



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 164 - Teaching Angels (Ephesians 1-3)

God's Great Mission

Paul writes about the great things God has done for His creation through His Son Jesus Christ. When the perfect world God had created was ripped apart by Satan's temptation and Adam and Eve's sin, God sent His Son to repair the damage, and unite believers together in their faith toward Him.

- What evidence of the brokenness of creation do you see in nature?
- What evidence do you see in your family, workplace or church?
- How does this brokenness hinder God's mission to bring the Good News of salvation to all people?
- Why is it important to prayerfully consider God's master plan or great mission to keep the church focused on Jesus' Great Commission?
- How will this master plan be finally and fully accomplished on Judgment Day?

Ecclesia: the Story behind the Word

The Greek word for "church" pictures a group of people assembled for a specific purpose that extends *outside* that group—not just for the things that go on within that building while people are meeting.

- Describe the role you pictured for your local church in the past.
- How does it change your understanding of your church to think of it as an ecclesia—a meeting place in which Christians discuss God's revelation, make plans to share that revelation with the world, and go out from there?
- What would happen to the divisions in our congregations if we started seeing ourselves this way?

Learning from Us

In the beginning God chose to send His Son to restore the creation our sin would shatter. Through the ages God's holy angels have played an important part in His plan, serving us as ministering spirits.

- When we look at the weak and sinful people who make up our church (this, of course, includes each of us), how can we still see the good things God is working to accomplish through His church?
- Why might perfect angels find this even harder to understand than us?
- Describe the wonder of God teaching the angels about Himself through us.