

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

September 5, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

### God's Plan Is Eternal

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 1:1-14**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 1:1-14**

#### **Introduction:**

All of the lessons this quarter will be from the Book of Ephesians. Paul writes about God's plan of salvation for the human race and this will occupy the first half of the Book. The second half will be about our part in God's plan.

#### **I. We are in Christ: Eph. 1:1-2**

1. Paul wrote with authority as he called himself an "apostle" - - 1:1.
2. As always, Paul begins his letter with grace and peace - - 1:2.

#### **II. We are Blessed: Eph. 1:3-6**

1. God has blessed us in Christ with all spiritual blessings - - 1:3.
2. God chose us for salvation before the foundation of the world - - 1:4.
3. God predestined us to be adopted through Christ Jesus - - 1:5.
4. All of the above was in order to glorify God - - 1:6.

#### **III. We are Redeemed: Eph. 1:7-12**

1. We have redemption (salvation) through the blood of Christ - - 1:7.
2. God has lavished us with all wisdom and understanding - - 1:8.
3. God has revealed to us the mysteries of His will - - 1:9.
4. All of the above is to bring everything together to honor Christ the Messiah - - 1:10.
5. We are God's inheritance and predestined according to His purpose - - 1:11.
6. Our hope in Christ is that praise might be given to Him - - 1:12.

#### **IV. We are Sealed: Eph. 1:13-14**

1. When we believe in Christ we are "sealed" with the promise of the Holy Spirit - - 1:13.
2. In fact, the Holy Spirit is the "down payment" of our inheritance - - 1:14.

#### **Applications:**

1. As Christians today, we ought to thank God with all of our hearts that He inspired Paul to write Ephesians.
2. It is wonderful that God has had a plan for our salvation from all eternity.
3. Such a wonderful plan by God ought to give us hope and assurance in every day living.
4. All Christians need to understand this larger world view of God's great purpose for the human race.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

September 12, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

### God's Plan Involves Power

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

#### **Introduction:**

God not only had a plan for the human race but He also had power to bring it about! We are saved by His power and we are kept in salvation by His power!

#### **I. Pray for Spiritual Insight: Eph. 1:15-17**

1. Paul had heard about their faith and their love - - 1:15-16.
2. He prayed that God would give them a spirit of wisdom - - 1:17.

#### **II. Expand Your Understanding: Eph. 1:18-19**

1. Paul continued to pray that the eyes of their hearts would be open so that they would know the full hope of God's calling and the glorious riches in Christ - - 1:18.
2. Paul wanted them to know the immeasurable greatness of God's power to those of us who believe in Christ - - 1:19.

#### **III. Acknowledge God's Power: Eph. 1:20-23**

1. God had demonstrated His power in the Messiah by raising Christ from the dead and seating Him at God's right hand in the heavens - - 1:20.
2. Christ therefore was far above any and all rulers and had all power and dominion with all titles - - 1:21.
3. And God had put everything under the feet of Christ and appointed Christ over everything for the church - - 1:22.
4. The church is the body of Christ and the fullness of Christ who fills all things in every way - - 1:23.

#### **Applications:**

1. How grateful we ought to be that God both had a plan for our salvation but also a power to bring about that salvation in our lives!
2. God's power was supremely revealed when he raised Christ from the dead!
3. We as Christians then ought to live as "resurrected people."
4. Christ is truly unique and it is not bigotry to claim uniqueness for Him because God has raised Him from the dead and given Him all power over all things!

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

September 19, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

## God's Power Changes People

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

### **Introduction:**

We sinful human beings cannot change ourselves by our own power. God has to do it for us! And He does it by Christ coming into our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### **I. The Depth of Our Sin: Eph. 2:1-3**

1. We were all dead in our trespasses and sins - - 2:1.
2. We all lived according to this ungodly world before we came to know Christ and this world is under the power of Satan - - 2:2.
3. Even Jews lived in a sinful way and needed Christ as well as do we - - 2:3.

#### **II. The Power of God's Grace: Eph. 2:4-7**

1. God is abundant in mercy and has great love for us - - 2:4.
2. Thus He made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in sin - - 2:5.
3. We have been saved by grace and need to remember that God raised us up with Christ - - 2:6.
4. Our salvation in the coming ages will display the greatness of God's grace in Christ - - 2:7.

#### **III. The Place of Our Works: Eph. 2:8-10**

1. We have been saved by grace through faith and not by our own selves, it is God's gift - - 2:8.
2. We have not been saved by our own good works and thus are robbed of egotistical boasting - - 2:9.
3. Thus we are God's creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared from all eternity - - 2:10.

### **Applications**

1. Before we are converted, it is hard for us sinful human beings to admit that we are seriously lost in sin.
2. Our sins are so serious that it took the death and resurrection of God's own Son to save us from our sins.
3. If we begin to understand even a little bit of how serious our sin is then we will understand how much more wonderful and gracious God is to let His Son die for us.
4. We must never forget that we have been saved by grace and not by our own good works!
5. We have been saved not because for our own comfort but we have been saved so that we might honor God, glorify Him, and serve Him in our world.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

September 26, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

### God's Power Changes Relationships

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 2:11-22**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 2:11-22**

#### **Introduction:**

In this lesson Paul will discuss how God's power changes the relationship between Jews and Gentiles. Before conversion, these two groups are often at each others throats and dislike each other. After being saved by Christ's power, both groups can fellowship together as brothers in Christ.

#### **I. Brought Together: Eph. 2:11-13**

1. Gentile believers need to remember that they were sinful before they came to Christ and they were despised by the Jews - - 2:11.
2. Before Christ, Gentiles were excluded from Israel and were foreigners to the covenant with no hope - - 2:12.
3. But in Christ Jesus, Gentiles are now brought near to God and also near to believing Jews - - 2:13.

#### **II. Joined Together: Eph. 2:14-18**

1. Christ has brought together both groups, Jews and Gentiles, by tearing down the wall of hostility - - 2:14.
2. Christ did away with trying to be saved by the law so that He could create in Himself new people - - 2:15.
3. Christ did this so that He might reconcile both Jews and Gentiles to God through the cross - - 2:16.
4. When Christ came, He proclaimed the good news to both the Jews and the Gentiles - - 2:17.
5. It is through Christ that both groups have access by the Holy Spirit to the Father - - 2:18.

#### **III. Built Together: Eph. 2:19-22**

1. After believing in Christ, Gentiles are not longer foreigners but are fellow citizens with believing Jews - - 2:19.
2. Both groups of believers are built together on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets - - 2:20.
3. The whole building is composed of both believing Jews and believing Gentiles and are being built together into a holy sanctuary for the Lord - - 2:21.
4. All of this is possible because of God's dwelling in them in the Holy Spirit - - 2:22.

#### **Applications:**

1. All Christians should have a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood because of their faith in Jesus Christ.
2. We should not let national or racial backgrounds divide us if we all believe in Jesus Christ.
3. The early church showed the power of Christ to change lives by changing Jews and Gentiles who were often hostile to each other.
4. All Christians today should seek to have a sense of unity with other believers no matter what their background or where they live.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

October 3, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

## God's Power Comes by Grace

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 3:1-13**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 3:1-13**

### Introduction:

In our previous lesson Paul emphasized believing Jews and Gentiles were unified in their faith in Christ and could belong to the same church. In this lesson he will remind both groups of readers of his, Paul's, mission to the Gentiles.

#### **I. Recognizing God's Grace: Eph. 3:1-2**

1. Paul saw himself as a prisoner of Christ on behalf of Gentiles - - 3:1.
2. Paul felt sure his readers had heard about his mission to Gentiles - - 3:2.

#### **II. Receiving God's Revelation: Eph. 3:3-6**

1. God's mission for Paul to the Gentiles was made by a divine revelation to him - - 3:3
2. Paul hoped his readers would understand his revelation - - 3:4.
3. This mission to Gentiles was not known to previous generations - - 3:5.
4. But God's purpose had been revealed to the apostles and prophets that the Gentiles were co-heirs and therefore members of the same body - - 3:6.

#### **III. Responding through God's Power: Eph. 3:7-10**

1. Paul was made a servant of the gospel by God's gift of grace - - 3:7.
2. Paul considered himself the least of all saints, but he was called to proclaim the gospel to the Gentiles - - 3:8.
3. Paul's mission was to shed light for all about this mystery of God's purpose for the Gentiles - - 3:9.
4. This revealed God's multi-faceted wisdom so it might be known to the church - - 3:10.

#### **IV. Rejoicing with Reason: Eph. 3:11-13**

1. This mission to the Gentiles was according to God's purpose in the ages - - 3:11.
2. Jesus was the one through whom Paul could have boldness and confidence and they could too by faith in Christ - - 3:12.
3. Thus, Paul asked his readers not to be discouraged about his afflictions (probably his imprisonment) - - 3:13.

### Applications:

1. How grateful we Gentile Christians ought to be that God revealed to Paul His great purpose to bring salvation to Gentiles as well as Jews.
2. The Jews had many advantages by having the Old Testament and the hope for a Messiah, but Gentiles were also in God's ultimate, eternal plan.
3. When Paul visited their cities, he preached first in the Jewish synagogue but then also shared the gospel with Gentiles, and for this we ought to be extremely grateful.
4. The Book of Isaiah in the Old Testament shows that God's great plan also was for the Gentiles.
5. How grateful Christians ought to be that God's love included all people.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

October 10, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

### God's Power Strengthens

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

#### **Introduction:**

Paul knew that it took God's grace and power to save us from sin, but he also knew that God would strengthen us and enable us to live the Christian life. No human being can live the Christian life in his or her own human strength! We must learn daily to depend upon God and draw from God's strength to help us live the Christian life. Paul knew this extremely well!

#### **I. What We Need: Eph. 3:14-16**

1. Paul's profound gratitude caused him to bow his knees in deep and profound prayer of gratitude to God - - 3:14.
2. Paul recognized that all families and all people in the world existed because of God - - 3:15.
3. Paul therefore prayed that God would grant his readers the strength to live with power through the Holy Spirit - - 3:16.

#### **II. What We Receive: Eph. 3:17-19**

1. Paul furthermore prayed that the Messiah dwell in their hearts through faith and therefore they would be rooted and firmly established in love - - 3:17.
2. Paul prayed that they would be able to comprehend with all other believers what was the length and width and height and depth of God's love - - 3:18.
3. Paul also prayed that they would know Christ's love that surpasses all knowledge - - 3:19.

#### **III. Whom We Ask: Eph. 3:20-21**

1. Paul prayed to the God who was able to do above and beyond all that we humans could ask or think - - 3:20.
2. God should receive the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever - - 3:21.

#### **Applications:**

1. We Christians would be wise to learn from Paul's powerful and meaningful prayer life.
2. Perhaps one of the greatest shortcomings of the modern church and modern Christianity is that we are not the great prayer people that we ought to be.
3. We should live our lives in profound gratitude and we can learn this by reading the letters of Paul.
4. We should ask daily for God to strengthen us so that we might live the type of life that glorifies Him.
5. We would be wise to pray each day that we might learn better to understand the length and width and height and depth of God's love.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

October 17, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

### Being In Step

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 4:1-16**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 4:1-16**

#### **Introduction:**

In the first three chapters of Ephesians Paul lays down his theological premise of God's great plan of redemption for the human race. It included both Jews and Gentiles! Now in the second half of his letter, Paul shows how we are to behave and how we are to live as part of God's great plan.

#### **I. Live Up to Your Call: Eph. 4:1-6**

1. In the light of all that Paul had written in the first three chapters, Paul now called upon his readers to live worthy of their salvation - - 4:1.
2. They need to live with humility and gentleness and with patience and love - - 4:2.
3. Christians should work diligently to keep the unity of Holy Spirit - - 4:3.
4. There was one body and one Holy Spirit and therefore we have one hope - - 4:4.
5. Also, we have one Lord and there's one faith and one baptism and therefore one God above all - - 4:5-6.

#### **II. Appreciate Spiritual Gifts: Eph. 4:7-12**

1. God's grace and a gift has been given to every believer - - 4:7.
2. Before Christ ascended He gave gifts to his followers - - 4:8.
3. Before Christ ascended to heaven he descended to the earth in order to redeem us - - 4:9-10.
4. Among Christ's gifts to us were apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers so that all believers might be trained in ministry and build up the body of Christ - - 4:11-12.

#### **III. Work Together: Eph. 4:13-16**

1. Believers ought to work in a unity of faith and in love since we know God's Son and this results in our becoming a mature believer - - 4:13.
2. Thus, we will not act like little immature children - - 4:14.
3. Christians should speak the truth in love and we should grow into Christlikeness - - 4:15.
4. The church is like a human body and we believers should be fitted together and build ourselves in love for the working of God - - 4:16.

#### **Applications:**

1. As one preacher put it, we are not saved to sit, but we are saved to serve!
2. Paul made it very clear in Ephesians that being saved had ethical and moral implications in how we live our daily lives.
3. There are bad attitudes that ought to be rejected and positive attitudes that ought to be included in our lives.
4. Christ has given us the indwelling Holy Spirit and given us spiritual gifts to equip us to live for Him in our sinful world.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

October 24, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

### Being Different

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 4:17-32**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 4:17-32**

#### **Introduction:**

Paul continues in these verses to exhort the Christians to live in a Godly or Christlike way. Ephesus was filled with religious people but they lived ungodly, unethical, and immoral lives! Paul wanted believers to live with a different lifestyle.

#### **I. Satisfied With Jesus: Eph. 4:17-19**

1. Paul strongly urged his readers not to live as ungodly Gentiles in their futile lifestyles - - 4:17.
2. Unbelieving Gentiles are darkened in their understanding and are excluded from the life of God - - 4:18.
3. Unbelievers in Ephesus lived callous lives and gave themselves over to immoral lifestyles - - 4:19.

#### **II. Saved, Saved!: Eph. 4:20-24**

1. Paul's readers who were believers did not learn about Christ from ungodly Gentiles - - 4:20.
2. They had learned about Christ from Paul and he, Paul, knew the truth was in Christ - - 4:21.
3. Therefore, the believers in Ephesus must put aside their former ungodly way of life because the old person was corrupted - - 4:22.
4. They were now believers who were being renewed in their spirit and in their mind and were created to live in righteousness - - 4:23-24.

#### **III. Since I Have Been Redeemed: Eph. 4:25-29**

1. Believers must put away lying and speak the truth - - 4:25.
2. They will become angry but they must control it and not let it lead to sin - - 4:26-27.
3. If they were thieves before they were converted they must no longer steal but must learn to do honest work - - 4:28.
4. They should put away all unchristlike talk - - 4:29.

#### **IV. Search Me, O God: Eph. 4:30-32**

1. Do not do things that break the heart of the Holy Spirit - - 4:30.
2. Believers must put away all bitterness and anger and wrath and slander - - 4:31.
3. Believers must be kind and compassionate and forgive one another since God forgave us in Christ - - 4:32.

#### **Applications:**

1. We Christians need to understand that we are called to live by a different and higher ethic because we are followers of Christ.
2. We should not be afraid or ashamed to be "different" from the ungodly world.
3. We should not want to be different simply for difference sake but because it is a higher and more godly standard by which we live!
4. We should look carefully, as did Paul, at the ungodly standard of our society and world and therefore to live by Christ's standards!

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

October 31, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

### Being Pure

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 5:1-14**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 5:1-14**

#### **Introduction:**

Paul lived in Ephesus long enough to see how utterly immoral it was! The main worship was of Artemis and her worship involved sexual immorality. Paul pleaded with his readers to live moral lives which honored Christ and not to live the immoral lives of the lost people in Ephesus.

#### **I. Live in Love: Eph. 5:1-2**

1. Paul wanted his readers to imitate God as beloved children - - 5:1.
2. He wanted them to walk in Christian love as Jesus loved us and gave himself for us - - 5:2.

#### **II. Live Without Impurity: Eph. 5:3-7**

1. Christian believers should totally reject sexual immorality and greed - - 5:3.
2. Even vulgar talking and joking should be rejected - - 5:4.
3. People who live continuously a sexually immoral or impure life or live as an idolater would not inherit the kingdom of God - - 5:5.
4. His readers must not deceive themselves, because God's wrath would come upon such disobedience - - 5:6-7.

#### **III. Live As Light: Eph. 5:8-14**

1. Many of Paul's readers were Gentiles who lived in gross spiritual darkness, but now had come into God's light so they needed to live like it - - 5:8.
2. The fruit of spiritual Christian light is goodness and righteousness and truth - - 5:9-10.
3. Christians should not participate in the fruitless works of darkness - - 5:11-12.
4. Sooner or later every evil will be exposed for what it is - - 5:13.
5. The Christians were spiritually asleep and now they are awake, they were spiritually dead and are now raised and should live like it - - 5:14.

#### **Applications:**

1. We Christians today should hear and heed Paul's call to live by the high ethic of unselfish, Godlike love.
2. We should seek to live by the teachings on sexuality of the Bible and not of Hollywood's barnyard morality.
3. It is unfortunate that many professing Christians seem to draw their ethical standards from the ungodly world and not from the New Testament.
4. Christ should be our example as to how we should live and attitudes we should take and not Hollywood stars or high paid athletes.

## **EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

**November 7, 2010**

**Dr. W. B. Tolar**

### **Being Careful**

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 5:15-21**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 5:15-21**

#### **Introduction:**

Sometimes theologians are accused of being too abstract and too theoretical! But Paul was a practical and down-to-earth theologian. He was a brilliant theologian but knew how to make practical suggestions how to live out our faith in a sinful world.

#### **I. Be Wise With Your Time: Eph. 5:15-16**

1. Give careful attention to how you live your life and do not live unwisely, but live wisely - - 5:15.
2. Make the most of your time because the days are evil - - 5:16.

#### **II. Be Aware of God's Will: Eph. 5:17**

1. Do not be foolish - - 5:17a.
2. Understand and do what the Lord's will is for your life - - 5:17b.

#### **III. Be Filled With the Spirit: Eph. 5:18-20**

1. Don't be filled with wine, but do be filled with the Holy Spirit - - 5:18.
2. Speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs and make music to the Lord in your heart - - 5:19.
3. Give thanks always for everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ - - 5:20.

#### **IV. Be Subject to One Another: Eph. 5:21**

1. Submit yourselves to one another or put others ahead of yourself - - 5:21a.
2. Do this out of reverence and respect for Christ - - 5:21b.

#### **Applications:**

1. Christians can be grateful that we have a brilliant theologian in the apostle Paul.
2. But we can be equally grateful that we have a brilliant pastor in Paul who can also help us apply our Christian theology.
3. Christians today would be wise to use our time wisely.
4. We also need to know God's will and do it daily in our lives.
5. Every Christian should seek to be filled with and guided by the Holy Spirit.

## **EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

**November 14, 2010**

**Dr. W. B. Tolar**

### **Being Married**

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

#### **Introduction:**

In order to interpret the verses in this lesson we need to go back and be sure and read Ephesians 5:21 very carefully. That verse, verse 21, is the real introduction to all of the following verses. We are to put others ahead of ourselves by “submitting” ourselves to them and then Paul makes the application to the family.

#### **I. Wives: Submit as Service: Eph 5:22-24**

1. Wives, submit to your husbands or put them ahead of yourselves - - 5:22.
2. The husband is the leader of the wife as Christ is the leader of the church - - 5:23.
3. As the church seeks to put Christ first, the wives should put their husbands first - - 5:24.

#### **II. Husbands: Love as Christ Does: Eph. 5:25-30**

1. Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it - - 5:25.
2. It is Christ who makes the church holy - - 5:26.
3. Christ did this to present the church to Himself in splendor and in holiness - - 5:27.
4. In a similar manner, husbands should love their wives even more than they love themselves - - 5:28.
5. We do not hate our own bodies, but we care for it as Christ does for the church - - 5:29.
6. We are members of Christ’s body, the church, and should live holy lives - - 5:30.

#### **III. Both: Express a Complete Unity: Eph. 5:31-33**

1. For this reason, a man is to leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife - - 5:31.
2. The union of two into one is a mystery and Paul was talking about Christ and the church - - 5:32.
3. Each man was to love his wife as himself and the wife was to respect her husband - - 5:33.

#### **Applications:**

1. All of us as Christians are to seek to put others ahead of ourselves.
2. A Christian wife can do this by putting her husband ahead of her own selfish desires.
3. A Christian husband can do this by putting his wife ahead of his own selfish desires.
4. Christian husbands and wives should love each other as Christ loves the church - - that is a sacrificial self denying love.
5. If all Christian couples practiced putting others ahead of themselves we could give the world wonderful example of family life.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

November 21, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

## Being Respectful

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 6:1-9**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 6:1-9**

### Introduction:

In Paul's letter which originally did not have chapter and verse divisions, these verses actually are included under the previous heading of putting others ahead of ourselves. A key verse for this lesson is also Eph. 5:21.

#### **I. Respect for Parents: Eph. 6:1-3**

1. Children ought to obey their parents according to the teachings of Christ - - 6:1.
2. Children should honor their parents because this is the first commandment with promise - - 6:2.
3. If children do so, things will go well with them - - 6:3.

#### **II. Respect for Children: Eph. 6:4**

1. And parents, especially fathers, are not to stir up anger in their children - - 6:4a.
2. Rather, parents are to bring their children up in the instruction of the Lord - - 6:4b.

#### **III. Respect for Employers: Eph. 6:5-8**

1. Christian Slaves or workers ought to obey their human masters with respect - - 6:5.
2. Workers or slaves ought not work well only when they are watched nor to please people, but as persons of integrity doing it for Christ - - 6:6.
3. Workers ought to render service with a good attitude as doing it to the Lord - - 6:7.
4. If a person works with a good Christian attitude, whether a slave or free, he will receive a blessing from the Lord - - 6:8.

#### **IV. Respect for Workers: Eph. 6:9**

1. Masters or employers, treat workers with respect and without threatening them - - 6:9a.
2. Christian employers, remember you are accountable to your Master in heaven - - 6:9b.

### Applications:

1. A Christian principle that many of us do not apply is that of putting others ahead of our own selfish desires and will in life.
2. Christian husbands and wives should seek to put their spouses' needs, desires, and rights above their own selfish desires.
3. Parents should seek the well being of their children and children should seek to honor and respect their parents.
4. Whether we are Christian employers or employees we should seek to honor Christ and be Christlike in such responsibilities

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

November 28, 2010

Dr. W. B. Tolar

### Being Prepared

**Background Passage:**

**Ephesians 6:10-24**

**Lesson Passage:**

**Ephesians 6:10-24**

#### **Introduction:**

This lesson covers the closing verses of this wonderful letter. Paul summarizes by giving a number of helpful suggestions on how we can be better Christians in our daily living.

#### **I. Get Stronger: Eph. 6:10-13**

1. Put on the "spiritual armor" of God - - 6:10-11
2. Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual rulers who are corrupt and powerful and evil - - 6:12
3. This is why Christians must take the whole armor of God - - 6:13.

#### **II. Stand Firm: Eph. 6:14-17**

1. Christians ought to think of truth like a belt around our waist and righteousness to protect our chest - - 6:14.
2. Our feet need to be shod with the gospel of peace - - 6:15.
3. In all situations we need a shield of faith - - 6:16.
4. We must be sure we have the helmet of salvation on our heads and the sword of the spirit which is God's word at our side - - 6:17.

#### **III. Pray Always: Eph. 6:18-20**

1. We ought to always pray and make our requests through the Holy Spirit - - 6:18.
2. We ought to pray for our spiritual leaders - - 6:19.
3. We can pray for all preachers to be bold enough to speak the truth for Christ - - 6:20.

#### **IV. Be Encouraged: Eph. 6:21-24**

1. Paul sent more information by his messenger - - 6:21-22.
2. Paul sent his peace to the believers at Ephesus along with love and faith - - 6:23.
3. As Paul always did, he sent peace and prayed for grace to be with his readers - - 6:24.

#### **Applications:**

1. We Christians are spiritually weak and need to pray every day for strength!
2. We would do well today to learn from Paul's analogy of armor for a Roman soldier and spiritual armor for our Christian living.
3. Unfortunately many of us Christians today fail to realize that we are in a spiritual warfare!
4. We need to pray every day that God would give us the spiritual armor that Paul writes about in Ephesians.
5. How grateful we ought to be that God called, converted, and used the apostle Paul to take the gospel but also to write such wonderfully inspired letters.