

27 August 2023 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group
“The Theology of Ephesians: The End Has Come”– Ephesians 1:3-10

1. Who or what is the center of God’s plan for the “fullness of time” (1:9-10)?
2. How has the phrase “fullness of time” (1:10) been commonly interpreted?
3. How should the phrase “fullness of time” (1:10) be interpreted? Why?
4. What is a short-hand way to describe “the fullness of time”?
5. What is the time frame covered by the phrase “the fullness of time”?
6. What two concepts or time frames define and structure how Scripture divides and organizes history (1:21)?
7. Who is exalted and seated in the heavenly realms above all rule and authority (1:20-21)?
8. In what time period, or periods, of history does this rule take place (1:21)?
9. Where does Jesus use this “two-age” time structure to instruct His disciples about what will happen to the Jewish nation?
10. The two-age view of eschatology (“this age” vs. “the age to come”) was the typical Jewish understanding of God’s plan for the world. How did Paul, while retaining the two-age view, modify it?
11. What has been the majority view in the Evangelical church over the last century or so that structures God’s work of history into multiple eras or periods?
12. In what age does the Christian now live?
13. What does the overlap of ages mean for the follower of Christ?
14. How can Christians be citizens of Christ’s Kingdom and the kingdom of this earth when the interests of one conflict with the other?
15. When will “this age” completely end?
16. How involved in the affairs of “this age” should Christians be (consult 1 Corinthians 7:25-32a)?
17. When does Ephesians say that Christ’s reign takes place?
18. What is the millennium? Is it a literal one thousand years? Why or why not? When does the millennium begin?
19. How might the present rule of Christ reorient the way you think about and respond to things that happen in this world?
20. What is the Gospel’s purpose in the present rule of Christ?