

# **Unsolved Mysteries**

## **The King's Perspective- Session #6**

### **Small Group Notes**

#### **Introduction:**

Read Ephesians 2:4-10

What do we mean by the phrase, "it could be worse"? Are there other phrases that we use to describe our perspective when situations arise?

How has your perspective changed over the last 10 years, 5 years, or month? What's the reason for the change?

Reflect upon these points:

- Through Christ we have been given the King's perspective
- The more clearly we see, the better we walk.

In today's discussion, we are going to see how because of Jesus we have a new perspective. Paul wanted to remind the church this change of perspective begins in our relationship with Christ, but it continues each day as we look more like Jesus.

#### **Discuss:**

1. Read Ephesians 4:17-24

- From the King's perspective, we see that God is not keeping something from us, but has something for us.

Explain: Paul's instructions denounced the readers' former way of life. The content of the instruction clearly parallels early Christian baptismal practices of putting off old clothes before putting on new clothes to enter the baptismal waters. The Ephesians passage contrasts a person's former lifestyle and the new life in Christ. The practical paradox is that while freedom from sin's eternal penalty is already ours, freedom from the former way of life (a life of sin) comes only through our daily quest for obedience and purity. These are lifestyle commitments that every believer is called to make.

Ask:

**How should Christians be different from the way they used to live to how we are called to live today?**

**Why can we think that living for God is something that is hard? What should it bring about in our lives to live for the Lord?**

2. Read Ephesians 4:25-32

- From the King's perspective, we see that we are not who we used to be, we have been made new.

Explain: Paul offered five examples of what living the new life means in the context of relationships with others. All of the examples include a negative command, a positive command, and a spiritual principle on which the commands are based. At the base of all of Paul's commands is a God-centered spiritual foundation.

Ask:

**Take each principle in verses 25-32 one at a time (or choose a few to focus on) and discuss: (1) What we are to put off; (2) what we are to put on; (3) the reason we are to put on that quality.**

**When might we be tempted to exhibit one of these negative qualities? How can we demonstrate the positive instead?**

**According to verse 32, what should be the primary motivation for pursuing holy (God-honoring) living?**

3. Read Ephesians 5:1-2,3-7

- From the King's perspective, we see the King more clearly so we can better reflect Him.
- From the King's perspective, we see that small compromises will lead us off course.
- Read Philippians 4:8

Explain: Jesus modeled, among other things, love and sacrifice. Because of how much He loves us, He sacrificed His life for us, and that should motivate us to love others. Imitating God is a matter of character and

action. The sins Paul listed in verses 3 and 4 are examples of self-gratifying sins through which people find value and acceptance in things other than their identities as children of God.

Ask:

**What can we learn from Jesus about loving as God loves (v. 2)?**

**Now read verses 3 and 4. What's the common link among the sins listed? What purposes do these sins serve in our lives? How is God's standard for our lives different?**

4. Read Ephesians 5:8-14

- From the King's perspective, we see more clearly, so that we can walk in the light.
- Read Psalm 119:105
- From the King's perspective, we see that the King is always at work for His glory and our good.
- Read Romans 8:26-28

Explain: The fruits of the light are qualities the Holy Spirit brings about in our lives to help us live as children of God. When we choose daily to live in the light of God's truth, we put on goodness (moral excellence), righteousness (a right standing we gain through Christ's sacrifice for us), and truth (honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness).

Ask:

**What should characterize the lives of those living as "children of light" (v. 8)?**

**What characteristics are the result of "the fruit of the light" (v. 9)? How do these compare with the fruit of the darkness in Ephesians 4:18-19?**

**What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us to understand that God is always at work for His glory and our good?**