

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE – SESSION 8

Ephesians 3:14-21 – The Darkness Flees (Part 4): Turning on the Light

Review of Sermon Notes

Key Idea: Biblical hope is confident anticipation in Christ (confident in Christ's amazing love, and so anticipating Christ's amazing work).

I. Confident – Confident in Christ's amazing love

Ephesians 3:18–19 — 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

A. Christ's love is about eternal life

Ephesians 2:4–5 — 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

B. Christ's love is about everyday life

II. Anticipation – Anticipating Christ's amazing work

Ephesians 3:20–21 — 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to A LIVING HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

Word: How this truth should be understood

1. Read Ephesians 1:15-23 (Paul's first prayer in the letter to the Ephesians). Why do you think it is so important for them to understand the power of God? How might that change their lives?
2. In verse 19 Paul prays that we may know "the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge." What does that tell you about the depth of God's love and what does that imply about the study of it?

Worship: How this truth affects your heart

1. Think of a suffering or trial you are going through. How are you responding? How does your perspective change when you see God's love behind it?
2. How do you respond when God doesn't seem to answer your prayers? How can you fight to see that God provides something better in allowing suffering in your life?
3. What are some examples of worldly hopes that have become important to you? How would your life be different if you kept them in the right place in relationship to your hope in Christ?

Work: How this truth works out in your life

1. What does "turning on the light" look like for you this week? How can you turn to Christ in hope?
2. What are times that you remember God doing more than you can ask or think? Write them down so that you can share them with your small group for their encouragement.
3. What have been some specific blessings of COVID? Write them down so that you can share them with your small group for their encouragement.

Sharing and Prayer

1. The theme of our study in John is “to awaken and advance faith.” As you think about this season, what is one area in which you’d like to grow in living out your faith? Write this down and prepare to follow-up and track God’s work in our future sessions!

2. What are some ways that you’d like to apply what you just learned to that one area you’d like to grow in living out your faith?

3. Share other prayer requests.