

Survey of Ephesians

David Rountree

1. The apostle Paul was the writer to the church of Ephesus (1:1). He probably wrote the letter about 62 AD from Rome. This is one of the four “prison epistles” written during Paul’s Roman imprisonment (AD 61-63). The other three epistles written while in this prison were: Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.
2. The phrase, “at Ephesus” (1:1) may indicate that this letter was intended to be a circular letter to Ephesus and neighboring Asian churches and would account for the lack of more personal greetings.
3. In Acts 18:18-21 we learn that Paul went to Ephesus on his second missionary journey and left the new church after a short time in the care of Aquila and Priscilla. On his third missionary journey he stays three years in Ephesus (Acts 20:31). Why so long a stay in Ephesus? It was a very large city and the political and commercial center of Asia. It had a great outdoor theater seating 50,000. It was home of the Temple of Diana (one of the Seven Wonders of the World); and thus home of Diana worship (Acts 19:23-41). Planting a solid church here was crucial to the spread of the gospel.

Outline

Plan for the Church (1:1-14)

Heavenly blessings in Christ (v.3)
Chosen (v.4)
Predestined (v.5)
Accepted (v.6)
Redeemed (v.7)
Enlightened (v.8-10)
Obtained an inheritance (v.11-12)
Sealed (v.13)
Secured (v.14)

Prayer for the Church (1:15-23)

Provision for the Church (2:1-22)

Paul’s mission and prayer (3)

Participation of the Church as the Body of Christ (4-6)

Walk in unity (4:1-16)
Walk in holiness (4:17-30)
Walk in love (4:31-5:2)
Walk in light (5:3-14)
Walk in wisdom (5:15-17)
Walk in praise (5:18-20)
Walk in harmony (5:21-6:9)
Walk in warfare (6:10-24)

Main Points and Application

1. How does each person of the God-head function in the work of our salvation (1:4-13)?
2. Perhaps the chief phrase in the book of Ephesians is the phrase “in Christ.” This phrase is found some 27 times. Looking just through the first three chapters, list what is ours “in Christ.”

Faithfulness (1:2)	Spirit of revelation (1:17)
Blessed (1:3)	Hope (1:18)
Chosen (1:4)	Power (1:19-20)
Adopted (1:5)	Made alive (2:5,6)
Accepted (1:6)	Created (2:10)
Redeemed (1:7)	Made near to covenants (2:13)
Forgiven (1:7)	Growth into a holy temple (2:21)
Revealed his will (1:9)	Growth together in the Spirit (2:22)
All things summed up (1:10)	Partakers of his promise (3:6)
Obtained an inheritance (1:11)	Wisdom made known (3:10-11)
Glorified (1:12-13)	Boldness before heavenly places (3:10-12)
Given Faith (1:15)	Confident access to heavenly places (3:10-12)
Spirit of wisdom (1:17)	

Do we need Christ? Does everyone need Christ? (See 2:11-13).

3. Paul did not want there to be two churches: a Jewish Church and a Gentile Church. How does 2:19-22 seek to correct this problem? How should we apply these verses today?
4. From 3:3-9, what is the “mystery of Christ?”
5. Consider Paul’s great prayer for the church in 3:14-19. How should we use this prayer? What good does it do to tell someone you are praying for them? Is kneeling important in prayer (3:14)? For a look at Paul’s other famous prayers see Philippians 1:9-11 and Colossians 1:9-12.
6. What is the exhortation God is giving us from 4:1-3?
7. How does 4:21-24 describe the Christian life? How would you describe it (see 5:1-21)?
8. Ephesians 5:22-33 is one of the most famous passages intrusting husbands and wives. List what you think are the two most important responsibilities for both husbands and wives.
9. In 6:13 we are told to stand firm. What kind of daily routine might we need to stand firm as God would expect of us according to 6:10-23? Let us daily realize that there are powers in an unseen world which are against us and we do not have the power to deal with them unaided by Christ.