

## **Guidelines for Group or Personal Study As you Undertake 28 Days in Ephesians**

Below are some suggestions to enhance your personal or corporate study. I hope you will be able to go through this study in 28 consecutive days, but if not, don't worry about it. Your 28 days in Ephesians may take longer than that to complete. The important thing, however, is that you finish!

1. If you can, why not use your computer to do this study and add your notes, thoughts and answers to my questions right to the study notes I am sending you. At the end of the 28 days, you will have quite an impressive journal of notes to build on or refer to.
2. While this study is entitled "28 Days in Ephesians," the study days need not be 28 days in succession. If you keep good notes, you need not be concerned if you skip a day or days between your study. Just resume your study wherever you stopped. Don't let a busy schedule keep you from maintaining your momentum.
3. I have included cross-references for further study. Use them as you see fit. You can do this study meaningfully without ever referring to the other recommended readings.
4. Take some time to review all the biblical references to Ephesus included in the Background Paper.
5. Read the epistle out loud whether you are by yourself or in a group. Doesn't it sound like a sermon? If that is what Paul preached, how effectively is today's church preaching the same message?
6. Go over the outline included with this study. What do you see from it? What are the two main sections? What does each have to say?
7. Commit to memorize one verse every week for the next 28 days. As you read aloud, decide what four verses you or the group will memorize.
8. Consider a journal of insights from your study. You may want to go through the weekly studies and add your insights to them. Then consider publishing your insights along with mine in some format. Make sure you include references from other books of the Bible as you seek to relate Ephesians to the rest of the Bible.
9. Make a list of the 75 or so verses in Ephesians that are also in Colossians. Be sure to highlight the relationship between the two epistles in your group or personal journal.
10. Ask yourself or the group the following questions:

- Why do you think it took Paul so many year to write about the themes in Ephesians, assuming it was written in 60 AD? Do you think God allowed prison so Paul could write?
- Read Paul's address to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20. What lessons are there in that address for you and your church?
- What does it mean that men will draw the disciples after themselves as mentioned in Acts 20? Do you think this is flagrant heresy or could it simply be the trappings of a personality cult built around a strong leader?
- Read Revelation 2:1-11. What lessons are there for you and your church?
- How many prayers can you find in Ephesians? Should you add these prayers to your own prayer list? For whom can you pray Ephesians' prayers?
- Why do you think Ephesians is a personal favorite of so many people?
- In the epistle, what evidence can you find of Paul's special relationship to the Ephesian church?
- What particular behaviors did Paul want to see based on the theology he outlined in the first three chapters? While most of the behaviors are listed in the last three chapters, can you identify any behaviors he was encouraging in the first three chapters?

Please drop me an email at [johnstanko@att.net](mailto:johnstanko@att.net) to let me know of other effective study questions that you found helpful. I hope you enjoy your 28 days in Ephesians!