

# Sunday School Live Lesson

June 2, 2024

One in Jesus Christ

Ephesians 2:11-22

1

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

# Sunday School Lesson

## Questions for Us Today

June 2, 2024

2

How divided (or not) do you see our nation today?

What should we do about this?

# Sunday School Lesson

## Objectives

June 2, 2024

3

To understand the messaging in today's passage, by the Apostle Paul, for the ancient church in Ephesus.

To understand how today's national (or perhaps world) situation mirrors today's passage.

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1**

June 2, 2024

1. Bibliography

4

2. Points of Information: Paul

# Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

June 2, 2024

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These Things

## Points of Information – Paul

The Apostle Paul was originally known as Saul of Tarsus. Tarsus was then (and still is) a large Mediterranean city in Turkey. Saul of Tarsus is *not* to be confused with King Saul (of Israel) in the Old Testament. However, both men (with this name) descended from the Hebrew Tribe of Benjamin. 1 Samuel 9:1-2; Romans 11:1.

Paul was a Jew and a Roman citizen by birth. He studied under a well-known professor, Gamaliel. Acts 22:3. Like his teacher and his father, Saul/Paul was a Pharisee. Acts 23:6.

## Points of Information – Paul

Before his conversion on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:3-19), Saul/Paul was a zealous believer in God who felt wholly justified in his brutal persecution of Christian men and women. Acts 8:3; 9:1-2; Galatians 1:13.

A young Saul stood by, guarding the clothes of those who stoned Stephen (the first Christian martyr) to death and approving this murder. Acts 7:58—8:1a.

## Points of Information – Paul

The Apostle Paul was a tentmaker by trade. Acts 18:3. This vocation enabled him to support himself and to have a transportable means of making a living during his extensive travels.

8

In addition to being a prolific writer, Paul was a powerful preacher who traveled great distances (in three missionary journeys, by land and water) to spread the Gospel of Christ Jesus and to establish numerous churches. He called himself “an apostle to the Gentiles.” Romans 11:13.

# One in Jesus Christ

## Lesson Context - 1

Having spent three years in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul had no particular issues with this church.

9

The Apostle Paul may well have intended for this letter to be circulated among churches in other areas of the region.

# One in Jesus Christ

## Lesson Context - 2

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter during his imprisonment in Rome. Therefore, it is one of what are known as the Prison (or Captivity) Epistles – in addition to Colossians, Philippians and Philemon.

Jesus also had a letter written (by John, the Apostle) to the Ephesian church. Revelation 2:1-7.

# One in Jesus Christ

## Lesson Context - 3

In the first ten Verses of this Chapter, the Word was spoken by the Apostle Paul regarding the relationship of the people to God.

11

Now, in the remaining Verses of this Chapter, the Apostle Paul spoke of human interactions with one another and specifically to the Gentile believers regarding their inclusion in the Lord's Plan.

## Ephesians 2:11 [NLT]

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected their bodies and not their hearts.

## Ephesians 2:12

In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the Covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.

## Ephesians 2:13

But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to Him through the Blood of Christ.

## Ephesians 2:14

For Christ Himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His own Body on the Cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

## Ephesians 2:15

He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new people from the two groups.

## Ephesians 2:16

Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death on the Cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

## Ephesians 2:17

He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from Him, and peace to the Jews who were near.

## Ephesians 2:18

Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

## Ephesians 2:19

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's Holy People. You are members of God's Family.

## Ephesians 2:20

Together, we are His House, built on the foundation of the Apostles and the Prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself.

## Ephesians 2:21

We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a Holy Temple for the Lord.

## Ephesians 2:22

Through Him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by His Spirit.

Remember these things:

Let us recognize and remember what Christ did to unify people.

Let us do whatever we can to foster and improve unity in this world.

# Bibliography - 1

25

Africa Bible Commentary.

Tokunboh Adeyemo, General Editor.

All the Men of the Bible.

Herbert Lockyer.

Bible Handbook, The.

## Bibliography – 2

26

Bible Knowledge Commentary, The  
– New Testament. John F. Walvoord  
and Roy B. Zuck, General Editors.

Cost of Discipleship, The. Dietrich  
Bonhoeffer.

Dictionary of Biblical Imagery.  
General Editors: Leland Ryken,  
James C. Wilhoit, Tremper  
Longman III.

## Bibliography - 3

Ephesians – Wholeness for a Broken World. Andrew T. and Phyllis J. Le Peau.

Holman Bible Handbook.

Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary.

Holy Imagination. Judy Fentress-Williams.

## Bibliography – 4

In Search of Paul. John Dominic Crossan and Jonathan L. Reed.

Lands of the Bible Today. Dave Branon.

Life Application Bible  
Commentary – Ephesians.

Life Application Study Bible.

## Bibliography – 5

MacArthur Bible Commentary,  
The. John MacArthur.

Men in the Bible. Don Charles.

Precepts for Living [UMI]. Vince  
L. Bantu [Editor].

## Bibliography – 6

Spirituality According to Paul –  
Imitating the Apostle of Christ.  
Rodney Reeves.

Tony Evans Study Bible, The.

Writings of the New Testament,  
The. Luke Timothy Johnson.

# Next Sunday School Live Lesson

June 9, 2024

Devote All to Christ

Philippians 2:1-11

31

Instructor: Michael McCants