

Belmont Chapel Home Group Notes Autumn Term 2019

Righteousness: Ephesians 5:1 - 20 Notes for w/b 17th November 2019

The **Study Leaders' Own Bible Study** for this session is on **Sunday 3rd November at 6.45pm**. You are warmly encouraged to attend. SLOBS is a great chance to prepare together, to discuss possible approaches to the questions, anticipate any challenging aspects of the passage, and to pray for the session with others who'll also be leading their groups. It will also be very helpful to listen to Alex Yate's sermon from **Sunday morning 3rd November**.

These notes are a supplement to the study guide 'Building a Community in Christ' provided to each home group.

Way In

(We need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. It's easy to become preoccupied with current circumstances and even 'trying' to be Christian and we forget who we are)

In pairs, review / reflect on Ephesians 1 - 3, what has particularly struck you about the thing God has done? How does it feel to recognise/understand that? What impact does that understanding have on you?

For an open-ended study

Read Ephesians 5:1 - 20, twice. On the second reading, write down words, phrases or questions which stand out for you. Share these together and see if you can together work out a response based on the passage, and other bible knowledge available in the group. As you summarise, consider what these insights mean for each one in the group on their frontlines over the next few days & weeks.

To help with context, you may find it helpful to watch the Bible Project video on Ephesians.

For more structure...

Grace and Works

We know from Ephesians 2: 4 - 8, that salvation is God's work and not dependent on us. What sort of situation or person is Paul speaking of in 5v5? *(See also Romans 8v5 - 11, Galatians 5v6, James 1v26-27)*

From the context of v5,6 and looking at Romans 6:11 - 18, what are the empty words that cause deceit?

Why would Paul call such behaviours idolatry?

We "walk in the way of love (5v1)" when we are filled with light, wisdom and the Spirit. Working in small groups or all together consider one or all of these headings.

I. Be Filled with Light (vv8 - 14) Read the verses

Why is it important that sins are made visible? Are there examples in the group of where people have benefitted from transparency and accountability? *(be aware of how much people will want to disclose but it should be possible to talk about the process of accountability)*

Amazingly, what happens to things which are illuminated?

As well as exposing sin what else can we do to walk in the light?

You may find it helpful to have some time for (silent?) confession, repentance. Read 1 John 1 v 5 - 9 to close this reflection.

II. Be Filled with Wisdom (vv15 – 17) Read the verses

What are the characteristics of the wise person?

How would making the most of every opportunity combat the evil days?

How can we better understand the Lord's will, and avoid foolishness?

III. Be Filled with the Spirit (vv18 - 20) Read the verses

How does Paul's contrast of drunkenness with Spirit filled living help us understand what it means to be filled with the Spirit? *(For more detail from Paul see Romans 8:5-11 again!)*

What characteristics of a Spirit-Filled, dearly loved child of God, do vs 19&20 describe? How can we practice praise, joy and thankfulness?

Being filled this way is not an effort on our part but is a consequence of being children of God. We can live this way because we are loved, not because we must. We imitate our Father.

This Week

NOW WHAT? How will the light, wisdom, and Spirit of God affect your actions and attitudes as his child this week? Share that with the person you shared with at the start and then pray for God's power (Ephesians 3:16 & 17)

Closing reflections

Read Psalm 92 as a biblical song of praise to the Lord for those who he has made righteous, or listen to the song 'You're a good, good Father' by Chris Tomlin. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqybalesbuA>) and then pray.