



The Book of Ephesians
Lesson 1: Introduction & Chapter 1

1. History and facts about the Book of Ephesians and the church in Ephesus

The Book of Ephesians was written _____

The same truths taught to the Ephesians by Paul are applicable to us today.

The first time Paul went to Ephesus can found in Acts 18.

Acts 18:18-21

He left Priscilla & Aquila in Ephesus. They were evangelists.

Paul went to Ephesus a second time (about 20 years after the day of Pentecost).

Acts 19:1-7

These men were living behind the times. They were living in an old thing when God was doing something new.

The Ephesian church was born with 12 members. It became one of the greatest church in history!

Acts 19:8-10

The church began to grow. Why?

- _____

Acts 19:11, 12

- _____

Acts 19:18

- _____

Acts 19:19

There was much opposition in the midst of their growth.

2. The religion of Ephesus

The people worshipped the goddess Diana (magic and demon power; included articles of magical arts and books of magic).

Paul had to face the magicians like Moses in Egypt.

The temple of Diana, near the sea, was one of the 7 great wonders of the ancient world.

- It took 220 years to build.
- 377 feet long
- 180 feet wide
- 127 Columns; each more than 60 feet high
- Filled with gold, silver, & precious stones
- The month of May was set aside to celebrate Diana.
- Thousands came to be entertained with games, musicals, lustful worship, and sex orgies.
- House of prostitution next to temple

1 Corinthians 15:32

Paul is speaking about being persecuted while preaching in Ephesus.

“Beasts at Ephesus” is speaking, not about animals, but about the people who worshipped Diana.

3. Breaking down the Book of Ephesians

Ephesians is the only epistle that is written to more than one local church.

Ephesus was a region. This book was written to multiple congregations in the same region. For that reason, there was really no correction in the Book of Ephesians.

What is the Book of Ephesians about?

- There is a lot of vision from the Apostle Paul about what God’s church.

- Ephesians is not addressing problems as much as it is painting a picture of what the church should look like.
- Ephesians teaches that the church belongs to God. It is His plan, His design, His doctrine, and His demonstration. The church is not ours to make into our image as we please, but to make into His image as He has laid out in Scripture.
- Ephesians is a vision book about the church. The book is teaching us what the culture of the church should be like.

4. Outline of the Book of Ephesians

- Chapter 1: Identification – Who we are in Him
- Chapter 2: Sanctification – _____
- Chapter 3: Preservation – The ongoing reality of our salvation
- Chapter 4: Articulation – Sharing the message of the Gospel
- Chapter 5: Dedication – _____
- Chapter 6: Demonstration – Exercising our authority

5. Ephesians Chapter 1: Identification – Who we are in Him

Ephesians 1:1

Paul knew who he was.

Ephesians 1:2, 3

“Every spiritual blessing” refers to blessing given by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:4-6

Predestined does not mean that God has chosen some people to go to heaven and others to go to hell. It does not mean that people do not have free will.

God predestined that there would be sufficient grace for everybody who will accept it.

You are God’s choice to live in this time and to be part of this move.

Definition of ACCEPTED:

- To have special honor
- _____
- To compass with favor
- _____

Before moving onto verse seven, let's look at verse eighteen.

Ephesians 1:18

If you read and understand the entire chapter, this is not something that is in the future.

Verse eighteen refers to what the Apostle Paul already wrote about in the previous verses. It is like a preacher who preaches and then prays that the people will understand what he just preached.

Ephesians 1:7-9

In these three verses, we have the words: riches, abound, and good pleasure.

God pours out his blessings on you and makes them abound!

God does not give your crumbs.

Definition of ABOUND:

- _____
- To be in excess
- _____
- To furnish one richly so that he has abundance

In verse 18 Paul is praying that the believers would understand the lavished grace, the riches of forgiveness, and the kind intention of Almighty God. Not only would they understand it, but that it would become their identity.

That when they looked at their lives, even in rough circumstances, they would see they were rich in Him.

This is what God says about you. This is the picture of His Church.

That is why you have to be careful when you talk about God’s Church. This is His Bride. When you start cursing His Bride, calling her names, and saying she isn’t good enough for you, you are mocking the cross.

He wants you to see that you are a part of this Church He birthed.

Ephesians 1:7

Definition of FORGIVENESS:

- _____
- To liberate completely
- To discharge
- To send away
- _____

In the time when Ephesians was written, this word meant to cancel a debt or to release someone of an obligation of a contract, commitment, or a promise.

It also meant to forfeit any right to hold a person captive to a previous commitment or a wrong he has committed.

God has permanently dismissed our sins. We have been liberated completely from them.

Ephesians 1:10-14

Definition of SEALED (verse 13): Mark with a seal or to set a mark or stamp

We have the mark of the Holy Spirit on our hearts!

Definition of GUARANTEE (verse 14): _____

God gave us the Holy Spirit and said, “This is a down payment. I am serious about keeping you forever!”

Ephesians 1:15-22

Six things God the Father did for Jesus:

- _____
- Seated Him at His right hand in heavenly places.

- Gave Him authority over all powers, both good and evil.

- _____

- Put all things under His feet.

- _____

Ephesians 1:23

Where is the fullness of Christ today?

The fullness of Christ is the local church. It is His Body. In that Body, He has lavished all His grace upon us, shown His kind intentions towards us, and given us the riches of His forgiveness.

This is the understanding of identification. This is what Paul was praying in verse 18. He was praying that we would understand this.

Ephesians 1 and 2 show us the authority of the believer. However, Paul is really showing us the authority of the Church.

An individual believer only has spiritual authority when connected to the local church.

This chapter is all about how God has blessed the local church with that authority.

6. Why is it important to understand who we are in Christ?

Ephesians 1 tells us several times that we are in Christ. This is our spiritual address. This tells us where you are located as a believer.

Ephesians 1:3-7

Ephesians 1:10-13

Why is this important for us to know?

When the Ephesian church read the end of the letter from Paul, he expected that they also read the beginning.

Ephesians 6 tells us about the armor of God. But it begins telling us to be strong in the Lord.

Ephesians 6:10

The Greek phrase “in the Lord” tells us that the power of God is “locked up” in the Lord.

The only way to have access to His power is through a personal relationship with Him because the power is “locked up” in Jesus.

This is the same Greek phrase used when Paul wrote that we, as believers, are in Christ. We are “locked up” in Him.

The reason God’s power is accessible to us is that both we and His power are “locked up” in Him.

We are “locked up” in Him. The power of the Holy Spirit is “locked up” in Him. We are in the same place – never far away from the supernatural power of God that we receive by faith!