



“Don’t leave your first love!” (Revelation 2:4)

A Study of the Book of Ephesians

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

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (June 8, 2014)

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Live event via YouVersion Bible app

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! What we have noticed in the book of Ephesians is that 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)

- A. The Context of His Imprisonment (v.1)
- B. The Cause of His Imprisonment (v.1)
- C. The Commission of His Imprisonment (v.2)

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

- A. The Plan for the Gentiles (vs.3-5)
- B. The Possessions of the Gentiles (vs.6)
- C. The Promise to the Gentiles (vs.6-7)

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

- A. The Significance of His Calling (v.8)
- B. The Scope of His Commitment (vs.9-10)
- C. The Size of His Confidence (vs.11-12)

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

- A. Beware of a Hard Heart (v.13)
- B. Beware of Trials & Tribulations (v.13)
- C. Beware of Life Lessons (v.13)

Conclusion: The message of Jesus was clear and it is recorded for all to read. 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 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?