



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 3

DATE OF SESSION: 20 October 2010

SUMMARY SUBMITTED BY: Jane Wells (CT2010 Communications Session Summary Team)

PRESENTER(S): John Piper, Libby Little

KEY POINTS:

*Paul, appointed preacher to the Gentiles

*Paul's suffering, the glory of the Gentiles

*Paul prays for the Gentiles

The exposition of Ephesians 3 was presented in three scenes which reveal the cosmic purposes of God which He accomplished in Christ Jesus (v 11).

Scene One: The nature of the mystery of Christ is paramount. That mystery, revealed in Christ, is that the Gentiles are now fellow heirs, members of Christ's body, and partakers of the promises which were once possessed by Jews alone (v 6). Thus Paul is appointed to preach the unsearchable riches of the Messiah Christ to the Gentiles (v 7). Through His gospel, now preached to all nations, God creates His Church, through whom the manifold wisdom is displayed, even to demons, rulers and authorities in the heavenlies (v 10).

Scene Two: God gathers people to Himself, even through the suffering of his servants -- pastors and missionaries who (like Paul) are given grace to see that their suffering is the glory of The Church.

Scene Three: God has appointed the prayers of His people to unleash His power and glory. No one can see his love (v 18) or His riches (v 8), comprehend His mystery (v.9) or reckon their suffering as glory (v 13) without the power of God sought through prayer.

The session ended with a personal testimony by Libby Little. In relating the story of her husband's death in Afghanistan at the hands of armed fighters, she made the point of John Piper's presentation powerful. The ten members of the medical team were murdered recently, but will live on as examples of people who live their lives willing to be poured out as a sweet fragrance before God for the sake of the gospel.

TAKEAWAY

When the gospel takes root, it impels us outward to alleviate earthly suffering. Likewise, when the gospel takes root it impels us outward to take the Good News of Christ to those who will suffer the eternal lostness of God's wrath.



1. SEGMENT SYNOPSIS

TOPIC: Eradicating Biblical Poverty: Video
SEGMENT TITLE: Scripture in Mission: The Love of Jesus Revealed
SEGMENT DATE: 20 October 2010 (Ephesians Study)
SYNOPSIS WRITERS: Vladimir Pikman, Daniel Nessim (CT2010 Globalink Team)

In the video called the Love of Jesus Revealed, animated scenes from the Bible present the Gospel and are illustrated by testimonies of believers. We see a sick man dropped through a roof to reach Jesus below and receive healing. We see Jesus predicting his death and resurrection. We see the angels rolling the stone away from the tomb. People realise who Jesus is. Modern Christians tell how Jesus has changed their lives today. Jesus gives The Great Commission to his disciples.

Study Questions:

1. What is the story the Scriptures tell about Jesus?
2. How can we help people to understand who Jesus is?



2. SEGMENT SYNOPSIS

TOPIC: Biblical Exposition of Ephesians
SEGMENT TITLE: Ephesians 3 – John Piper (Part 1 and Part 2)
SEGMENT DATE: 20 October 2010
SYNOPSIS WRITERS: Vladimir Pikman, Daniel Nessim (CT2010 GlobaLink Team)

Part 1: American evangelical author John Piper expounds Ephesians chapter three, summarising it in three distinct scenes. The first scene portrays God’s cosmic purpose to make his wisdom known through the church. The second scene describes how God has chosen some in the church to suffer. Some even are imprisoned in order to glorify God and his church. The third scene refers to the supernatural power that comes through prayer.

Study Questions:

1. How would you describe the wisdom of God?
2. Into what riches is the Church drawn through its suffering?

Part 2: John Piper continues his exposition of Ephesians, focusing on the first of the three scenes he outlined earlier. He draws attention to the mystery of the Gospel that believers from all nations have been brought into the promises of Israel. The Gospel is the wisdom of God and Christ is the power of God. God has chosen to use the church to make him known. However, the cross is required for Jew and Gentile to enter the riches of Christ. We were all children of wrath, and Christ had to die to take God’s wrath upon himself. Thus we are saved from eternal suffering in hell. This motivates us not only to care about suffering but especially the eternal suffering which awaits those who do not believe in Jesus.

Piper continues in Ephesians three to show how God has appointed suffering and prayer as a means to declare his glory. It is not in prosperity but in suffering for God’s sake that the Church shows how precious Christ is. God breaks into our lives through prayer. Piper concludes with the doxology that ends Ephesians three.

Study Questions:

1. How would you define the mystery Paul writes about and how do we see it in our world today?
2. What do Jews and Gentiles have in common before God?
3. How does prayer obtain the supernatural power of God?