

“The Story” Study – Acts, Ephesians, 2 Timothy, Revelation

Class 16: Chapters 30-31

Chapter 30: Paul’s Final Days

1. DVD – Session 30
2. Chapter 30 Highlights: This chapter includes more about Paul – his missionary journeys, imprisonments, and two of his letters:
 - a. Acts Chapters 20-28:
 - i. Chapter 20: Paul reminded the Ephesian elders / pastors of some very essential things he had taught them: **“I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance [sorrow for sin] and have faith [trust] in our Lord Jesus [for the forgiveness of sins]” (439).**
 - ii. Chapter 21: Paul was so focused and courageous; even though he was told by a prophet that he would be bound when he went to Jerusalem, he said, **“I am ready...also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” (440).**
 - iii. Chapter 22: After Paul was arrested he told those present who he was, what he used to do – persecute Christians, and how he had been converted; they were fine with all of that until he told of *being sent to the Gentiles*.
 - iv. Chapter 23: The Lord told Paul he would testify in Rome, so Paul knew he would survive all the coming difficulties – *at least until he reached Rome*.
 - v. Chapters 24 – 26: Paul was on trial before Felix, the governor of Judea, with no decision; then before Festus, who succeeded Felix; then before King Herod Agrippa II; finally, to avoid returning to Jerusalem, he appealed to Caesar.
 - vi. Chapter 27: Paul and other prisoners were put on a ship to Italy; see Power Point Map – Paul to Rome. Paul’s initial advice was rejected, so they encountered great difficulties and shipwreck, but they finally listened to Paul and their lives were spared – all of the 276 who were on board.
 - vii. Chapter 28: Paul finally arrived in Rome; he **“was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him” (450).** When Paul addressed the local Jewish leaders: **“Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe” (451).** While in Rome, he wrote to his friends in Ephesus.
 - b. Ephesians: These are some key phrases: God **“chose us in [Christ] before the creation of the world... we have redemption through his blood” (452).** **“...it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... we are... created in Christ Jesus to do good works” (453).** **“Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands... Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (455).**
 - c. 2 Timothy: **“During his final days, he wrote one last letter—a personal letter to Timothy, his coworker and ‘son in the faith’” (456).**
 - d. Conclusion: Paul probably was released and went on a final missionary journey, prior to being imprisoned in Rome and being put to death in AD 67 or 68.

Chapter 31: The End of Time

1. DVD – Session 31
2. Chapter 31 Highlights: This chapter includes excerpts from the book of Revelation:
 - a. Chapter 1: This statement is made about the whole book: “**Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it**” (1:3 NAS). So let us read; then, *with the Spirit’s blessing and power*, let us *rightly understand and quickly respond!* When the apostle John was in exile on the Island of Patmos, off of Ephesus, Jesus appeared to him and told him to write what he saw.
 - b. Chapters 2 – 3: These chapters contain seven letters; The Story includes 3 of the 7:
 - i. 1 – Ephesus: Jesus commended their deeds, hard work, and perseverance, but He said they had forsaken the love they had at first – *maybe that gratitude of a new believer, who is thankful and wants to serve*; He called them to repent!
 - ii. 5 – Sardis: They had a *good reputation* of being spiritually alive, *but*, in reality, many of them were dead☹! So He called them to *repent!*
 - iii. 7 – Laodicea: They were lukewarm, so He was ready to spit them out; they *thought* they had everything they needed, yet they were – in fact – “**wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked**” (462). Where are you? How can you find out?
 - c. Chapter 4: An awesome picture of the heavenly throne room! Day and night the four living creatures never stop saying, “**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty**” (463). The twenty-four elders are also saying, “**You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things**” (464). *Yet so many deny that!*
 - d. Chapter 5: Much about JESUS: “**...the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has triumphed....’ I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne... ‘You are worthy... because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation’**” (464).
 - e. Chapter 19: Note that the “The Story” skips over chapters 6-18; for a good summary of Revelation, see volume 12 of Good News. This is a literal translation of verse 8: “[And] It was given to her ~~to~~ [in order that] ~~clothe herself~~ [she might be clothed] in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” She is the Church; her clothes were “**given to her,**” thus *God’s gift of salvation to us in Jesus (Rom. 6:23)*. “Christians will forever enjoy the glory and holiness of God himself.... But it will be a time of unspeakable horror for those who turn away from God” (466).
 - f. Chapter 20: The great white throne judgment, the book of life, and the lake of fire!
 - g. Chapter 21: The great reunion of God with those who know Him through Jesus; “**...no more death or mourning or crying or pain... To the thirsty I will give water... But the cowardly, the unbelieving... will be consigned to the fiery lake**” (467).
 - h. Chapter 22: Jesus is coming soon, so separation is coming! “**Blessed are those who wash their robes... [in Jesus’ holy precious blood] Outside are the dogs... the sexually immoral [etc.]**” (469).

Epilogue: You read and studied – *thanks!* Now, “what will **you** do with *The Story?*” (471).