

Ephesians

1. Titles:

- A. The Epistle to the Ephesians
- B. The Book of the Body of Christ
- C. The Book of The Church

2. Author:

Written by Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

3. Date:

Probably written between 57 and 62 A.D. during Paul's first imprisonment at Rome (Acts 28).

4. Key Words:

- A. Love (d, eth) - 19
- B. Grace - 12
- C. Faith, Believe - 10
- D. Body (ies) - 10
- E. Heaven (ly, s) - 8
- F. Walk (ed) - 8
- G. Mystery - 6
- H. Will (of God) - 6

5. Key Verses: 1:22, 23; 2:6; 4:1

6. Purpose:

- A. To strengthen the believers in their love and faith in Christ.
- B. To encourage the believers to put off the old man and put on the new man.
- C. To show the unity of both Jew and Gentile in one body of Christ.
- D. To set forth the purpose of the mystery of Christ and the church.

7. Message:

- A. The believer as a member of the body of Christ is seated in heavenly places in Christ, but yet is to walk in practical love on earth.
- B. The church is a time manifestation of God's eternal purpose in Christ.

8. Outline:

- I. Doctrinal: Heavenly Calling Ch. 1-3
- II. Practical: Earthly Conduct Ch. 4-6

9. Summary:

During Paul's third missionary journey he spent at least three years at Ephesus establishing the church. It soon became the center for the evangelization of Asia Minor. Then while imprisoned at Rome, Paul wrote this epistle. In chapter one he sets forth the eternal purpose of God in Christ and shows the heavenly calling and position of the church. In chapter two the grace of God is seen in the bringing together of both Jew and Gentile into one body through the cross, thus building a spiritual temple for the habitation of God. Chapter three unfolds the mystery of Christ and the church. Chapter four deals with the unity of the members of the body and chapter five deals with the unity of the body with Christ under the figure of marriage. Then in chapter six Paul outlines the church's spiritual warfare. If the church had heeded Paul's admonition to walk in love they would not have received the rebuke of Christ found in Revelation 2:1-7.

10. Christ Seen:

Christ is seen as the Fullness of God, the Head of the Church, the Bridegroom, the Giver of Ministries, the Grace of God, and our Peace.