



CAPE TOWN 2010 SESSION SUMMARY AND SEGMENT SYNOPSIS

This Summary and Synopsis document has two components:

Page 1 is the summary of all the speakers in the 90-minute session.

Pages 2 and following include a synopsis of each specific video segment extracted from the full 90-minute session.

FULL SESSION SUMMARY - Biblical Exposition of Ephesians 1

DATE OF SESSION: 18 October 2010

SUMMARY SUBMITTED BY: Phil Henry (CT2010 Communications Session Summary Team)

PRESENTER(S): Ajith Fernando

KEY POINTS:

- * Salvation through God's choice and God's work
- * Focus on what happens at the cross
- * Continue to declare the truth to stir belief
- * Don't lose the wonder of the gospel

The time of exposition went systematically through the passage. The key point raised in the discussion which highlights the challenge for the global church is that most people come to Jesus to have their needs met, but they stay when they discover that Jesus is the truth. In understanding Ephesians 1, the profound truth that is revealed is that our place in God's family achieved through salvation is: (i) by God's choice (vv 4-6), and (ii) by God's work (vv 7-8); not by our work.

Our challenge to this truth is to stay focused on what Jesus really did on the cross (forgiveness, justification, redemption) and understanding that: (i) the gospel is cosmic in scope – touching everything and everyone in all creation; and (ii) our ideas about God need “transformation” by the truth of Jesus Christ, not transference to another “need-satisfying” god.

The implications for the future of mission for the global church are: (i) Christians are to demonstrate the transforming work of Jesus – living up to both the purpose and responsibility of our predestination (vv 11-12), as a result influencing our world for Jesus – as we exemplify the ongoing incarnation of Christ through the church. (ii) We should continue to value the process of proclamation of the word of truth to stir and inspire belief in the gospel as the way of salvation (vv 13-14). (iii) We should continue to add to our faith a deep love for ALL the saints, without distinction (v 15), as this will always be an example for the world to see and be challenged. (iv) We should embrace Paul's excitement and wonder about this gospel of “fire”, even though he is writing from prison. The gospel is a “mystery” revealed at the right time, full of “riches”, an understanding of “power”, it is “glorious”! Such an attitude will sustain us whatever our circumstances.

TAKEAWAY: The truth of God as revealed in the gospel is the compelling focus for us in the declaration and demonstration of the mission of God.



1. SEGMENT SYNOPSIS

TOPIC: Biblical Exposition of Ephesians
SEGMENT TITLE: Ephesians 1 – Sketch: “The Letter”
SEGMENT DATE: 18 October 2010
SYNOPSIS WRITERS: Vladimir Pikman, Daniel Nessim (CT2010 Globalink Team)

Synopsis:

Meeting in secret, a group of Ephesian Christians wait expectantly for Paul’s assistant Tychicus to arrive with a long awaited letter. Full of anxiety, they wonder if Tychicus is merely slow in arriving or if he has run into some troubles on his journey. They fear that he may have been arrested at a Roman checkpoint on the way. Finally, Tychicus arrives and the Christians rejoice. Tychicus produces the letter that he has concealed from the Romans in his sock and opens it.

Study Questions:

1. What was the reason for the sketch?
2. Why do you think the Ephesian Christians were so interested in getting Paul’s letter?

By Alison Siewert. Performed by the Cape Town 2010 Performing Arts Team. Directed by Jerry Mofokeng.

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2. SEGMENT SYNOPSIS

TOPIC: Biblical Exposition of Ephesians
SEGMENT TITLE: Ephesians 1 - Ajith Fernando
SEGMENT DATE: 18 October 2010
SYNOPSIS WRITERS: Vladimir Pikman, Daniel Nessim (CT2010 Globalink Team)

Ephesians One is a rich passage, explains Sri Lankan Christian leader Ajith Fernando. As he quickly surveys the chapter, Dr Fernando emphasizes the flow of Paul's writing and the important points the Apostle makes. Paul begins by telling the wonders of our election, concluding with a description of God's work of salvation in verses seven and eight. From verse nine he continues to describe the mystery of God's great plan, a Gospel that is deeper, fuller and grander than a religion that merely exists to meet people's needs.

When people see how amazing Christianity is, as we live according to our predestined calling, it has a powerful effect. Even the Roman Empire changed to Christianity as it witnessed the outworking of the Gospel in Christians' lives. People also learn the Good News as we proclaim the truth. Evangelism is not popular, but people are lost without the Gospel. We are enriched by our Gospel inheritance. We are empowered by the Gospel. It is to be delivered with excitement. We are in wonder of the Gospel, for the Gospel is wonderful!

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What is so great about the Gospel?
2. Knowing our calling, what's the implication for personal evangelism?