

Thursday

Read Acts 7:54-60; 8:1-3; 9:1-22. What a story of a changed life! It gives new meaning to the phrase, "I once was blind but now I see." What does this story communicate to you about the power of God? Is there a struggle or need in your life that Paul's story of conversion can encourage your faith? What else does this passage teach us about who God wants to use to proclaim his salvation plan? God is very intentional in communicating through Paul that no one is beyond saving and no one has messed up enough to be unusable! I pray that encourages your faith today.

Friday

Read Revelation 2:1-7. What happened to the church in Ephesus? In what area did they lose their focus? What were they doing well? How could what they were doing well in, distract them from their first priority? Has this happened to you? How can we make sure it never happens in our church? We must always understand that what we do for Christ is always a by product of what he is doing in us. May our love for Christ never be overshadowed by our desire to be good for him. This is an epidemic in the church and we must be vigilant to keep it from overtaking us.

Ephesians Series Introduction WAKE UP... and see the Glory Ephesians 1:1-2

Irony – Called to believe the unbelievable
and receive the inconceivable!

Ephesians...*the distilled essence of the Christian Faith*

John Mackay

I. A First Step – Ephesians 1:1-2:

Paul, the ironic _____

Saints in Christ called to be _____

Ephesus, a city _____

Grace and Peace, God's _____

II. The Road Ahead:

Wake up to _____ (Chapter 1)

Wake up to _____ (Chapter 2)

Wake up to _____ (Chapter 3)

Wake up to _____ (Chapter 4)

Wake up to _____ (Chapter 5)

Wake up and _____ (Chapter 6)

III. What happened? Revelation 2:1-7

Conclusion

Wake up and see the glory...over and over again!

Sunday, January 10, 2010

by Jason Whalen, Senior Pastor

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...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

The book of Ephesians has been described as the “distilled essence of the Christian faith.” John Mackay, the former president of Princeton Seminary once wrote, “In Ephesians I saw a new world. Everything was new; I had a new outlook, new experiences, and new attitudes toward other people. I loved God and Jesus Christ became the center of everything.” I can offer a hearty amen because I can remember being a college student, reading this book for the first time and seeing everything differently as well. My eyes were awakened to the glory of Christ and his plan for my life and yes, everything from that moment on changed! I am praying that you have a similar experience during this season of learning. The apostle Paul wrote the book of Ephesians from a Roman prison cell around A.D. 60 to open our eyes. Let’s begin this journey and may all our eyes be awakened anew to the glory of Christ and his plan for all our lives.

Monday

Read Acts 19:1-10. As you read that passage, what conclusion or assumptions did you make about the followers of Jesus in Ephesus? Why do you think they had never heard of the Holy Spirit? The assumption we take from this passage helps us understand more fully Paul’s approach to the book of Ephesians. He is writing to a very new and very young church that needed a foundation of truth and practice laid out for them. Maybe this study can help you lay a stronger foundation in your walk with the Lord. Ask the Lord to open your heart so that you can grow through this time in his word!

Tuesday

Read Acts 19:21-40. This passage reads like a made for TV movie, doesn’t it? What do you think is happening in Ephesus on this incredible day? What does it say about the spiritual climate of this city? Ephesus was a large, wealthy and influential city in the Roman world. It was spiritually and morally confused, not unlike what we are living in today. As we study Ephesians, may you come to a greater strength and understanding about how to live out your faith in a complex and chaotic world!

Wednesday

Read Ephesians 1:1-23. After reading that incredible text, write down your thoughts, whatever they might be, however random they may seem! Given what you learned about the people of Ephesus on Monday, what is Paul trying to do? What part of this passage stands out to you the most?