



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 2

DATE OF SESSION: 19 October 2010

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

PRESENTER(S): Ruth Padilla DeBorst

KEY POINTS: * Old way of separation and death * People recreated and reinstated as family
* New way of life and hope

“How is the cosmic reign of God made visible in the world? Where does God live?” These were the defining questions for the study of Ephesians 2. Paul’s goal was to dramatically portray the contrast between our past place of spiritual death and separation to that of our current place of life in Christ and citizenship in the family of God.

A brief description of the spiritual and cultural environment in Ephesus at the time of writing reveals an essentially pagan/Gentile city of diverse culture, ethnicity and spirituality under strong Roman rule. The people of this city also had varied understanding and experience of citizenship, each defined by their social status, family position and roles – many were also excluded from any place of privilege or significance. So into this environment the message of peace in God and the gift of hope in a new family for all, Jew and Gentile alike without distinction, is good news.

Paul makes it clear that both Jews and Gentiles were in the same place of brokenness and death because of sin (vs. 1-3). But God breaks in and by His grace humanity is now recreated in Jesus (v 5) and reinstated into a place of significance (v 6). There lies the mission of the global church to aid the bringing of divine purpose back to humanity, like that defined in Genesis, and furthermore, to facilitate responsible relationships and good works within the family of God (v 10). In verse 12, a call to “remember” the past, striking in contrast, allows us to appreciate the richness of what is now the current place of peace that Jesus has won for us (v 16-17). For Jesus, peace is shown by doing justice, restoring relationships, healing the wounded, calling the wealthy to consider and pursue economic responsibility, honoring women. Christ’s sacrificial death makes access to God available to all. It is from this place that God speaks the church into being (v 19) – a profound structure of universal significance. It is a place where we are all together as one, founded on the greats of biblical history and held together by Christ himself, not human political power or coercion (v 20). This is the place where God lives (v 21) and membership or citizenship is granted as a wonderful and grace-filled gift from God, not by human effort. Can we build our churches and communities of faith like this – a place where people really find God?

TAKEAWAY: God lives in us! Now that changes everything. May we live this way and embrace the journey of grace together – not in isolation. Pledging allegiance to Jesus and celebrating we are his dwelling place.



1. SEGMENT SYNOPSIS

TOPIC: Eradicating Biblical Poverty: Video
SEGMENT TITLE: Scripture in Mission: Finding Hope and Peace in a Broken World
SEGMENT DATE: 19 October 2010 (Ephesians Study)
SYNOPSIS WRITERS: Vladimir Pikman, Daniel Nessim (CT2010 Globalink Team)

A young boy from a country plagued with violence tells how he received his first copy of the Scriptures. Through them, he has been freed to focus not on the past, but to forgive. A second Christian from a conflicted region of the world, Simon Azazian from the Palestinian Bible Society, emphasises how reconciliation has been achieved on the cross. Knowing that, we need to live by it to make reconciliation a reality in our world.

For the first time in history the Scriptures are accessible to almost all humanity. With God's Word available to us, we have the responsibility to bring reconciliation and healing through Christ.

Study Questions:

1. What personal situations are you experiencing where reconciliation is needed?
2. How can you help bring reconciliation and healing to your larger world?

2. SEGMENT SYNOPSIS

TOPIC: Biblical Exposition of Ephesians
SEGMENT TITLE: Ephesians 2 – Dance: "Reach"
SEGMENT DATE: 19 October 2010
SYNOPSIS WRITERS: Vladimir Pikman, Daniel Nessim (CT2010 Globalink Team)

Two dancers struggle to reach one another, but an invisible barrier separates them. Two other dancers appear and break the barrier between them. The four dancers then rejoice in their newly found freedom and unity.

Study Questions:

1. What invisible 'walls' separate people you know today?
2. How does removing the walls change the world?

Choreography by the Cape Town 2010 Performing Arts Team. Performed by Julia Burnham, B'Jon Carter-Burnell, Jenny Vaughn Hall, Xolani Ncobeni. Image by Jesse Oxford.

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3. SEGMENT SYNOPSIS

TOPIC: Biblical Exposition of Ephesians
SEGMENT TITLE: Ephesians 2 – Ruth Padilla DeBorst (Part 1 and Part 2)
SEGMENT DATE: 19 October 2010
SYNOPSIS WRITERS: Vladimir Pikman, Daniel Nessim (CT2010 Globalink Team)

Part 1: Costa Rican theologian Ruth Padilla DeBorst teaches on Ephesians 2:1-10. She notes that the Christians in Ephesus were mostly Gentiles, with some Jews as well. They lived in a multicultural and multiethnic society where peace was imposed by power. Paul emphasises that all of them, both those who had been saved from paganism and the Jews, had once lived in their fleshly passions. All were one in being dead. But God stepped in. God made all of them alive.

God has raised us all up with Christ. We are all treasured by him and created for good works. Though Paul had once tried to eradicate Christianity, he now could see that only Christ could bring him close to God. He had been dead himself but was now alive, experiencing God's undeserved favour.

Study Questions:

1. What have you been saved from?
2. How do you think about yourself now that you have been saved?
3. As a new creation, what have you been created for?

Part 2: Ruth Padilla DeBorst continues her teaching with Ephesians 2:11-22. She contrasts the imposed peace of the Roman Empire with Christ's peace. By ultimate submission to that power in going to the cross, Jesus exposed the inadequacy of that power, triumphing over it. Jesus made peace not by force, but by doing justice to the poor, the despised and the sick. In a power oriented empire, Paul taught mutual submission, bringing true peace.

In Christ, we are a new community, citizens of a different kind of kingdom. He is the Cornerstone of our community. We are stones and must be fitted to one another to reflect an inhabited Temple of God. Together we are a multicultural, multiethnic community of peace, making and boldly preaching peace. Thus we bring about the peace of Christ. Our ultimate allegiance is to the Prince of Peace, not the Roman Empire's Caesar or the authorities of the world.

Study Questions:

1. How can the Gospel contribute to world peace?
2. Why do you think Paul uses the analogy of a building to describe the church?