

Ephesians INTRO & OUTLINE

Author: Paul (1:1; 3:1)

Who written to: The church in Ephesus (1:1) and the Church (see #3 under “valuable things”)

The city of Ephesus:

- Ephesus was one of the most important Eastern Mediterranean cities of the Roman world. It was the worship center for the Greek goddess Artemis & the temple there was massive marvel.
- Paul visited Ephesus on his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 18:19), later stayed there for years (Acts 19) and came back thru on his final return to Jerusalem (Acts 20:17-21:1)
 - It is evident Paul had a DEEP connection and love for these folks

Date of writing: 60-62 AD (dating it during his imprisonment in Rome) (see #1 & 2 under “valuable things”)

Theme & Purpose:

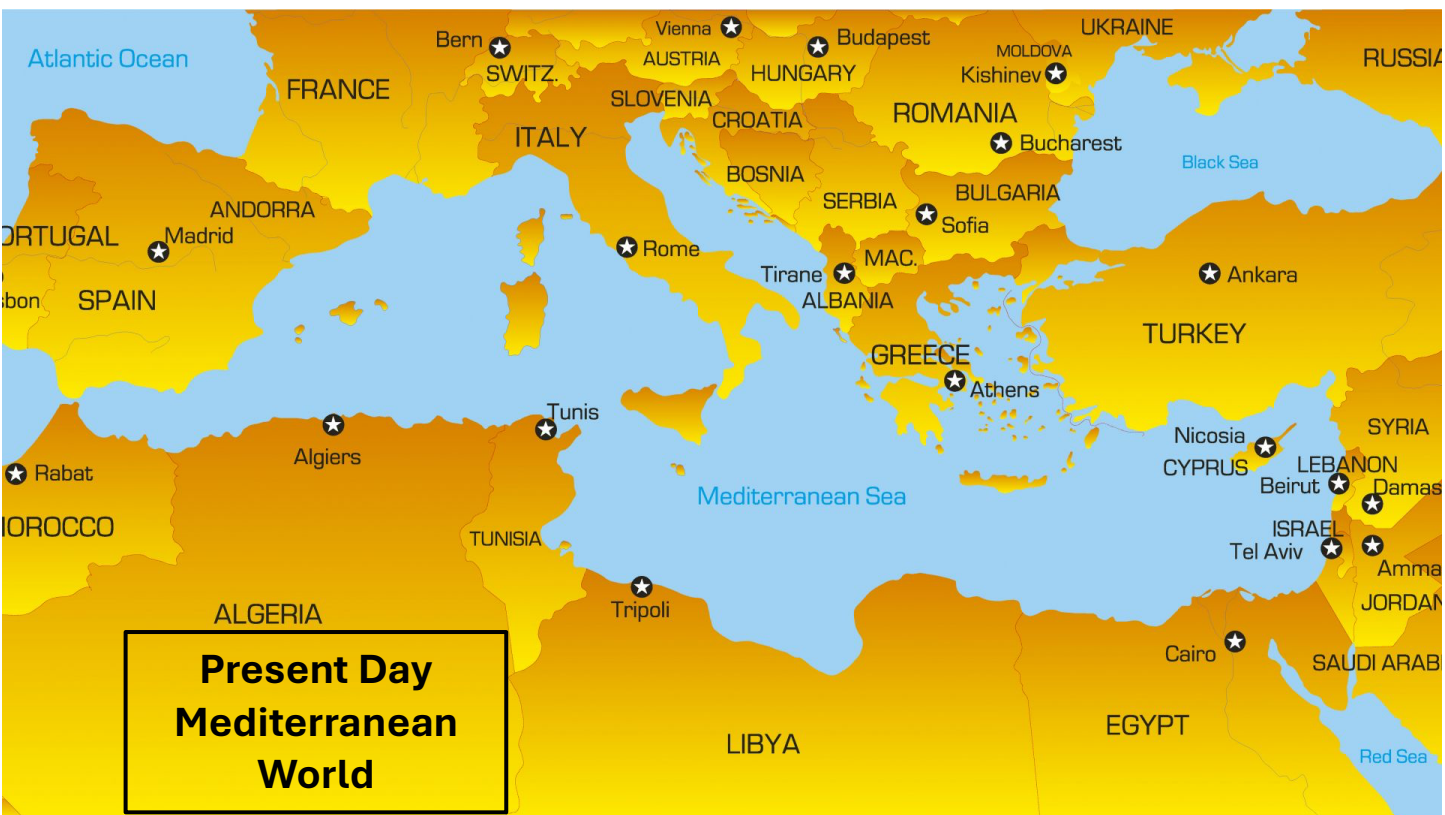
- Purpose: Writing to the church (“saints”) in Ephesus encouraging them in Christ
- Some of the major themes:
 - 1.) Identity – Who Am I? 2.) Theological Depth/truth 3.) Christian practical living
 - In a world that promotes confusion – Jesus (Christianity) provides the clarity we need!
 - Christianity provides a new outlook, new perspective, new identity... IN CHRIST.
 - We are not what we once were, what we are NOW is thru God’s grace & our faith in Him.
 - Winning the Spiritual battle
 - Relationships

VALUABLE THINGS TO KNOW WHEN READING EPHESIANS:

1. Paul is in prison when writing this (see Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:20)
 - The other “prison epistles” are Philippians (1:7; 1:13-17), Colossians (4:3; 4:18) & Philemon (1:10)
2. Paul was in prison often: see Acts 16:19-40 – Phillipi; Acts 21:30-23:22 – Jerusalem; Acts 23:31-26:32 – Caesarea & Acts 28:16+ – in Rome
 - Paul sometimes had freedoms while he was in prison (24:23 & 28:16) and sometimes it was harsher conditions (16:22-24)
 - It would have taken time to write a letter such as this – which he would’ve had both in Caesarea & Rome, most probably being written during his time in Rome.
3. The words “in Ephesus” in 1:1 are not in the oldest documents.
 - “This may be accounted for in 2 ways: (1) The epistle may have been addressed to a single church but was later adapted to a general reading by the admission of the name, or (2) the epistle was originally written for general publication for many churches and one particular copy was addressed to the church at Ephesus,” (Carl Laney; CBC; 587).
 - So, whether it was written specifically to the church in Ephesus or the Church in the region – is of no real concern to us. All the letters were spread around to the churches in the area.
4. Romans and both (1 & 2) Corinthians address problems within the church. Ephesians does not do that but does deal with the difficulties associated with living the Christian life in an unchristian world.
5. There is ALOT of theological depth along with practical Christian application in Ephesians
6. “In Christ” is KEY. “In Christ” (εν Χριστω); “in Him” (εν αυτω); “in his;” “in the one He loves;” “in the Christ;” etc... used repeatedly. (Over 15x’s just in chapter 1.)

LASTLY: Ephesians 1 is “Family Talk”

- This letter is intended for the Church – those who are “in Christ” with the purpose of encouraging & spurring us on toward love & good deeds (Heb. 10:24-25)



1:1-2 = Classic Paul greeting

- See intro stuff

A) A CHRISTIAN'S IDENTITY = 1:3 – 2:22

- I) Who is God / Who am I? ...IN CHRIST
 - 1) **1:3-10** = Christian identity: DEEP theological truths about God and Christians
 - 2) **1:11-12** = Christian purpose: Chosen... in order to “praise God”
 - 3) **1:13-14** = Christian security: 100% secure... in order to “praise God”
 - 4) **1:15-20** = Christian strength: Paul prays a prayer that they would understand the strength they have in Christ
 - 5) **1:21-23** = Christian reality: Christ is supreme. He is above all. His authority is limitless. His rule is absolute. His supremacy is certain & irrefutable
- II) Were VS Are; Then VS Now; Past VS Present; Before Christ VS In Christ (Ephesians 2)
 - 1) **2:1-3** = Were #1
 - 2) **2:4-10** = Are now #1 – totally different
 - 3) **2:11-13** = Were #2
 - 4) **2:14-22** = Are now #2 – totally different

“For this reason...”

B) A CHRISTIAN'S PRIVILEGE = 3:1 – 3:21

- I) 3:1 = These Gentiles are blessed because of Paul's sacrifice in bringing the Gospel to them
- II) 3:2-6 = The “mystery” has been revealed
- III) 3:7-8a = Paul personally understands his privilege/blessing
- IV) 3:8b-13 = The privilege which leads to opportunity for of the Church
- V) 3:14-15 = Our name
- VI) 3:16-21 = The power of belonging to this family

C) A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE = 4:1 – 6:20

- 4:1 = The summary verse for the next 3 chapters...
- I) 4:2-3 = The first set of attributes
 - II) 4:4-6 = One!
 - III) 4:7-13 = One! ...BUT we've all been gifted to play a different part in that
 - This is THE MOST IMPORTANT group of people that you will belong to – a family
 - IV) 4:14-16 = Growing up
 - V) 4:17-5:20 = Putting on and putting off / Attention to your life
 - VI) 5:21-6:9 = Relational Instruction
 - 1) 5:21-5:33 = Marriage relationship
 - 2) 6:1-4 = Parents/kids relationship
 - 3) 6:5-9 = Slave/master relationship
 - VII) 6:10-17 = The Spiritual Battle
 - VIII) 8:18-20 = Prayer

Close: 6:21-24