



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. Changed Community.

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

*Life in Christ,
Life in the World*

Introduction

From its humble beginnings, the Church has wrestled with the tension of its life in Christ and its witness in the world. As Jesus prayed in His High Priestly Prayer in **John 17**, though His people are not of the world because of their union with Him, they are to remain in the world as His redemptive witnesses. John emphasizes this again in **1 John 2:15-17** when he describes the world as a crumbling temporary stage on which the people of God display the redemptive will of God. Paul's letter to the Ephesians speaks specifically to this tension between life in Christ and life in the world. As Sinclair B. Ferguson observes, "These *saints* seem to be in two places at once! They are *in Christ* but they are also *in Ephesus*. These two locations frame the whole of Paul's message."¹ Paul seeks to equip them (and us) in how these two citizenships overlap and interact. Our lives in the world should be defined and directed by our life in Christ as opposed to the other way around. Timothy G. Gombis powerfully reminds us of this truth: "Ephesians announces the triumph of God in Christ over the powers that rule the present evil age and then narrates how the church participates in the triumph."² The Apostle Paul describes life in Christ in chapters 1-3 before describing how that reality is lived out in the world in chapters 4-6. As Stephen E. Fowl writes, "Paul also recognizes that for the Ephesians (or any other body of believers) to inhabit God's drama of salvation appropriately in any particular context, they will need a form of practical wisdom that comes from God."³ May our study and worship of God in Paul's letter to the Ephesians grant us the practical wisdom needed to live out the redemptive beauty of the Gospel in our spheres of influence so that many may come to know the lavish love of God in Christ!

Paul pens the Letter to the Ephesians while serving as a prisoner of and for Christ in Rome sometime around 62 AD.⁴ He first visited Ephesus some years prior during his second missionary journey. During this journey, he provided Priscilla and Aquila to serve the Ephesians before moving on to Caesarea (cf. **Acts 18:18-22**). On his return to Ephesus, Paul

¹ Sinclair B. Ferguson, *Let's Study Ephesians* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2005, reprinted 2015), 5.

² Timothy G. Gombis, *The Drama of Ephesians: Participating in the Triumph of God* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2010), 9-10.

³ Stephen E. Fowl, *Ephesians: A Commentary* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012), 4.

⁴ While there is quite a bit of scholarly debate about whether or not Paul actually wrote Ephesians, it is attributed to Paul in multiple places throughout the letter (**1:1**, **3:1-3**, and **6:21-22** as the one who sends Tychicus whom he also sends to Colossae according to **Colossians 4:7**). In addition, D.A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo effectively argue for Pauline authorship in *An Introduction to the New Testament, 2nd Ed.* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005), 480-486.

imparts the Holy Spirit to a dozen gathered disciples before settling down for 2 years to equip the saints for the work of the ministry in their context. During this time, his ministry sparked both revival and riot (cf. **Acts 19**). The Lord blessed Paul's ministry and service to the Ephesians such that many repented of their pagan practices and destroyed the means of those practices. The silversmiths and craftsmen who fashioned idols of Artemis (or Diana whose temple was recognized as one of the wonders of the world) incite a riot to eliminate this new threat to their economic industry. The transformation of the local culture was proving bad for their present business. Once things calmed down, Paul departed again and sent for the Ephesian elders to meet him in Miletus to say goodbye for the last time (cf. **Acts 20**). Timothy, Paul's trusted son in the faith, remained in Ephesus to help protect against the fierce wolves that are predicted to come in after Paul's departure (cf. **1 Timothy 1:3-8**). Paul's affection for the Ephesians is clearly displayed in his various efforts to equip and protect the church throughout his ministry.

This affection and concern is clearly displayed in the words of his letter to the church in Ephesus. Unlike most of Paul's other letters, his letter to the Ephesians doesn't focus on a particular problem or issue.⁵ As Euguen H. Peterson writes, "...the dominant concern in the Ephesian letter is not to deal with the human problems that inevitably develop in church – no church is exempt – but to explore God's glory that gives the church its unique identity. The letter also gives us an adequate vocabulary and large enough imagination for living in the fullness of God's glory, living to 'the praise of his glory' (Eph. 1:14)."⁶ Paul's focus is on encouraging the Ephesian saints to rejoice in their life in Christ and to display this redeemed reality in their local context for the life of the world. This same encouragement is being offered to us. Ferguson writes, "From beginning to end Ephesians sets before us the wonder of God's grace, the privilege of belonging to the church, and the pattern of life-transformation the gospel produces."⁷ Paul lovingly calls the church at Ephesus and the church across the ages to live out the glorious truth of the gospel in union with Christ throughout all areas of life in the world.

The letter to the Ephesians begins with the saints' life in Christ. After his greeting, Paul launches into an effusive blessing of the Trinity for the redemptive work of the gospel in the lives of the Ephesians. As Ferguson notes of this blessing in chapter 1, "While verses 3-14 are broken down into five sentences in our translation, they are actually only one sentence in Greek – stretching to over two hundred words! They constitute a doxology, a poem of praise

⁵ Many scholars believe Ephesians was intended to be a circular letter that would also be read in a number of other churches along one of Paul's previous routes.

⁶ Eugene H. Peterson, *Practice Resurrection: A Conversation on Growing Up in Christ* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010), 16.

⁷ Ferguson, xi.

to God for all the blessings of the gospel.”⁸ From this firm foundation, Paul gives thanks for the Ephesians and for Christ’s victorious reign before reminding them of who they once were and have now become through God’s grace alone in Christ alone by surrender in faith alone. This grand set of theological truths proves dizzying to the mind and mysterious in its workings. However, Paul brings it back down to what should be focused on through his example of life in Christ and in his prayer for the Ephesians to grasp and receive what is of greatest import: the love of Christ and the indwelling, empowering fullness of God in the Spirit. These indicatives in the gospel of Christ serve as the means of grace for the imperatives to be lived out in the world. Ferguson captures this ordering beautifully: “Understanding what the gospel is and how it works hinges on grasping the relationship between the indicative and imperative moods in Paul’s teaching (in Ephesians). Everything he urges us to do (4:1ff.) is dependent on everything he tells us God has already done (1:2ff.). Our faithfulness is a response to God’s grace.”⁹

In response to God’s gracious relationship to the Ephesians in Christ, Paul calls them in chapters 4-6 to live differently in the world. What’s most striking is how everyday and ordinary these imperatives are. Peterson insightfully declares, “Nothing in creation, nothing in salvation is remote from or irrelevant to who we are, the people we live with, and the people we work with. Every jot and tittle in the gospel of Jesus Christ is here for living, for embodiment in each and every one of our bodies, for working into the muscle and bone of our ordinary lives.”¹⁰ How we live matters deeply in both the now and the not yet. Fowl captures this truth when he writes, “The ways in which they conduct themselves in the course of this journey will have a significant impact on the course and outcome of this journey as well as on believers’ abilities to draw others in as fellow travelers. Because this journey passes through places already shaped and influenced by the surrounding pagan cultures, the Ephesians will need wisdom from the Holy Spirit to engage these cultures and to negotiate their paths through them in a manner that will enhance rather than frustrate their journey.”¹¹ The way we live shapes our present worship and maturation which affects how those around us view the redemptive story and whether the Spirit uses us to draw others into the family. God has invited us in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to join Him in His redemptive work in this world. Gombis encourages us to “...see the outworking of God’s salvation in the world as a powerful, divinely driven story that is unfolding by the power of the Spirit, overtaking and enveloping all of creation, (so that) we can begin to gain a vision for how we can play our

⁸ Ferguson, 7.

⁹ Ferguson, 5.

¹⁰ Peterson, 226.

¹¹ Fowl, 199-200.

role in this great, surprising and invigorating narrative.”¹² The question that Ephesians poses to us is this: are we willing to cultivate our role in Christ in God’s unfolding kingdom in this world?

It is critical for us to hear this question and Paul’s encouraging answer from Ephesians not as a loose collective of individuals but as a church unified in the gospel. While there are many individual elements to be lived out in our spheres of influence, we are to encourage, equip, challenge, and build each other up as and through the church. Peterson writes, “Church is the core element in the strategy of the Holy Spirit for providing human witness and physical presence to the Jesus-inaugurated kingdom of God in this world. It is not that kingdom complete, but it is a witness to that kingdom.”¹³ The health of the church finds its nourishment in how we walk in our daily lives as neighbors, friends, spouses, children, co-workers, and bosses. As any one of these daily realities suffer or are neglected, our local church feels the affects in a variety of ways either through active sin or passive neglect. The church that fails to bear fruit but produces thorns and thistles fails to be encouraged and alive in Christ for the life of the world. This seems to be the trouble that the Ephesian church finds itself in as Jesus calls them to return to in repentance to their first love after having turned their focus inward in fear in **Revelation 2:1-7**. Pray that we would be equipped for the work of the ministry and mature in our affection for Christ, each other, and the world as we journey through Ephesians. Gombis’ words serve as a fitting encouragement to us as we begin: “Ephesians is not merely there to give us information. It is designed to transform us as we seek to become gospel characters, to become truly the people of God. Paul means to give us hope in God’s resurrection power and to help us gain wisdom as we seek to participate fruitfully in what God is doing in the world.”¹⁴

We will continue to seek nourishment from our historic faith and the Old and New Testaments for our weekly devotion and worship. The calls to worship will come from the Psalms that celebrate God’s call for us to rejoice in His presence before a watching world. We will confess together each week **Ephesians 1:3-14** to remind us of our blessed status as beloved of God in Christ sealed by the Holy Spirit. The assurances of pardon will come from **the Acts of the Apostles** with a particular focus on the life and missionary journeys of Paul to remind us of the historical reality of the Gospel that has helped make our salvation possible. Our benedictory blessings each week will come from **Ephesians 3:20-21** for the *Life in Christ* portion of the series and from **Ephesians 6:23-24** for the *Life in the World* portion. The goal of these various elements is to show us that the person and work of Christ is critical for our understanding of how to serve as ambassadors of reconciliation.

¹² Gombis, 17.

¹³ Peterson, 12.

¹⁴ Gombis, 181.

This devotional is designed to encourage daily meditation and prayer in personal devotions and/or family worship. You are encouraged to use it the week prior to the associated sermon so that you and your family are prepared for worship. In addition to the Scriptures and associated questions, there are opportunities to pray for the various aspects of the Church. On Wednesdays, we will pray for the various missionaries, church plants, and missional ministries that we support at CCC. We also have the opportunity to pray on Saturday for the Holy Spirit to draw people to and prepare us for worship. On Sunday, the Lord's Day Sabbath, we will pray for the means of grace to help us live out the truths presented in the worship service. Our desire is to continue to facilitate and grow in our dependence on the Lord through prayer.

May God bless our time in personal devotion, family worship, and corporate worship as we seek to for the Church to grow in the joy of salvation and unity in Christ for the sake of its mission in the world!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Structure of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

Part 1: *Life in Christ:*

- 1:1-2; 6:21-24: *The Golden Thread: Grace and Peace in Christ*
- 1:3-10: *Foundational Theology: Blessed in Christ, Part 1*
- 1:11-14: *Foundational Theology: Blessed in Christ, Part 2*
- 1:15-23: *The Cornerstone of Gratitude & Prayer:
Victorious in Christ*
- 2:1-10: *From Death to Life: Alive in Christ*
- 2:11-16: *The Fall of the Dividing Walls: Unity in Christ*
- 2:17-22: *God's Dwelling Place: Built Up Together in Christ*
- 3:1-6: *A Purposeful Prisoner: Paul's Life in Christ, Part 1*
- 3:7-13: *A Purposeful Prisoner: Paul's Life in Christ, Part 2*
- 3:14-21: *A Prayer for Growth in Christ and the Fullness of God*

Structure of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

Part 2: *Life in the World:*

- 4:1-10: *The Bonds of Peace: Unity in the Church in the World*
- 4:11-16: *Christ's Gift of Servant Leaders:
Equipping the Saints for Ministry in the World*
- 4:17-24: *A New Self: The Display of Life in Christ in the World*
- 4:25-5:2: *Imitators of God: Walking in Love in the World, Part 1*
- 5:3-14: *Imitators of God: Walking in Love in the World, Part 2*
- 5:15-21: *Filled with the Spirit:
Longing Out the Will of God in the World*
- 5:22-33: *The Sacred Canopy of Marriage:
The Display of the Mystery of Christ in the World*
- 6:1-9: *Our Impartial Heavenly Master:
Christ's Lordship Displayed in Us in the World*
- 6:10-20: *The Armor of God: The Means of Grace for
Displaying God's Glory for the Life of the World*

Sermon Schedule

Part 1: *Life in Christ*

Date	Call to Worship	Assurance of Pardon	Benediction	Sacrament
Sunday, 5/5: <i>Ephesians 1:1-2;</i> <i>6:21-24</i>	<i>Psalm 85</i>	<i>Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-9</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
Sunday, 5/12: <i>Ephesians 1:3-10</i>	<i>Psalm 93</i>	<i>Acts 9:10-19</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	<i>Baptism:</i> <i>Griffin Oldham</i>
Sunday, 5/19: <i>Ephesians 1:11-14</i>	<i>Psalm 89:1-4</i>	<i>Acts 9:26-31</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	
Sunday, 5/26: <i>Ephesians 1:15-23</i>	<i>Psalm 110</i>	<i>Acts 13:32-41</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
Sunday, 6/2: <i>Ephesians 2:1-10</i>	<i>Psalm 98</i>	<i>Acts 13:44-49</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	
Sunday, 6/9: <i>Ephesians 2:11-16</i>	<i>Psalm 96</i>	<i>Acts 14:1-7</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
Sunday, 6/16: <i>Ephesians 2:17-22</i>	<i>Psalm 91</i>	<i>Acts 15:12-18</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	
Sunday, 6/23: <i>Ephesians 3:1-6</i>	<i>Psalm 100</i>	<i>Acts 15:22-35</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	
Sunday, 6/30: <i>Ephesians 3:7-13</i>	<i>Psalm 99</i>	<i>Acts 16:25-34</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	
Sunday, 7/7: <i>Ephesians 3:14-21</i>	<i>Psalm 103</i>	<i>Acts 17:1-9</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	<i>Bread and Cup</i>

Sermon Schedule

Part 2: *Life in the World*

Date	Call to Worship	Assurance of Pardon	Benediction	Sacrament
Sunday, 7/14: <i>Ephesians 4:1-10</i>	<i>Psalm 68:7-20</i>	<i>Acts 17:22-31</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	
Sunday, 7/21: <i>Ephesians 4:11-16</i>	<i>Psalm 107:1-9</i>	<i>Acts 19:8-10</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	
Sunday, 7/28: <i>Ephesians 4:17-24</i>	<i>Psalm 4</i>	<i>Acts 19:11-20</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
Sunday, 8/4: <i>Ephesians 4:25-5:2</i>	<i>Psalm 111</i>	<i>Acts 20:17-21</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
Sunday, 8/11: <i>Ephesians 5:3-14</i>	<i>Psalm 112</i>	<i>Acts 20:22-28</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	
Sunday, 8/18: <i>Ephesians 5:15-21</i>	<i>Psalm 95</i>	<i>Acts 20:29-38</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
Sunday, 8/25: <i>Ephesians 5:22-33</i>	<i>Psalm 128</i>	<i>Acts 26:19-23</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	
Sunday, 9/1: <i>Ephesians 6:1-9</i>	<i>Psalm 127</i>	<i>Acts 26:24-29</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	
Sunday, 9/8: <i>Ephesians 6:10-20</i>	<i>Psalm 138</i>	<i>Acts 28:23-31</i>	<i>Ephesians 6:23-24</i>	<i>Bread and Cup</i>

Weekly Congregational Confession

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 1:1-2; 6:21-24

The Week of May 5th

Monday, 4/29: *Psalm 85*: What are some ways in which the Lord has shown His steadfast love to you, your family, and the church in the past month?

Tuesday, 4/30: *Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-9*: Share your story of your encounter with Christ in which you came to know Him as Lord with someone who hasn't heard it before.

Wednesday, 5/1: Pray for the Jim Whittle serving with Equipping Leaders International in India that the Lord would spread His grace and peace in Christ through the planting of churches throughout India.

Thursday, 5/2: *Ephesians 1:1-2; 6:21-24*: Pray for the Holy Spirit to use this series on Ephesians to mature you in Christ for the sake of your witness in the world. Give thanks for the grace and peace that are already yours in Christ.

Friday, 5/3: *Ephesians 3:20-21*: How has God blessed you in a way that was far greater than you could have asked for or thought of?

Saturday, 5/4: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ's incorruptible love displayed for His people in the elements.

Sunday, 5/5: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup*: Pray for the means of grace to nourish your love for and understanding of your union with Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-10

The Week of May 12th

Monday, 5/6: *Psalm 93*: Meditate on the Lord's reign over Creation. Give thanks for His decrees being trustworthy and eternal.

Tuesday, 5/7: *Acts 9:10-19*: Who from your past would be or has been most shocked by your life in Christ?

Wednesday, 5/8: Pray for the Mills serving with MTW in Thailand that the Holy Spirit will bear much fruit from their sharing the riches of God's grace lavishly offered in Christ.

Thursday, 5/9: *Ephesians 1:3-10*: Pray this passage as a prayer of blessing to God including personal aspects in which you have specifically experienced the various theological truths that Paul describes.

Friday, 5/10: *Ephesians 3:20-21*: Give thanks to God for His sustaining and improving work in your life.

Saturday, 5/11: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for bearing witness to a baptism. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you improve your baptism on the theological foundation of His electing grace alone in Christ alone by faith alone.

Sunday, 5/12: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Baptism*: Pray for the means of grace to improve our understanding and appreciation of God's adopting love for us in Christ.

Ephesians 1:11-14

The Week of May 19th

Monday, 5/13: *Psalm 89:1-4*: What are some ways in which you are making the faithfulness of the Lord known to the next generation?

Tuesday, 5/14: *Acts 9:26-31*: Give thanks for those who have obeyed the call to preach boldly in the name of Jesus that have had an impact on your life.

Wednesday, 5/15: Pray for Avery Mayes as she transitions from serving as an intern with RUF at KSU to continue her studies in graduate school that the Lord will bless her in Christ.

Thursday, 5/16: *Ephesians 1:11-14*: Consider how each aspect of salvation (justification/adoption, sanctification, and glorification) is the primary and guaranteed work of each member of the Trinity. Bless each for their work in and transformation of your life.

Friday, 5/17: *Ephesians 3:20-21*: What have you been asking God for as of late? How might He be answering your prayer in ways that you haven't thought of to bring greater glory to Himself and sanctification to your life than you asked for?

Saturday, 5/18: Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw people to worship who need to hear the word of truth and the gospel unto their salvation to the praise of God's glory.

Sunday, 5/19: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to grant us greater assurance in our salvation which is sealed in the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:15-23

The Week of May 26th

Monday, 5/20: *Psalm 110*: Give thanks for the Lord sending Jesus Christ to victoriously reign in grace, justice, and peace as King over all Creation.

Tuesday, 5/21: *Acts 13:32-41*: What has Jesus, the Son of David, freed you from that the law could not free you from?

Wednesday, 5/22: Pray for the staff and volunteers of First Care Women's Clinic to continue to boldly proclaim the victorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thursday, 5/23: *Ephesians 1:15-23*: What could others give thanks for concerning our church's faith in the Lord Jesus and our love toward the saints? What are some areas in which we could grow in the knowledge of God and hope in the finished work of Christ?

Friday, 5/24: *Ephesians 3:20-21*: Praise God for choosing to glorify Himself in and through our church.

Saturday, 5/25: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ's body given to fill us with the fullness of God.

Sunday, 5/26: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup*: Pray for the means of grace to enlighten the eyes of our heart to who we are in Christ.

Ephesians 2:1-10

The Week of June 2nd

Monday, 5/27: *Psalm 98*: What song best describes or calls to mind the marvelous things that the Lord has done for you and those you love?

Tuesday, 5/28: *Acts 13:44-49*: Who do you see the Lord bringing salvation to that doesn't look like you? How can you participate in this unique moment and context?

Wednesday, 5/29: Pray for the Sawyers in Kenya that the Holy Spirit will bring many dead children of disobedience to newness of life in Christ as adopted children of God.

Thursday, 5/30: *Ephesians 2:1-10*: Meditate on the truth that God has made you alive in Christ alone by faith alone through His grace alone because of His great love. What could you boast of in any of this?

Friday, 5/31: *Ephesians 3:20-21*: Give thanks to God for displaying His glory in Christ in generations and historical events previous to ours so that we would come to know Him.

Saturday, 6/1: Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring someone from death to being alive in Christ through our worship service on Sunday.

Sunday, 6/2: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to help us to walk in the good works that we were re-created for in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:11-16

The Week of June 9th

Monday, 6/3: *Psalm 96*: What does your life and worship ascribe to the Lord before a watching world?

Tuesday, 6/4: *Acts 14:1-7*: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you speak boldly for the Lord and bear witness to His grace in your spheres of influence where you are invested.

Wednesday, 6/5: Pray for the Larsens with MTW's NEXT that the Holy Spirit would use their ministry to help bring children into the family of Christ who were once far off.

Thursday, 6/6: *Ephesians 2:11-16*: What dividing walls of hostility has Christ brought down in your various relationships? What walls is He currently working on bringing down?

Friday, 6/7: *Ephesians 3:20-21*: What legacies of reconciliation in Christ would you like to leave for future generations?

Saturday, 6/8: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ bringing you near despite you once being so far off.

Sunday, 6/9: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup*: Pray for the means of grace to nourish your desire for and patience with His work of reconciliation among His people.

Ephesians 2:17-22

The Week of June 16th

Monday, 6/10: *Psalm 91*: Give thanks to the Lord for the specific ways in which He has served you as a refuge and fortress. Take time to share this with someone this week.

Tuesday, 6/11: *Acts 15:12-18*: Why does God rebuild the tent of David and its ruins? What does this suggest about the purpose of the church?

Wednesday, 6/12: Pray for the Women's Extension that the Holy Spirit would bring healing and build them up together in Christ to serve as a dwelling place for God.

Thursday, 6/13: *Ephesians 2:17-22*: If Christ pursued those who were far off and who felt like strangers and aliens from the people of God in order to bring them into the family, then how should we treat those who are far off from God and feel like strangers in God's house?

Friday, 6/14: *Ephesians 3:20-21*: What are some ways in which you have been blessed by the glory of God through the ministries and worship of the church?

Saturday, 6/15: Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw those who are far off and feel like strangers and aliens amidst God's children. Pray that they would feel welcome in Christ.

Sunday, 6/16: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the Holy Spirit to use the means of grace to build us together into a dwelling place for God.

Ephesians 3:1-6

The Week of June 23rd

Monday, 6/17: *Psalm 100*: What helps you to serve the Lord with gladness and to come into His presence with singing?

Tuesday, 6/18: *Acts 15:22-35*: Consider the Holy Spirit's work in the church throughout history and how our connection all the way back to the Jerusalem Council provides evidence of our assurance of redemption in Christ.

Wednesday, 6/19: Pray for the Stocks serving with MTW in SE Asia that the Holy Spirit would use the examples of their lives in Christ to draw people to Himself.

Thursday, 6/20: *Ephesians 3:1-6*: Are you ever awed by whom God chooses to redeem and make part of His family?

Friday, 6/21: *Ephesians 3:20-21*: Give thanks for God's ability to reach places and people with redemption in Christ that we could never reach, bringing greater diversity and glory to His kingdom.

Saturday, 6/22: Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw people to worship that would cause us to be in awe of the breadth and depths of His love for others.

Sunday, 6/23: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to further reveal to us the redemptive mystery of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:7-13

The Week of June 30th

Monday, 6/24: *Psalm 99*: What is the focus of God's justice?

Tuesday, 6/25: *Acts 16:25-34*: Meditate on Paul and Silas' example under such dire circumstances. What affords them such great assurance in who they are in Christ?

Wednesday, 6/26: Pray for Mike Kennamer serving with MNA Disaster Response that the Holy Spirit would use his service to those affected by various disasters to draw people to newness of life in Christ..

Thursday, 6/27: *Ephesians 3:7-13*: What can you learn from Paul's example? What most affects your confidence of who you are and where your life is going?

Friday, 6/28: *Ephesians 3:20-21*: What are some ways in which you have been blessed by God's growing power at work in you as we've studied Ephesians so far?

Saturday, 6/29: Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal the unsearchable riches of Christ and God's unfolding redemptive plan through our time together in worship tomorrow.

Sunday, 6/30: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to help us to endure our present circumstances and suffering for the glory of God and the redemption of those in our spheres of influence.

Ephesians 3:14-21

The Week of July 7th

Monday, 7/1: *Psalm 103*: Consider the reasons that you have to bless the Lord. Take time to share these with someone this week.

Tuesday, 7/2: *Acts 17:1-9*: What role does opposition play in the sharing of the Gospel? Does it mean that the Gospel shouldn't have been shared?

Wednesday, 7/3: Pray for Jody Stancil and Riverside Community Church that the Holy Spirit would grow their congregation in the knowledge of God and love of Christ.

Thursday, 7/4: *Ephesians 3:14-21*: How is God strengthening you with power through His Spirit in your inner being so that you may comprehend further the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge?

Friday, 7/5: *Ephesians 3:20-21*: How has God blessed you through this repeated benediction over the last few weeks?

Saturday, 7/6: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ's expression of love for us as signified and sealed in the elements of the Lord's Table.

Sunday, 7/7: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup*: Pray for the means of grace to nourish and fill us with the fullness of God.

Ephesians 4:1-10

The Week of July 14th

Monday, 7/8: *Psalm 68:7-20*: Give thanks to the Lord for the ways in which He has provided for you and your family, giving particular thanks for His deliverance in Christ.

Tuesday, 7/9: *Acts 17:22-31*: How did God use some of your former beliefs in order to draw you to Himself in Christ alone by faith alone through His grace alone?

Wednesday, 7/10: Pray for Byron Johnson with Vision 9:38 to send missionaries around the world to teach people the bonds of peace that promote unity in the Church.

Thursday, 7/11: *Ephesians 4:1-10*: How are you currently walking in reference to your calling in Christ? Are you walking with humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with others in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace?

Friday, 7/12: *Ephesians 6:23-24*: Meditate on the ways in which God has blessed you with His peace in Christ. Take time to share this with someone.

Saturday, 7/13: Pray for the Holy Spirit to maintain unity in the bonds of peace in the various relationships throughout our congregation.

Sunday, 7/14: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to help those who attend worship to better walk in a manner worthy of their calling in Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-16

The Week of July 21st

Monday, 7/15: *Psalm 107:1-9*: What do those in your spheres of influence hear you saying about the Lord?

Tuesday, 7/16: *Acts 19:8-10*: Who did the Holy Spirit use to speak boldly into your life reasoning and persuading you concerning the kingdom of God in Christ?

Wednesday, 7/17: Pray for the Robertsons serving with MTW in South America that they would bear fruit in equipping church planters and other ministry leaders to boldly preach the Gospel in South America.

Thursday, 7/18: *Ephesians 4:11-16*: What work of the ministry are you currently involved in? What further discipleship and training would benefit you to continue to mature in Christ? Share this with the leadership of the church.

Friday, 7/19: *Ephesians 6:23-24*: Give thanks to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for blessing you with love and faith.

Saturday, 7/20: Pray for the Holy Spirit to help the leaders of the church equip the saints for the work of the ministry that God has fashioned for each of us.

Sunday, 7/21: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to mature us further into the image of Christ to use our gifts to help build our church up in love.

Ephesians 4:17-24

The Week of July 28th

Monday, 7/22: *Psalm 4*: Consider the ways in which the Lord has given you relief when you were in distress. Share this with someone this week.

Tuesday, 7/23: *Acts 19:11-20*: Do you believe that the Gospel can transform local cultures and practices in repentance as the word of the Lord increases and prevails?

Wednesday, 7/24: Pray for the Caltons serving with RUF at KSU that the Holy Spirit would grant them many opportunities to participate in students putting off the old self and putting on the new self in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone.

Thursday, 7/25: *Ephesians 4:17-24*: What of your old self continues to cause you to struggle to more fully put on the new self? What are you doing to address it?

Friday, 7/26: *Ephesians 6:23-24*: What are some ways in which you are presently experiencing the blessing of God's grace in your life?

Saturday, 7/27: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ making it possible for you to walk not according to your former manner of life but to instead be renewed in the spirit of your mind to be pleasing to God.

Sunday, 7/28: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup*: Pray for the means of grace to nourish our ability to live in true righteousness and holiness after the likeness of God.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

The Week of *August 4th*

Monday, 7/29: Psalm 111: What have you recently been stirred to give thanks for to the Lord with your whole heart in worship?

Tuesday, 7/30: Acts 20:17-21: Give thanks for those whom the Lord has provided to teach you what is profitable in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for them to continue in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Wednesday, 7/31: Pray for Chris Foglesong and Mountain City Church to be imitators of God and to walk in love in Jasper, Georgia, so that many would be drawn to redemption in Christ.

Thursday, 8/1: Ephesians 4:25-5:2: Why does God call us to imitate Him as beloved children? Why does how we live matter if we are already saved in Christ?

Friday, 8/2: Ephesians 6:23-24: Meditate on how you have grown in your love for Jesus Christ and how this has been a blessing to your life.

Saturday, 8/3: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ giving Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Sunday, 8/4: The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup: Pray for the means of grace to nourish us as imitators of God called to walk in love for the life of the world.

Ephesians 5:3-14

The Week of *August 11th*

Monday, 8/5: Psalm 112: What are the ways in which you express your fear of the Lord? What areas of your life are most affected by His commandments?

Tuesday, 8/6: Acts 20:22-28: What are some ways in which you have benefitted from hearing the whole counsel of God (i.e., OT and NT, redemption and judgment, grace and justice)?

Wednesday, 8/7: Pray for David Gilbert and Grace Presbyterian in Douglasville to walk as children of the light discerning what is pleasing to the Lord to serve as imitators of God to a watching world.

Thursday, 8/8: Ephesians 5:3-14: What role does the sexual aspect of our life play in our being able to walk as children of light?

Friday, 8/9: Ephesians 6:23-24: Give thanks for God's love for you in Christ being incorruptible.

Saturday, 8/10: Pray for the Holy Spirit to protect us from being deceived by empty words concerning the sexual aspect of our lives and its role in our witness in the world.

Sunday, 8/11: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to help us see how every aspect of our lives matter to our witness in the world.

Ephesians 5:15-21

The Week of *August 18th*

Monday, 8/12: *Psalm 95*: Meditate on what encourages you to come into the Lord's presence with thanksgiving to make a joyful noise to Him with praise. Share this with someone this week.

Tuesday, 8/13: *Acts 20:29-38*: What are some ways in which you have recently been built up and sanctified by God and His word of grace?

Wednesday, 8/14: Pray for Robbie Hembree and Grace Church in Canton that they would redeem their time and be filled with the Spirit for the eternal good of their neighbors.

Thursday, 8/15: *Ephesians 5:15-21*: What helps you to look carefully at how you walk and make the best use of your time? How are you encouraging others in the name of Christ?

Friday, 8/16: *Ephesians 6:23-24*: How has God blessed you with peace through your fellowship with other believers?

Saturday, 8/17: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ submitting to the will of the Father to redeem us as His beloved children.

Sunday, 8/18: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup*: Pray for the means of grace to nourish our ability to discern the will of the Lord in our lives for His glory.

Ephesians 5:22-33

The Week of *August 25th*

Monday, 8/19: Psalm 128: What fruit are you seeing born in your home to the glory of the Lord because of your obedience to Him?

Tuesday, 8/20: Acts 26:19-23: What are some ways in which God has helped you to share your faith and stand firm in His word in your spheres of influence?

Wednesday, 8/21: Pray for Grace Covenant Church in Dallas that the Holy Spirit would establish and use the marriages in their church as sacred canopies in their area.

Thursday, 8/22: Ephesians 5:22-33: How has your marriage or someone else's marriage served to reflect the mystery of Christ and the church to you and those around you?

Friday, 8/23: Ephesians 6:23-24: Give thanks for God's blessing of peace and love in your various relationships in Christ.

Saturday, 8/24: Pray for the marriages in our church to be healthy in Christ and to serve as sacred canopies throughout our communities.

Sunday, 8/25: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to strengthen our love and care for one another.

Ephesians 6:1-9

The Week of September 1st

Monday, 8/26: *Psalm 127*: Who's building your house? For what purpose is it being built?

Tuesday, 8/27: *Acts 26:24-29*: Meditate on how you have been set free in Christ. Who do you long for to experience this same freedom in Christ?

Wednesday, 8/28: Pray for Mattew Rabe and Grace Presbyterian in Cedartown that the Holy Spirit would use their witness as parents and co-workers to reflect God's glory.

Thursday, 8/29: *Ephesians 6:1-9*: Is your life consistent in glorifying God between home, work, and worship? What are those in your spheres of influence learning about your beliefs based your actions?

Friday, 8/30: *Ephesians 6:23-24*: How has God blessed those around you with the peace and love that He has brought into your life in Christ?

Saturday, 8/31: Pray for the children of our church to grow as disciples in Christ.

Sunday, 9/1: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to help us to live consistently for God's glory in our various spheres of influence.

Ephesians 6:10-20

The Week of September 8th

Monday, 9/2: *Psalm 138*: Consider the ways in which God has preserved and protected you as of late. Share this with someone this week.

Tuesday, 9/3: *Acts 28:23-31*: What are some ways in which you proclaiming the Gospel where you live?

Wednesday, 9/4: Pray for Martin Hawley and Hope Presbyterian in Marietta to persevere in the means of grace and boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thursday, 9/5: *Ephesians 6:10-20*: What are you doing to regularly protect yourself against the spiritual forces of evil?

Friday, 9/6: *Ephesians 6:23-24*: What are some ways in which God has recently grown your love for Christ?

Saturday, 9/7: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ's preservation of His people in His finished work.

Sunday, 9/8: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup*: Pray for the means of grace to nourish our desire to pray for and participate in the bold proclamation of the Gospel.