

The Book of Ephesians

Lesson one

Read Ephesians chapter one.

Paul's authority

1. Notice how Paul introduces himself . What phrase is common in all of these introductions? Eph. 1:1, I Cor. 1:1, II Cor. 1:1, II Tim. 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God

The word "apostle" means messenger or one sent out. Although it can be used in a general sense, for this study we are referring to those men specifically chosen by Christ to be with Him, to be taught by Him, to see Him after His resurrection, and to be the foundation of the church.

2. According to these verses, who choose Paul to be an apostle?

God the Father

3. Even though Paul introduces himself as an apostle, he was not one of the original twelve apostles chosen by Christ. What happened to Judas, one of the twelve? Matt. 27:3-5

He hung himself out of remorse for betraying Jesus

4. How did the other apostles try to compensate for the loss of Judas? Acts 1:15-25

They choose Matthias to take his place by drawing lots

5. Read Acts 1:1-14. Do you see any indication that God wanted the disciples to choose a new apostle in place of Judas? (This is the only New Testament reference to Mathias.)

No - they hadn't been given any instruction about choosing someone new

6. According to Rev. 21:9-14, how many men did God consider to be apostles?

12 - their names are written on the 12 foundations of the new Jerusalem

The apostles were given great responsibility and authority for the foundation of the church. God used them to write 22 of the 26 books of the New Testament. They were given supernatural insight and revelation by God Himself in order to found His new church on Truth. Each apostle spent time with Christ personally. God authenticated their words by giving them the power to perform miracles. It is important to understand whether or not Paul had apostolic authority.

7. What evidence of apostleship did Paul demonstrate? II Cor. 11:5 & 6, II Cor. 12:11 & 12

He claimed "knowledge"; he claimed he was equal to the "super apostles"; he did signs, wonders & miracles - all the things that marked an apostle

8. Did Paul spend time with Christ? Acts 9:1-16, 2 Cor. 12:1-13

Yes, Christ appeared and spoke on the road to Damascus.
Yes, he was "caught up" and given surpassing great revelations" 2 Cor. 12:7

9. What specific ministry had God assigned to Paul? Romans 1:1-5

A ministry to share the gospel with the Gentiles

10. Another "sign of an apostle" was the ability to perform miracles. Did Paul perform miracles? Acts. 13:6-12, Acts 14:8-10, Acts 19:11 & 12

Yes, he made Elymas, the sorcerer, blind. Healed a lame man.
Even his articles of clothing were used to heal people and evil spirits left.

11. Considering all of the references you have read, do you think it's logical to assume that Paul was God's choice to be the 12th apostle?

Seems very probable. Mathias is never again referenced in Scripture and Paul makes great assertion to his apostleship.

Paul's greeting

12. Who was Paul writing this letter to and how does he describe them? Eph. 1:1

To the saints in Ephesus - the faithful in Christ Jesus

The word translated "saint" in the Bible is the Greek word "hagios" which means holy, consecrated or set apart. In the Bible, all believers, those who are "in Christ" are saints.

13. What is true for all believers....those who are "in Christ"? Ro. 8:9

Not controlled by sinful nature, but by the Spirit

14. What does Paul desire for the saints in Eph. 1:2?

Grace & peace from God & Christ

The Bible describes both "peace with God" and "the peace of God."

15. Read Col. 1:10-22. What is the condition of all unbelievers and how does that condition change at the moment of salvation? This is peace with God. (vs. 21 & 22)

Alienated from God and enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior - now we are reconciled and holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

16. Phil. 4:6 & 7 describes the peace of God. What is this verse talking about?

Absence of anxiety - peace of mind

17. Is the peace of God automatic? How can it be obtained?

It is not automatic, but it is always available to the believer by prayer, petition with thanksgiving - giving God our burdens

18. How is God described in both Ro. 15:33 and I Thes. 5:23?

The God of peace. same

Have you accepted God's gift of reconciliation and experienced peace with God?

"For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. " Rom 5:10-11