

17. Study of Ephesians & Philippians

1. Course Overview

This course explores the epistles of Ephesians and Philippians, which reflect Paul's theology on the church, Christian life, and the joy of the gospel.

The course covers their structure, themes, historical background, and theological significance with a focus on Pauline ecclesiology and Christ-centered living.

2. Course Objectives

- 1) Understand the identity and mission of the Church as presented in Ephesians.
 - 2) Learn the theology of joy, humility, and gospel power from Philippians.
 - 3) Highlight central Pauline themes—election, grace, union with Christ, and eschatological hope—through both epistles.
 - 4) Apply the message of these prison letters to contemporary Christian life.
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3. Main Themes

1) Ephesians

- (1) The Church as the Body of Christ (1:22–23)
- (2) Spiritual blessings in the heavenly places (1:3)
- (3) Unity between Jews and Gentiles (Ch. 2)
- (4) Christian life as children of light (Chs. 4–5)
- (5) Spiritual warfare and the full armor of God (Ch. 6)

2) Philippians

- (1) The epistle of joy: true joy in the gospel
 - (2) Christ's humility and exaltation (2:5–11, the "Christ Hymn")
 - (3) Paul's joy in suffering and gospel mission (1:12–21)
 - (4) Christian living: gratitude, prayer, and peace (Ch. 4)
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4. Lecture Outline (12 Weeks)

- 1) Introduction to Pauline Epistles
- 2) Background & structure of Ephesians

- 3) Ephesians 1: Spiritual blessings and election
 - 4) Ephesians 2–3: Reconciliation and the mystery
 - 5) Ephesians 4–5: New life in Christ
 - 6) Ephesians 6: Spiritual warfare
 - 7) Background & structure of Philippians
 - 8) Philippians 1: Joy in suffering
 - 9) Philippians 2: Christ's humility
 - 10) Philippians 3: Law vs Gospel
 - 11) Philippians 4: Peace and thanksgiving
 - 12) Final review and application
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