

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Prayer Meeting
A SUMMARY OF EPHESIANS
January 13, 2008
Nancy McCambridge

CHAPTER 1

God chose us first out of love to share in His life. This is a pure gift. We are now God's possession marked with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit. He has adopted us and made us His children. We can know God as Father. We have redemption through Jesus' blood, the forgiveness of our sins. God made us alive with Christ, raised us up with Him and made us sit with Him in heavenly places. God has made known to us the mystery of his will which He purposes in Christ to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. Barry Levy talked about the Primacy of Christ. Christ has authority over the whole universe and that we, as Church, share in his authority.

CHAPTER 2

Life before Christ – We were dead in our sins. We were under Satan's dominion. We were by nature objects of wrath gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature. But because of God's great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in sin. It is by grace we have been saved through faith. This is not from ourselves; it is a gift of God.

We were separated from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenant of the promise without hope and without God, but now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. Mark Gargulinski talked about the peace of God is restored between God and man; the wrath of God has turned around and hides itself in the depth of divine love. He talked about the power of the blood. Our hearts are cleansed so we can enter the courts of praise and into the holy of holies and draw closer to the Father. Christ's precious blood it brings protection and deliverance over circumstances and relationships.

CHAPTER 3

Paul prays for the dynamic, Trinitarian action of God in a Christian's conversion. Lynn cited four petitions of this prayer: for spiritual strength, for the indwelling Jesus, for knowledge of God's love and for the fullness of God. She urged us to examine if we put limits on God and what he wants to do in our life.

CHAPTER 4

The Lord of Creation is working out His great plan "to unite all things in Jesus, things in heaven and things on earth". And His Church is to be the message and the means of this reconciling work. Paul, therefore, begs us "to live a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called." John Reishus talked about the virtue of humility. "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." He urged us to look at how eager are we to maintain this unity of the Spirit?

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Paul warns his believers not to be “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles”, but to “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ. Mary Healy talked about leadership in the Body of Christ. This is the hour of the laity – God is pouring out grace for us to reclaim His kingdom in our homes, families, communities and our nation.

CHAPTER 5

Paul talks about being imitators of God and living a life of love. Don James talked about putting off the old nature. The battle is in our minds. The mind formed apart from God is darkened in its understanding, is ignorant of God, his love, his plan. It focuses on the here and now. It seeks life and satisfaction from things that man has created and which therefore cannot last. We need to put away the old self, to renounce tendencies, memories, habits, beliefs of the old nature which are rooted in our minds. The cross of Christ has put to death our sin, now we can overcome sin in Christ. The more we taste God’s goodness, the more distasteful sin becomes. Don urged us to look at areas of the old nature – how God wants to take us beyond our comfort zone. Paul mentioned “sins of the tongue” that can affect the body. Do we see any ways that we either use (or fail to use) our tongue that hurts the body?

Lisa Sharafinski talked about putting on the new self. “The spirit of a person is the place where we meet God. Our minds can only be renewed as we meet God there. Without intimacy with Christ we are just following the values of our own mind. Christ’s judgments are altogether righteous and very different from our own. We cannot be humble or meek on our own strength, but through baptism and prayer Christ will show his nature through us.” She shared some examples of putting on the new self in relationships. She urged us to go deeper in our relationships and not to tolerate the sin in our life.

Hall talked on Ephesians 5:1-20 about walking as children of the light. We cannot imitate God except with the interior revelation that I am a dearly loved child of the Father. Our sinful drives are too powerful. He drew up a chart of walking in darkness vs. walking in love. Our Father is passionate for us and wants us to know his love deeply.