

Introduction

Below are brief introductions to our lessons this week for each adult class.

Adult Topical Study Class (Bible Studies for Life – The Holy Spirit in Our Lives)

Teachers: Craig Pleasants & Bob Kemble.

Lesson Title: Filled with the Spirit

Focal Scripture: Ephesians 5:8-21

Theme: The Holy Spirit enables us to live as fully devoted disciples.

Overview: In our previous lessons we've discussed how the Holy Spirit convicts of sin and points to the truth of salvation, brings us into new life in Christ, and indwells and affirms each believer. This week we'll concentrate on chapter 5 of Paul's letter to the Ephesians and discuss how we are to be filled and led by the Spirit throughout our lives. We'll consider some results of being filled with the Spirit such as daily living in the light of the Lord, lasting joy, worship, gratitude, and mutual submission. We'll stress the importance of allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our actions and reflect our faith as we influence those around us, and the urgency of our witness given the pervasiveness of evil in our world.

*¹²Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (qualified) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: ¹³Who hath delivered (rescued) us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: **Colossians 1:12-13***

Adult Bible Book Study Class (Xexplore the Bible – 1, 2 Kings)

Teachers: Janice Willis & Thomas Littleton.

Lesson Title: Divided

Focal Scripture: 1 Kings 12:6-19

Theme: Failure to listen to wise counsel contributes to conflict.

Overview: Last week we saw how Solomon, in spite of the Lord's warnings, allowed the influences of his pagan wives to compromise his faith and obedience to God. This deliberate sin of idolatry would have tragic consequences for the nation.

⁹And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, ¹⁰And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

1 Kings 11:9-10

As a result, God pronounced judgement that much of the kingdom would be taken away from his son and successor Rehoboam. After Solomon's death, recorded at the end of chapter 11, the ten tribes which settled in the northern part of the kingdom (Israel) would revolt and be ruled by Jeroboam, a former servant of Solomon's. For David His servant's sake, God would allow Rehoboam to retain the southern portion of the kingdom (Judah) that was settled by the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and which contained the Holy city of Jerusalem (Note the righteousness of David had a positive impact upon subsequent generations of his family).

Our lesson for this week focuses on the rebellion against Rehoboam. Animosity between the northern and southern tribes went back to the time of the judges and was fueled over the years by jealousy over who was their leader and where the center of worship was located. Chapter 12 opens with Rehoboam, perhaps in an effort to sooth tensions, choosing to be made king in the northern city of Shechem instead of Jerusalem.

¹And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. ²And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;) ³That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying, ⁴Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee. ⁵And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

1 Kings 12:1-5

During these three days Rehoboam had to decide how he would respond to this request for relief from Solomon's harsh work demands (they were fed up with forced labor on royal construction projects), so he sought advice from those around him. The focal scripture for our lesson relates the counsel that was given and how Rehoboam chose to respond.

Closing Thoughts

*¹Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. **Isaiah 60:1***

It's time to rise and shine! God is the Father of lights (James 1:17), and our Light, prophesied by Isaiah as penetrating even the shadow of death (Isaiah 9:2), the light of the world (John 8:12) has come. It is in His light that we shall see light, as God's light alone can dispel the darkness around us. May we receive it, be enlightened by it, and reflect His marvelous light as we shine the light of Christ into the world.

*¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. **Matthew 5:16***

*¹⁵That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; ¹⁶Holding forth the word of life; **Philippians 2:15-16a***

Please prayerfully consider meeting with us this week for 10:00 am Sunday School as we fellowship, encourage, and study God's word together.