

Ephesians and Colossians

Description:

An in-depth study and application of the twin letters of Ephesians and Colossians. We will study the greatness of Christ within us and His outworking through our lives.

Texts:

LifeChange: Ephesians - NavPress

LifeChange: Colossians & Philemon - NavPress

[A note about LifeChange books: If you have taken courses in other colleges, you may be surprised and even offended by the texts we have chosen for our intensive book studies. College texts are usually thick, hard-cover, weighty tomes, full of the revelation that others have received from their careful study the Scripture. Our preference is that you study God's Word for yourself and receive revelation yourself directly from the author, the Holy Spirit. Others' works should be used for historical, language, and cultural insights and confirmation of what you have received.

The LifeChange series by NavPress is an outstanding example of the Lamad method of learning. (See the CLU catalog for a further description of "lamad learning") The books are short because they contain only the questions that guide your personal study of the Bible, with some background information. As you answer the questions, you will progress from a careful examination of what the passage says to interpreting what it means and finally to prayerfully discovering how it is to affect your life. Your personal notebook of truth you have discovered in answering the questions will be longer than the "course text" and will be your personal record of revelation knowledge. Take your time, answering every question carefully and thoroughly, and I guarantee you will have a greater understanding and appreciation of the biblical text than you would if you devoted your time to the study of a "college text".]

Sit, Walk, Stand - Watchman Nee

Several translations of the Bible; one of them should be the New International Version since that is the translation used by the authors of the texts

A complete concordance such as Young's or Strong's

Objectives

Academic:

- You will quote either Ephesians 3:14-21 or Colossians 1:9-17, plus 10 other verses from the two books.
- You will state the root meaning of "Pharisee".
- You will state a definition of the following words:
 - ✓ grace
 - ✓ peace
 - ✓ holy
 - ✓ redemption
 - ✓ submission
- You will discuss at least two of the images Paul uses to describe relationships within the Church and their meaning and significance.
- You will know the meaning of the biblical word "mystery".
- You will know the "mystery of the gospel".
- You will state the gifts which Christ gave to men when He ascended up on high, and discuss their purpose.
- You will discuss at least three behavioral contrasts to which Paul calls believers ("put off-put on").
- You will list and discuss each piece of the armor of God.
- You will state and discuss the responsibilities of individuals in the various relationships of family and work.
- You will know the root meaning of the word "Gnostic".
- You will state four of the traditions from whom the Gnostics borrowed.
- You will list four teachings of the Gnostics.
- You will state the two greatest strengths of the church of Colosse.

Attitudinal:

- You will have revelation knowledge that you are seated together with Christ Jesus in heavenly places. You have been lifted high above the temporary “realities” of this world, “far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion,” and you are at rest.
- You will have revelation knowledge that you are God’s masterpiece, a work of art, not made for common things but to do good works.
- You will have a greater appreciation of the Church, your place in it, and the relationship of its various members.
- You will have a revelation knowledge that in Christ you have died to the ordinances of the world and in Him you have been raised to a higher level of holiness.

Behavioral:

- Because you are seated with Christ in heavenly places, you will “keep looking down” at the problems of this world. You will have divine perspective on all that you face.
- You will put off any sinful behaviors which the Spirit brings to your attention and put on the appropriate holy lifestyle through the power of the Spirit.
- By the power of the Spirit, you will act according to the revealed will of God in every relationship of your life.
- You will “put on the whole armour of God” and stand against the schemes of the devil.
- You will reckon yourself dead to sin and alive unto Christ.
- You will listen to the peace of God as it “umpires” your life.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, we are training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

Course requirements:

1. Complete all of the questions and activities in the LifeChange: Ephesians text. None of them are optional for this course. Write the answers to all questions, including the Optional Applications, For Thought and Discussion, and For Further Study questions on separate paper and the put them in the "Exercises" section of this Student Notebook so they can be submitted to your instructor at the end of the course.

You will be asked to outline each section as it is studied. You will want to set this outline apart from the rest of the questions so that when you have finished the course, you will have an original, usable outline of each book.

In some lessons, the text will suggest that you select verses to memorize. For this course, you will be required to memorize at least one verse per week, in addition to the passage indicated in #6 below. These two books are so full of rich truth that can change your life that your biggest problem will probably be trying to decide which of several verses you will learn! It is best if you allow the Holy Spirit to draw you to the verses He especially wants hidden in your heart. However, we will suggest a verse for you to memorize in each lesson, in case you have no particular leading. You are only required to memorize one verse per week, not both the recommended one and one of your own choosing, although you will certainly be blessed if you do so.

2. Read the entire book Sit, Walk, Stand by Watchman Nee.
3. Complete all of the questions and activities in the LifeChange: Colossians & Philemon text. None of them are optional for this course. Write the answers to all questions, including the Optional Applications, For Thought and Discussion, and For Further Study

questions on separate paper and the put them in the "Exercises" section of this Student Notebook so they can be submitted to your instructor at the end of the course.

You will be asked to outline each section as it is studied. You will want to set this outline apart from the rest of the questions so that when you have finished the course, you will have an original, usable outline of each book.

4. Complete all Self-Tests at the end of each lesson. These may be done with open book.
5. Earn at least a "B" on Test One and the Final Test (not "Self-Tests"). These are not open-book tests. The objectives are your key to success on these tests.
6. Memorize either Ephesians 3:14-21 or Colossians 1:9-17. In addition, do an in-depth study of the passage you memorize. Use cross references, concordances, chain references, Bible dictionaries, topical study Bibles, and any other tool you desire to mine as much understanding of the truths of these passages as you possibly can. Then spend time meditating on what you have discovered, allowing the Spirit of God to apply whatever He wants to your life. Finally, submit to the grace of God to change your life according to His desire.
7. Write a paper presenting your findings and the resulting growth in grace you have experienced as a result of this study. This paper is to be a minimum of five pages, typed and double-spaced, and is due in Lesson 11. If you prefer, you may present this paper orally by audio or video file. This may be in the form of a Bible study you lead and record, a presentation and discussion with a friend, or a presentation simply for your instructor. This should be a minimum of ten minutes in length.

BIB 380 Ephesians and Colossians

Course Schedule

Lesson One

Assignment to be completed:

Read pages 5 - 12 of LifeChange: Ephesians, including How to Use This Study and Paul and Ephesus.

Complete Lesson One of LifeChange: Ephesians, answering all questions, Optional Applications, For Thought and Discussion, and For Further Study sections in your Student Notebook.

Memorize Ephesians 1:17, 1:18, or whatever verse the Spirit impresses upon you.

Subjects to be explored:

Paul and Ephesus

To the Saints

Related objectives:

- You will state the root meaning of “Pharisee”.
- You will state a definition of “grace”.
- You will state a definition of “peace”.

Lesson Two

Assignment to be completed:

Complete Lessons 2 - 4 of Ephesians.

Memorize Ephesians 2:8,9 or whatever verse the Spirit impresses upon you.

Prayerfully read Ephesians 3:14-21 and Colossians 1:9-17, asking the Lord to reveal which of the passages He wants you to memorize and study.

Read the Introduction and “Chapter 1: Sit” of Sit, Walk, Stand by Nee.

Subjects to be explored:

Praise

Thanksgiving and Praise

Death to Life

Related objectives:

- You will state a definition of “holy”.
- You will state a definition of “redemption”.
- You will have revelation knowledge that you are seated together with Christ Jesus in heavenly places. You have been lifted high above the temporary “realities” of this world, “far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion,” and you are at rest.
- You will have revelation knowledge that you are God’s masterpiece, a work of art, not made for common things but to do good works.
- Because you are seated with Christ in heavenly places, you will “keep looking down” at the problems of this world. You will have divine perspective on all that you face.