

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians
June 4 - August 20
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Paul's letter to the Ephesians is often seen as the 'crowning jewel' of Pauline theology. This letter reflects a rich theology which focusses on the exulted Christ and his relationship with the church. Thus, the letter continues to be relevant for churches in the 21st century wrestling with the nature and mission of the church. As we work through the letter to the Ephesians we will be seeking to understand Paul's gospel and, particularly, his theology of the church.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, participants should:

- understand the letter as a whole and in its parts
- appreciate the role of the church in God's plans and purposes for the world
- articulate Paul's gospel and its implications
- recognize the relationship between theology and Christian living

Weekly Schedule:

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| Week 1 | June 4, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Introduction to Letter Eph. 1:1-14 |
| Week 2 | June 11, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Eph. 1:15-23 |
| Week 3 | June 18, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Eph. 2:1-10 |
| Week 4 | June 25, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Eph. 2:11-22 |
| Week 5 | July 2, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Eph. 3:1-13 |
| Week 6 | July 9, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Eph. 3:14-21 |
| Week 7 | July 16, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Eph. 4:1-16 |
| Week 8 | July 23, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Eph. 4:17-32 |
| Week 9 | July 30, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Eph. 5:1-20 |
| Week 10 | August 6, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Eph. 5:21-33 |
| Week 11 | August 13, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Eph. 6:1-9 |
| Week 12 | August 20, 2014 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Eph. 6:11-24 |

Participants:

This class is operated on a drop in, drop out basis. Participants are not required to come to every class, simply as they desire or are able to. It would be helpful if participants brought a bible or a copy of the letter in order to follow along with the discussion. Participants may also benefit from bringing a means to take notes as there will be a lot of information. Finally, for those who want to go deeper and get more out of this course, it is recommended that they:

- Read through the letter in one sitting at least once per week. Reading out loud versus silently would also be a benefit in this area. This will give an increased familiarity with the letter and will help to capture the whole.
- Label the paragraphs. Following the schedule above, participants can label each paragraph as they appear in their bible. Labels should be concise (not a description or a summary of the paragraph) and specific (should describe only this paragraph and no other, i.e. not general). This can be done on your own or it can be handed to the facilitator to receive feedback.
- Read the letter in several versions. This will benefit because translating is always subjective. Different translations will bring out different words that translates the original greek. By identifying the difference, participants will have a fuller appreciation for the range of meanings of the original language.
- Read a book or commentary on the letter. A recent book which may be of interest is *The Drama of Ephesians* by Timothy G. Gombis. An accessible commentary is *The New Application Commentary: Ephesians* by Klyne Snodgrass. Other works can be discussed with David.

This course is not a bible study, rather it is presented in course format as a Text and Interpretation: Ephesians, such as you might take at the Bible College or university level (though no papers, exams or grades!). As such, it is lecture based though we welcome questions through out the entire class. We have scheduled our time so that we spend an hour of working through the material and then have thirty minutes for questions and answers or general discussion.

At the end of the course participants will be asked to provide feedback on the course so we might adjust the format for future classes. If participants desire to give feedback as the course progresses or if they have question that come up outside of class time they are encouraged to email David at david.schuchardt@northview.sk.ca.