

Kids' Chronicle

St. Paul sends advice to the Ephesians

By Joe Sarnicola

To all in Ephesus who are faithful to our Lord Jesus:

May God, our Father, bless you with his grace and peace. Because of his great love, God chose us before he even created the world, and we will spend eternity with him because of the forgiveness we received by the sacrifice Jesus made for us. God has not forgotten you, my non-Jewish friends. There was a time when you did not know about Jesus, but now you are able to come near to God by the blood that Jesus shed for every one of us.

God called me to deliver a message that has not been made known to any person before this time. Not to any king, not to any prophet or apostle. But now God wants you to know that because Jesus died and then triumphed over death, salvation is free to every man and every woman, whether a Jew or Gentile.

And this is a wonderful thing! This is one more example of God's great love for us, and proof that God's perfect plan for his people is coming true, exactly as he promised in the Scriptures. God

wants to give us power and confidence, which come only by having faith in him and obeying his commandments.

I pray for all of you every day. Even though I write to you as a prisoner, do not be discouraged by the situation I am in. God has a way of bringing us into his glory by occasional difficulties. Instead, rejoice and pray with me and for me that God will perform wonders beyond anything we can even imagine. May his glory last for generation upon generation.

Live according to the example Jesus set for us. Be humble, patient, kind and loving. Try to be unified by your faith, living always in peace. God has given us different things to accomplish. He needs teachers, apostles, pastors and prophets. Let



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

every day be a day of learning more about what God wants us to do. Remember that we are here to serve him and to serve one another.

Be truthful at all times. Do not let your anger cause you to harbor hard feelings against a neighbor. If you have done wrong in the past, do not continue to do so. Let your speech be clean and do not gossip.

God forgave us, so we in turn must forgive those who have offended or wronged us, even if they do not return the kindness we show them.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

Q&A

1. What was Paul's message to the Gentiles?
2. How did Paul expect the Ephesians to treat each other?

Bible Trivia

Jacob had as many sons as Jesus had disciples. What is that number?

Send Answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Include your name, address and school name.

Entries must be received by Jan. 7, 1999. A winner will be selected at random and given a prize.

Last month's winner was Stacie Welch, a student at Sacred Heart Cathedral School, who correctly identified the weeks before Christmas as Advent.

Bible Accent

The Bible has been written about and praised by both religious and nonreligious writers and scholars for the quality and diversity of its language and styles.

The historical books and the Gospels contain many accounts of exciting adventures, miraculous events and fascinating dramas.

The many epistles, or letters, that form a large part of the New Testament convey many of the basic principles and laws of Christianity in an informal yet instructional manner.

The Psalms and excerpts from the books of the prophets and other books contain some of the most beautiful poetry and song lyrics ever translated into English.

The Song of Songs, from the Old Testament, is sometimes printed as if it were a play in verse.

And the Book of Revelation contains descriptions of fantastic events that rival those found in any work of science fiction.

Whatever type of writing you enjoy, chances are you'll find an example of it in the Bible.

St. Stephen

St. Stephen is remembered as being the first Christian martyr, but during his life he was also a faithful follower of Jesus.

An educated Jew who was fluent in Greek, St. Stephen was one of the first seven men, "of good character who were chosen as deacons by the early disciples. St. Stephen showed himself to be a good minister to those who were in need.

Some of the Jewish leaders became jealous of St. Stephen and they accused him of blasphemy. He told them he had a vision of Jesus standing next to God. The leaders ordered St. Stephen stoned outside the gates of Jerusalem. He forgave his attackers, then died from his injuries.

We remember him on Dec. 26.

Puzzle

Each person below is named in the first verse of the first chapter of a book in the Bible. Match that person's name with the book in which this happens. (Some appear in more than one book.) Answers on Page 8.

Person

1. Jacob
2. Moses
3. David
4. Amoz
5. Jesus
6. Theophilus
7. Paul
8. John

Book

- a. 2 Samuel
- b. Matthew
- c. Joshua
- d. Isaiah
- e. Revelation
- f. Romans
- g. Acts
- h. Exodus



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