

Auckland Chinese Baptist Church
(English Sunday School, 11-10-2015, 1200-1245)
New Testament Survey: Ephesians (10/27)

Author

Paul

Date

Probably in the early part of the A.D. 60

Theme

God's new society

Historical Background

1 Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon were all written from prison at about the same time. These four are called as Prison Epistles (CEPP)

2 Half of the verses are also found in Colossians. There is a possibility that Paul first developed these themes in Colossians while dealing with a local problem, and then expanded them into a more universal setting for Ephesians.

3 It is unclear which imprisonment produced these letters (2 Cor 11.23), but most likely Paul was at Rome (Acts 28)

Characteristics

1 Jesus Christ breaks down the wall between God and humanity, subduing the hostile cosmic powers, creating the church (a new social order of love and unity that transcends the racial, ethnic, and social distinctions between people).

2 God, out of his love and glory, calls people to be reconciled to himself and to one another through the cross of Christ.

3 The cross provides forgiveness of sins, a new life, and a new people.

4 Part I consists of chapters 1-3, focuses on the doctrine, especially on the new life and society God has created through Jesus. Part II consists of chapters 4-6, focuses on ethics, specifically, the new standards and new relationships expected of believers.

Outline

1:1-14	To God be the Glory
1:15-23	Fullness of Christ
2:1-10	Raised up with Christ
2:11-22	End of Hostility
3:1-13	Mystery of Grace
3:14-21	Power to Know Love
4:1-16	Working out Our Unity
4:17-5:21	Children of Light

5:22-6:9
6:10-24

Relationships in Christ
Armor of God

Open

1 In what two ways is the ethnic background of your family reflected in your life now: Tastes in food? Mannerism? Expressions? Ways of handling emotions? Celebrating holidays?

Dig

1 1:3-14 is originally a long and run-on sentence of praise. What praises are these?

2 What do the images in 4:1; 5:1-2; 5:8-9; 5:15-16 imply about Christian living?

Reflect

1 Paul uses images like "a life worthy of the calling you received," "children of light," and " imitators of God,"to describe the Christian lifestyle. How do you reflect your own Christian life through these images?

