

EPHESIANS

INTRODUCTION

- **Written by:** Apostle Paul
- **Written to:** Church in Ephesus
- **Purpose:** To reveal our identity in Christ, and how to walk accordingly.
- **When:** This letter was written around 60-62 A.D. while Paul was imprisoned in Rome. This was some 4 to 6 years after he left Ephesus, where he had spent 3 years ministering in that area.

EPHESUS

- ❖ One of the foremost cities in the Roman Empire.
- ❖ Noted for being at the intersection of major trade routes.
- ❖ Believed in the worship of many Gods.
- ❖ Filled with impressive monuments, most notably the Temple of Artemis (Diana), known as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.
- ❖ It was a tourist destination, bringing people from distant lands.

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

- **In Christ / In Him:** Used over 30 times, defining the believer's position and identity.
- **Grace:** Mentioned more frequently in Ephesians than any other book, highlighting the importance of unmerited favor.
- **Walk:** Indicates the practical application of faith.
- **Riches / Fullness:** Refers to the abundance of spiritual blessings and knowledge.
- **Unity / One:** Focuses on the gathering of all things under Christ and the unity of the church.
- **Heavenly Places:** Describes the heavenly realm where believers are seated in heavenly places.
- **Sealed / Deposit:** Refers to the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of inheritance.
- **Mystery:** God's previously hidden plan now revealed—to unite all things in Christ.
- **According to:** Indicates whether an action is performed by ungodly or Godly influences.

THREE MAIN SECTIONS

1. **Position (Chapters 1-3):** This section focuses on doctrine and the believer's "wealth" or position in Christ. It outlines spiritual blessings such as election, adoption, and redemption, explaining how God has united Jews and Gentiles into one "new humanity" through His grace.
2. **Practice (Chapters 4-5):** Shifting from "identity to conduct," this part details the practical response to God's grace. It emphasizes the "walk" of the believer—specifically walking in unity, holiness, love, light, and wisdom within the community and household.
3. **Power (Chapter 6):** The final section addresses spiritual warfare and the "victory" believers have in Christ. It famously describes the "Armor of God" (the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, etc.) as the essential equipment for standing firm against spiritual opposition.

KEY VERSES FROM EACH CHAPTER

- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (Eph 1:3)*
- *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Eph 2:8-9)*
- *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, (Eph 3:20)*
- *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Eph 4:4-6)*
- *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (Eph 5:8)*
- *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (Eph 6:10)*

SECTION NOTES

- ✚ **GREETING 1:1-2** – Paul extends grace and peace to the believers in Ephesus.
- ✚ **REDEMPTION IN CHRIST 1:3-14** – A profound exclamation of praise —often noted for being one single, continuous sentence in the original Greek—that outlines the vast spiritual blessings believers receive through their union with Jesus Christ.
- ✚ **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL WISDOM 1:15-23** – Paul offers a prayer for believers to grasp the hope, riches, and power available in Christ, emphasizing God's ultimate authority. He describes Christ as elevated above all rule and serving as the head of the church, which represents His fullness.
- ✚ **BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH 2:1-10** – Paul provides a powerful summary of the gospel message, moving from the hopelessness of spiritual death to the vibrancy of a new life in Christ. He emphasizes that this can only happen by grace through faith.
- ✚ **BROUGHT NEAR BY HIS BLOOD 2:11-13** – Paul shifts from the individual's salvation to the corporate reconciliation of humanity, specifically addressing the divide between Jews and Gentiles.
- ✚ **CHRIST OUR PEACE 2:14-18** – Paul moves from the act of reconciliation to the result: complete access to God. He explains that the peace Christ established is not just a ceasefire between people, but a total opening of the way to the Father.
- ✚ **CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE 2:19-22**– He then explains that as we are now all one building with Christ being the chief cornerstone, leading us to grow into a holy temple of the Lord.
- ✚ **THE MYSTERY REVEALED 3:1-7** – Paul shares how the message of grace was given to him to share with the Ephesians. Before Christ, the message of the gospel had remained a mystery, but now it has been revealed.

- ✚ **PURPOSE OF THE MYSTERY 3:8-13** – Paul continues explaining his mission, moving from the definition of the "mystery" to the magnitude of preaching it.
- ✚ **APPRECIATION OF THE MYSTERY 3:14-21** – Paul transitions into a beautiful and powerful prayer, focusing on spiritual strength and the magnitude of Christ's love.
- ✚ **WALK IN UNITY 4:1-6** – Paul pivots from the deep theology of the first three chapters to the practical application. The key word here is "walk," as he explains how believers should live in response to being chosen and redeemed by God.
- ✚ **SPIRITUAL GIFTS 4:7-16** – Paul explains how diversity of ministry gifts actually strengthens the unity of the church. He shows that while we are "one," we are not all the same.
- ✚ **THE NEW MAN 4:17-24** – Paul gets very specific about how the "worthy walk" looks in daily life. He calls for a complete renewal of the mind, which leads to the removing of the "old life" of a non-believer while putting on the "new life" in Christ.
- ✚ **DO NOT GRIEVE THE SPIRIT 4:25-32** – Paul moves from the theory of the "New Self" to specific, everyday behaviors. He provides a series of "put off / put on" commands that show how the new life should actually look in a community.
- ✚ **WALK IN LOVE 5:1-7** – Paul continues his practical instructions by raising the bar to the highest possible standard: the character of God Himself.
- ✚ **WALK IN THE LIGHT 5:8-14** – Paul uses the metaphor of Light vs. Darkness to describe the transformation of the believer's life. He moves from who we were to how we must see and live now.
- ✚ **WALK IN WISDOM 5:15-21** – Paul provides a "practical manual" for living wisely in a difficult world. He emphasizes that Christian living is not accidental; it requires intentionality and a reliance on the Holy Spirit.

- ✚ **MARRIAGE – CHRIST AND THE CHURCH 5:22-33** – Paul applies the principle of mutual submission to marriage. He uses the relationship between a husband and wife as a living metaphor for the relationship between Christ and the Church.

- ✚ **CHILDREN AND PARENTS 6:1-4** – Paul continues his instructions on household relationships, moving from marriage to the dynamics between children and parents.

- ✚ **BONDSERVANTS AND MASTERS 6:5-9** – Paul addresses the relationship between slaves and masters. While this reflected the social structure of the Roman Empire, the principles he establishes provide a blueprint for integrity and mutual respect in the workplace.

- ✚ **THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD 6:10-20** – Paul concludes his letter with a dramatic call to arms. Having explained how to live a "worthy life," he now reveals that this life is lived on a spiritual battlefield, requiring divine protection.

- ✚ **A GRACIOUS GREETING 6:21-24** – Paul brings his letter to a close with a personal touch, ensuring the believers in Ephesus feel connected to him despite his imprisonment.

ACCORDING TO EPHESIANS...

WHO CHRIST IS

- **The Head of the Church:** He is the ultimate authority over the body of believers.
- **The Reconciler:** Through His sacrifice, He broke down the barrier between humanity and God and united Jews and Gentiles into one new humanity.
- **The Chief Cornerstone:** He is the essential foundation and stabilizing force of the "New Temple" (the Church).
- **The Source of Grace and Peace:** These central spiritual blessings are given freely through Him.
- **The Giver of Ministry Gifts:** He provides the diverse spiritual gifts needed to equip the Church for service.

- **The Lord of All:** He is seated at God's right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule, authority, and power.
- **The Loving Husband (Symbolic):** His sacrificial love for the Church serves as the ultimate model for Christian marriage.
- **Our Peace:** He does not just give peace; He *is* the peace that ends spiritual enmity.
- **The Revealer of Mystery:** Through Christ, God's long-hidden plan to unite all things under His authority was made known.

WHO WE ARE

Chosen, holy, without blame, predestined, adopted, belonging to God, accepted, loved, redeemed, forgiven, in Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit, God's purchased possession, called to hope, led by Christ, complete in Christ, alive in Christ, saved by grace, seated with Christ, recipient of God's kindness, God's workmanship, created to do good works, member of God's household, God's building, co-heir to the promises, minister of the gospel, partaker of promises, rooted and built in love, joined to Christ, a sweet smelling aroma, light, the brilliant manifestation of God, awake, and bondservant of Christ.

WHAT WE HAVE

Peace, every spiritual blessing, riches of God's grace, an inheritance in Christ, spirit of wisdom, God's great power, God's Spirit, the revelation of God's mystery, access into God's presence, heart filled with Christ, clear understanding, open eyes, power to put off the old man, fruit of the Holy Spirit, light from Christ, wisdom to understand, long life, strength and power, and the full armor of God.

CONCLUSION: The book of Ephesians concludes that believers are saved by grace to form a united, holy church—reconciled to God and each other—and are empowered to live out this new identity by putting on the "full armor of God" to stand against spiritual evil. It emphasizes walking in love, light, and wisdom, bringing all things together under Christ.