

Ephesians

EPHESUS The capital of proconsular Asia, which was the western part of Asia Minor. It was colonized principally from Athens. In the time of the Romans it bore the title of "the first and greatest metropolis of Asia." It was distinguished for the Temple of Diana (q.v.), who there had her chief shrine; and for its theatre, which was the largest in the world, capable of containing 50,000 spectators. It was, like all ancient theatres, open to the sky. Here were exhibited the fights of wild beasts and of men with beasts. (Compare [1Co 4:9](#); [1Co 9:24, 25](#); [1Co 15:32](#))

Many Jews took up their residence in this city, and here the seeds of the gospel were sown immediately after Pentecost ([Acts 2:9](#); [Acts 6:9](#)). At the close of his second missionary journey (about A.D. 51), when Paul was returning from Greece to Syria ([Acts 18:18-21](#)), he first visited this city. He remained, however, for only a short time, as he was hastening to keep the feast, probably of Pentecost, at Jerusalem; but he left Aquila and Priscilla behind him to carry on the work of spreading the gospel.

During his third missionary journey Paul reached Ephesus from the "upper coasts" ([Acts 19:1](#)), i.e., from the inland parts of Asia Minor, and tarried here for about three years; and so successful and abundant were his labours that "all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks" ([Acts 19:10](#)). Probably during this period the seven churches of the Apocalypse were founded, not by Paul's personal labours, but by missionaries whom he may have sent out from Ephesus, and by the influence of converts returning to their homes.

Easton's Illustrated Bible Dictionary: And Treasury of Biblical History, Biography, Geography, Doctrine, and Literature.

Ephesus Ephesus was the most easily accessible city in Asia, both by land and sea. Its location, therefore, favored its religious, political and commercial development, and presented a most advantageous field for the missionary labors of Paul.

Not only was the temple of Diana a place of worship, and a treasure-house, but it was also a museum in which the best statuary and most beautiful paintings were preserved. Among the paintings was one by the famous Apelles, a native of Ephesus, representing Alexander the Great hurling a thunderbolt.

Not only did the temple bring vast numbers of pilgrims to the city, as does the Kaaba at Mecca at the present time, but it employed hosts of people apart from the priests and priestesses; among them were the large number of artisans who manufactured images of the goddess Diana, or shrines to sell to the visiting strangers.....

Such was Ephesus when Paul on his 2nd missionary journey in Acts ([18:19-21](#)) first visited the city, and when, on his 3rd journey ([Acts 19:8-10](#); [Acts 20:31](#)), he remained there for two years preaching in the synagogue ([Acts 19:8, 10](#)), in the school of Tyrannus ([Acts 19:9](#)) and in private houses ([Acts 20:20](#)). **International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.**

Ephesians

Date and Place of Writing

If his words are taken literally, Paul was in prison during the time in which he wrote the letter to the Ephesians: "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles" (Eph. 3:1); "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called" (Eph. 4:1); "For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak" (Eph. 6:20).

Paul was imprisoned after his arrest in Jerusalem because he had preached the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 21:21). For two years he was imprisoned in Caesarea (Acts 24:27). His travels and arrival in Rome are the subject of the last several chapters of Acts (25-28). **He probably wrote this epistle during the latter part of his first imprisonment in Rome between the years A.D. 62 and 64.** "Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him" (Acts 28:30) during that confinement. The apostle had been preaching about thirty years and most likely was in his early sixties. He was probably martyred during a second imprisonment in either A.D. 65 or 66.

Ephesians – Truth Commentaries (by C.G. "Colly" Caldwell pg. xviii)

THEME

Salvation through Christ by God's eternal plan is the theme of Ephesians. This book is often described as a "twin" letter to Colossians because of the similarity of many passages. Both letters were written by Paul while he was prisoner in Rome, and evidently were both sent at the same time by Tychicus (Eph. 6:21-22; Col. 4:7). Whereas Colossians emphasizes the deity and preeminence of Christ, the book of Ephesians emphasizes Christ and His body, the church. The word "church" is found nine times and the word body (with reference to the church) is also found nine times.

Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon-By. Robert Harkrider pg. 1

God's Plan in Christ

The first chapter of Ephesians is dedicated to explaining two great truths: (a) that God's planning focuses upon providing spiritual blessings; and (b) that all spiritual blessings are in Christ Jesus.

Whatever else we may think or hear preached from today's pulpits, God is most interested in our spiritual well-being, not in our physical or social happiness. Just look at the list of blessings attributed to the "riches" of his grace (1:7; 2:4,7; 3:8,16): He "chose" us (1:4); he "adopted" us (1:5); he "redeemed" us (1:7); he "forgave" us (1:7); he revealed the "mystery" of his will to us (1:9); he gathered us together in one body (1:10); he provided an "inheritance" for us (1:11); etc.! Nothing is said here about material prosperity or physical welfare, and yet we are "rich." We are called upon to come up higher in our thinking and set our minds on the things of God (Phil. 4:8). He has planned wonderful blessings for us, but we will bypass them if we place our affections on this earth (Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 12:13-21).

Ephesians – Truth Commentaries (by C.G. "Colly" Caldwell pg. xxi)

Ephesians

Ephesians 1:1-23 (NKJV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ 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,

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.

¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Notes

Ephesians 1:1-23 (NKJV)

¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

¹⁵ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹ and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

²² And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church,

²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Notes

Ephesians / Questions chapter 1

1. How does one have access to all spiritual blessings?
2. What lesson or lessons can we learn from verse 4?
3. List and briefly comment on two verses that have the word “predestined”.
4. Explain how Eph.1:7 and Acts 22:16 can be identified with each other
5. Ephesians 3:3-6 can be identified with which verse in chapter 1?
6. What did Paul hear concerning the Ephesians?
7. Describe Paul’s desire as revealed in 1:18-21.
8. What is another word that is used to describe the church?

Ephesians

Ephesians 2:1-22 (NKJV)

¹ And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—

¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Notes

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace,

¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner *stone*,

²¹ in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians / Questions chapter 2

1. What do we learn from verses 2-3?

2. How was God's love shown towards us?

Ephesians / Questions chapter 2

3. Why is it important to include verse10 in one's understanding verses 8 & 9?

4. Who is being spoken of by the phrase, “**having no hope and without God in the world**” ?

5. How were the Jews and Gentiles reconciled in one body?

6. Who is the chief cornerstone?

7. What lesson or lessons can be learned from 2:19-22?

Ephesians

Ephesians 3:1-21 (NKJV)

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—

² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Notes

Ephesians

⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

⁹ and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*,

¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

¹³ Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Notes

Ephesians

¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—

¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ 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,

²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Notes

Ephesians / Questions chapter 3

1. What was the mystery that Paul was speaking about and how was it made known?
2. How did Paul view his opportunity to preach and what can we learn from this?
3. What was in God's eternal purpose?
4. List and comment on the verse that speaks of Christ dwelling in one's heart.
5. Describe some lessons to be learned from 3:18-21.

Ephesians 4:1-24 (NKJV)

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

⁶ one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

⁸ Therefore He says: "*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.*"

⁹ (Now this, "*He ascended*"--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Notes

Ephesians

¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ—

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ,

²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, *"Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,"* for we are members of one another.

Notes

Ephesians

²⁶ *"Be angry, and do not sin"*: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

²⁷ nor give place to the devil.

²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Notes

Ephesians / Questions chapter 4

1. How is one called and what is expected of one after he or she responds to the call?
2. List the scripture that speaks of the “unity of the Spirit” and how is this unity maintained?
3. Briefly explain verses 4-6.

Ephesians 5:1-14 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*.

¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Notes

Ephesians

¹⁴ Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.

¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Notes

Ephesians

²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself

²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.

³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

³¹ *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*

³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.

Notes

Questions – Ephesians 5

1. Where does it warn about being deceived by empty words and give an example of deception by empty words.
2. List and comment on the verse that speaks of singing.
3. How is the “walk” (N.K.J.V. – 3 scriptures) of the child of God described in this chapter?
4. Describe the comparison made concerning Christ/church and the husband/wife relationship.
5. List some lessons that should be learned by husbands and wives?

Ephesians 6

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

² "*Honor your father and mother,*" which is the first commandment with promise:

³ "*that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.*"

⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

⁵ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;

⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

⁹ And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Notes

Ephesians 6

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

²¹ But that you also may know my affairs *and* how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;

²² whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and *that* he may comfort your hearts.

²³ Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Notes

Questions – Ephesians 6

1. Why should children obey their parents and give at least two examples obedience.
2. What instruction is given to fathers and how might a father provoke his child to wrath?
3. Describe the responsibility of bondservants.
4. What instructions are given to masters?
5. How is one able to be victorious over the wiles of the devil?
6. What does Paul request of his brethren?
7. List **5 important lessons** that you will commit to memory from your study of the book of Ephesians.