

Greetings Athelstonians!

We are in Week 3 of slowly reading through Paul's letter to the churches in Ephesus (July 11- August 28).

In this resource you will find brief daily readings and space to journal, using the SOAP method.

You might choose to engage with the readings daily or a few times a week. Feel free to adapt this resource as much as you like.

For your information, the following videos provide an introduction to Ephesians:

BibleDex: <https://youtu.be/l7QE5l3XbF8>

BibleProject: <https://youtu.be/Y71r-T98E2Q>

The Bible Effect: <https://youtu.be/6FfIE2jS7-k>

Rick Steve: <https://youtu.be/mvPCtrZ1K00>

Blessings,

Rev Linda Driver

July 2021

Reading Your Bible with SOAP!

SOAP is a helpful way to read and reflect on a Bible passage



S for SCRIPTURE: *(TELL ME)*

Take your time reading today's scripture in the 3 translations provided. Allow God to speak to you. Next, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you. Write it down. Feel free to make it a work of art.



O for OBSERVATION: *(SHOW ME)*

What is God saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Be curious!

If you want to go deeper, research the passage further. Look up meanings in the original Greek or Hebrew. Consider who the author is addressing and the cultural context at the time it was written.

Bible Hub has some helpful tools for this: <https://biblehub.com/>

Write the scripture in your own words.



A for APPLICATION: *(HELP ME)*

How does the scripture apply to your life right now? Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation, or correction. Write down how it applies to you today.



P for PRAYER: *(LET ME)*

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what God may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Spend some time in silent contemplation. Write down the words that come.

Ephesians 3:1-5

Scripture

Observation

Application

Prayer

Ephesians 3:6-9

Scripture

Observation

Application

Prayer

Day 3



Ephesians 3:10-13

New International Version

¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³ I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

The Message

My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we're free to say whatever needs to be said, bold to go wherever we need to go. So don't let my present trouble on your behalf get you down. Be proud!

The Inclusive Bible

¹⁰ Now, therefore, through the church, God's manifold wisdom is made known to the rulers and powers of heaven, ¹¹ in accord with the age-old design, carried out in Christ Jesus our Saviour, ¹² in whom we have boldness and confident access to God, through our faith in Christ. ¹³ So, I beg you, never be discouraged because of my sufferings for you. They are your glory.

Ephesians 3:10-13

Scripture

Observation

Application

Prayer

Ephesians 3:14-15

Scripture

Observation

Application

Prayer

Ephesians 3:16-19

Scripture

Observation

Application

Prayer

Day 6



Ephesians 3:20-21

New International Version

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen..

The Message

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Glory to God in the church!
Glory to God in the Messiah,
in Jesus!
Glory down all the
generations!
Glory through all millennia!
Oh, yes!

The Inclusive Bible

²⁰ To God – whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine – ²¹ to God be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Scripture

Observation

Application

Prayer

