rise above this world, fill our lives with God's Holy Spirit, and surrender to a higher purpose but people of this world only want to bring us down. Our enemy, the devil, wants us to keep our eyes on the earth so that we will turn our faces away from Heaven. Isn't it time you found renewal and revival? Are you ready to launch out in faith?

# ***Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians***

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Nine = THE LIGHT OF CHRIST (Ephesians 5:1-20)

Introduction: In **Revelation 2:1-7** we read a letter from Jesus to the church at Ephesus. In that letter, Jesus condemns the Ephesians because they left their first love. If the Ephesian Christians had just listened to the apostle Paul they would have avoided that terrible fate. Today we are going to consider the light of Christ in the world. Remember what John has already revealed about Jesus as the Light of the world (**John 1:6-9, 8:12, 9:5**). Jesus shined His light and then passed on the flame. Now Paul reveals that the torch has passed all the way down to us. Let's study together....

Discussion:

***I. Christ's Light Leads Us To Walk in Love (Ephesians 5:1-7)***

*Why should we imitate God?*

*How can love allow us to emulate Jesus?*

*What will allow us to escape temptation and expand the kingdom?*

*How can even Christians be deceived?*

*What should we do when people try to deceive or discourage us? Why?*

***II. Christ's Light Leads Us To Walk in Radiance (Ephesians 5:8-14)***

*How can we know that we are in the light?*

*What is the significance of being children of the light?*

*Why would people want to live in darkness?*

*What can we learn from the reference to the fruit of the spirit?*

***III. Christ's Light Leads Us To Walk in Wisdom (Ephesians 5:15-20)***

*How can we walk right and redeem the time?*

*What's the difference between foolish living and wise living?*

*How can walking with God help us in our worship?*

Conclusion: Are you tired of walking in the darkness? Are you ready to come into the light? Are you ready to bring some sins out into the open? Are you ready to lay them at the foot of the cross? Are you ready to die with Christ in baptism, be buried in His precious blood, and rise up new out of a watery grave? Are you ready to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God? Seek the Light of the world!

# ***Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians***

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Ten = THE MARRIAGE TO CHRIST (Ephesians 5:21-33)

Introduction: If the Ephesians had listened to the apostle Paul they could have avoided condemnation by Christ (**Revelation 2:1-7**). Why did they leave their first love? How could they avoid that fate? They needed to be faithful in their marriage to Christ. Paul shows how the mutual submission is to be carried out between Christian couples in marriage and how that affects the entire family. Notice that **Ephesians 6:1-9** should be a part of this particular section of Scripture because it also deals with relationships (next week). Let's study together....

Discussion:

***I. Marrying Christ Causes Us To Love Our Family (Ephesians 5:21-24)***

*How can wives improve their relationship with their husbands, and their Savior?*

*How can husbands improve their relationship with their wives, and their Savior?*

*Why must couples submit to one another?*

***II. Marrying Christ Causes Us To Lift Our Family (Ephesians 5:25-30)***

*How can holiness improve your marriage?*

*What will happen if we honor one another in marriage?*

*Why must Christ be in the center of our family?*

*What will happen if this changes?*

***III. Marrying Christ Causes Us To Lead Our Family (Ephesians 5:31-33)***

*Why must a man leave his father and mother?*

*Why would Paul use marriage to describe the church?*

*How can mutual love and respect bless the home?*

*How can we further strengthen our Christian homes?*

Conclusion: Society will not thank you for doing the right thing and following the will of the Lord. However, God is honored by your righteous behavior. The word of God commends you for doing the will of God and teaching what is right to your family. May God bless you and your family! How's your marriage to Christ? Are you faithful? Are you loving? Can He count on you? If you are not married to Christ, and if you've not been baptized into Christ, now is the time to be saved! Will you come to Jesus? Will you be saved?

# ***Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians***

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Eleven = THE COMMITMENT TO CHRIST (Ephesians 6:1-9)

Introduction: We have noted that if the Ephesian Christians had just listened to the apostle Paul they would have avoided the condemnation they received in **Revelation 2:1-7**. Paul tried to show them how much the Lord loves us and why we should fall in love with Him. Today we are going to consider the commitment we have to Christ. From a biblical framework, we can argue that commitment is a positive thing. We should fall in love with Jesus because He allows us to be committed to Him. Consider all of the benefits! Let's study together....

Discussion:

## ***I. Our Commitment to Christ Impacts the Home (Ephesians 6:1-4)***

*What does Paul say about children and their relationship to their parents?*

*What does Paul say about the relationship between fathers and their children?*

*Why must families be committed to one another?*

## ***II. Our Commitment to Christ Impacts the Workplace (Ephesians 6:5-9)***

*What do we know about bond servants and their masters?*

*How can our work be a blessing to the kingdom?*

*Why should employers and employees see their work as God's work?*

*How can eternity be impacted by our work ethic?*

## ***III. Our Commitment to Christ Impacts the World (Ephesians 6:8-9)***

*What will happen if we repay evil with evil?*

*What will happen if we repay good with good?*

*Why do these things so important to God?*

Conclusion: Jesus reveals through the parables that we may not be rewarded, recognized, promoted, or compensated for the work we do on earth, but it's not payday yet! The Lord will compensate us at the Judgment Seat. What will the Lord say to you on Judgment day? Will you be given a great reward? If you are a wicked and lazy servant, there is another kind of fate that awaits you. The choice is yours. You can choose your own destiny! Choose wisely. Make the right kind of commitment. Are you ready to meet God?

# ***Study Guide for the Letter to the Ephesians***

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson Twelve = THE ARMOR OF CHRIST (Ephesians 6:10-24)

Introduction: For the past few months we have been studying the book of Ephesians in light of the comments Jesus made about the church in **Revelation 2:1-7**. It is ironic that Paul wrote a letter to those brethren, several years before that condemnation by Christ, giving them a message that should have helped them to avoid that fate. Paul tried to show several reasons why we should fall in love with Jesus and stay in love with Him. Today we are going to consider the whole armor of Jesus Christ and why we must wear it. Let's study together...

## Discussion:

- I. The Armor of Christ Includes the Bold Promise (Ephesians 6:10-13)***  
*How can we know that great things will happen if we put on the armor?*
  
- II. The Armor of Christ Includes the Belt of Truth (Ephesians 6:14)***  
*How can we wear this part of the armor?*  
  
*How can it bless me? How can it bless others around me?*
  
- III. The Armor of Christ Includes the Breastplate of Righteousness (Ephesians 6:14)***  
*How can we wear this part of the armor?*  
  
*How can it bless me? How can it bless others around me?*
  
- IV. The Armor of Christ Includes the Boots of Peace (Ephesians 6:15)***  
*How can we wear this part of the armor?*  
  
*How can it bless me? How can it bless others around me?*
  
- V. The Armor of Christ Includes the Barricade of Faith (Ephesians 6:16)***  
*How can we wear this part of the armor?*  
  
*How can it bless me? How can it bless others around me?*
  
- VI. The Armor of Christ Includes the Beret of Salvation (Ephesians 6:17)***  
*How can we wear this part of the armor?*  
  
*How can it bless me? How can it bless others around me?*

**VII. The Armor of Christ Includes the Blade of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)**

*How can we wear this part of the armor?*

*How can it bless me? How can it bless others around me?*

*If I use the sword of the Spirit foolishly how can it do irreparable damage?*

**VIII. The Armor of Christ Includes the Banner of the Lamb (Ephesians 6:18-24)**

*How is prayer part of the armor of God?*

*What is the significance of listening to my Commander in Chief/General?*

*Why must we remember that Jesus is in charge of his Army?*

*What is the role of an ambassador?*

*Whom did Paul send to carry the letter for the Ephesians and the Colossians?*

*How does Paul close this letter to the Ephesians? What can we learn from it?*

Conclusion: As we close out this lesson, and this series on Ephesians, I want to reemphasize that we should fall in love with Jesus! Jesus loves you! He loved you first. He will always love you! Please, accept Him as your Lord. Put away your life of sin to follow His great example. Choose to confess His precious name that saves. Decide to be covered by His precious blood. Walk in His glorious light. You can save yourself. If you have taken those steps, don't be like the Ephesians who read this letter and ignored its message. **Revelation 2:1-7** tells us they did not see Jesus as their first love. The Lord deserves so much more than we give Him. His love for you is great! Don't ever leave Him or you'll regret it for an eternity. Come to Jesus!