

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

AUTHOR: The Apostle Paul.

PLACE WRITTEN: In Rome, while Paul was a prisoner awaiting trial, Eph. 4:1, Phil.1:13-14.

DATE WRITTEN: Between 61-63 A.D.

WRITTEN TO: The Church of Ephesus.

- First started by Apollos, Acts 18:24-26, 19:1-3
- Received the baptism of the Holy Spirit through Paul, Acts 19:1-7
- The church was established through Paul’s ministry, Acts 19:6-12
- The church of Ephesus became an established, mature church that the Apostle Paul could write one of his greatest letters to. The Epistle to the Ephesians has been given the title “The Queen of the Epistles” because of the exceptional content that Paul shared.
- Paul left Timothy to be their senior pastor after his departure, 1 Tim.1:3.

BASIC OUTLINE:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| SECTION ONE: | SECTION TWO: |
| CHAPTERS 1-3 | CHAPTERS 4-6 |
| THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST | OUR UNFINISHED WORK |
| SEATED WITH CHRIST IN HEAVENLIES | WALKING & STANDING ON THE EARTH |
| OUR INHERITANCE IN CHRIST | USING OUR INHERITANCE |
| US IN CHRIST | CHRIST IN US |
| IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS | IMPARTED RIGHTEOUSNESS |
| THE SPIRIT OF REVELATION | THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM |

SECTION ONE: CHAPTERS 1-3

THE REVELATION OF THE FINISHED WORK OF GOD IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:1-2 Introduction and Greetings

A. EPHESIANS 1:3-14 THE WORK OF THE TRINITY REVEALED AND PRAISED:

1. Chosen by the Father, Eph.1:3-6
 - v. 3 – God has blessed us by giving us all spiritual blessings (spiritual gifts and virtues) that are in heaven. (2 Peter 1:3; Psalm 145:9; Romans 8:32)
 - v. 4- We (who are Christians) are chosen in Christ, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, Rev.13:8. God prepared the plan of redemption before the Fall of mankind. His original purpose- to have many sons- will be fulfilled, Heb.2:10.
 - v. 5- God has predestined each Christian to become His adopted son when we accept Jesus into our hearts, Romans 8:15-16. This predestination is not based on God making us robots, some who must choose salvation and some who must choose damnation. God’s predestination is based upon His foreknowledge, Rom.8:28-29. God’s foreknowledge knows those who will respond to salvation, and those that He knows will respond to salvation, He predestined to become His adopted sons. However, God does not predestinate anyone to eternal destruction. The judgment of eternal fire was originally only made for the Devil and the fallen angels, Mat.25:41. God gives each person an opportunity to receive salvation and eternal life. But if we reject heaven, our only other option is hell.

2. Redeemed by the Son, Eph.1:7-12

God has paid the price to redeem us. Our sins have been forgiven because of the Lord's death upon the cross of Calvary. From this perspective, the work of salvation is finished, Jn.19:30. However, from another perspective, the work of salvation is progressive. It is going from one stage to a higher stage, from "glory to glory."

Righteousness: Imputed and Imparted

- a. Imputed Righteousness – We are counted righteous because of the work of Christ, Eph.1:7. Imputed righteousness means we are legally "counted" righteous even though we still have many areas in our lives that need to be corrected and changed. This truth- our imputed righteousness based on Christ's finished work- is explained in Ephesians chapters 1-3.
- b. Imparted Righteousness – After salvation we need to progress from being "counted" righteous to actually "experience" righteousness inworked into every area of our life. Imparted righteousness means that God has worked in our hearts to transform us so that we practice righteousness. This truth- our imparted righteousness based on Christ in us completing our unfinished transformation- is explained in Ephesians chapters 4-6.

3. Sealed by the Holy Spirit, Eph.1:13-14

- v. 13 - Sealed with the Holy Spirit – indicates possession and security
 - v. 14 – "Guarantee" literally means "deposit" or "down payment" or "first installment." At salvation, the Holy Spirit does not come in His fullness into our life. There are many more deposits or payments as the Holy Spirit more fully comes into our lives. Some of these further steps, or deposits, can include:
 - a. Filled (baptized) with the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:4
 - b. Repeatedly filled, Eph. 5:18
 - c. Fruit of the Spirit, Gal.5:22-23
 - d. Gifts of the Spirit, 1 Cor. 12:8-10
 - e. The Seven Spirits of God, Rev 5:6 & Isaiah 11:2
 - f. Transformed from lower levels of glory to higher levels, 2 Cor.3:18.
- When all of the "payments" or impartations of the Holy Spirit have fully redeemed and transformed us, we will be the matured adopted sons of God.

B. EPHESIANS 1:15-23 PAUL'S PRAYER FOR WISDOM AND REVELATION:

1. 1:15-17 - Paul prays for two anointings of the Holy Spirit to be given to the Ephesian believers: the spirit of wisdom and revelation.
 - a. These are further anointings than the baptism of the Holy Spirit, as the Ephesian believers had already received this, Acts 19:6
 - b. The spirit of revelation illumines God's word to be a guide to our path, while the spirit of wisdom illumines God's word to be a guide to our present walk, Ps.119:105.
 - c. The spirit of revelation produced the teachings of Ephesians chapters 1-3, while the spirit of wisdom produced the teachings of Ephesians chapters 4-6
2. Paul prays for the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we can know:
 - a. 1:18 The hope of our calling: We need to know that there is a far greater plan of God for our life than mere salvation from hell. He has given us ministries and an eternal

destiny that we are to prepare for. There is a calling upon our life, and as we fulfill it, there will be eternal rewards.

- b. 1:18 His inheritance in the saints: Deuteronomy 32:9 says, “For the Lord’s portion is His people.” What does God desire?

God the Father desires sons, 1 Jn.3:1, Heb.2:10.

God the Son desires a bride, Eph.5:25-27, Rev.18:7-8.

God the Spirit desires a temple to dwell in, 1 Cor.3:16-17, Rev.21:3.

- c. 1:19- 23 His power to us:

v. 19-21 – The power of Christ’s resurrection: After Jesus died, His Spirit went to the lower parts of the earth, Eph.4:8-10. Before the cross, the righteous went down to Paradise when they died (1 Sam.28:13-15, Lk.15:22-26). When Christ was raised from the bowels of the earth, He took all the righteous with Him to heaven, Mat.27: 52-53. It not only released Christ from the grave, but also all the Old Testament saints who were captive in the heart of the earth. The mighty power of the resurrection of Jesus was so great that all the gates and strongholds of hell could not prevail against it, 1 Pet.3:18-22, Rev.1:17-18. The power of His resurrection took him from the lowest hell to the highest heaven, Phil.2:8-11.

v. 22-23 – “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body.” The church, all the members of the body, are given Christ’s authority to rule, if we will but learn how to function in that authority, Rom.16:20, Mk.16:15-18, Josh.10:24-25, Ps.149:6-9.

C. EPHESIANS 2:1-10 SALVATION BY GRACE

1. 2:1-3 - What we were in the past:

v.1 – we were dead in trespasses and sins, John 8:34-35

v.2 – we walked according to the course of this world.

v.3 – we conducted ourselves in the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:19) and of the mind (Prov. 23:7, Rom 12:2)

2. 2: 4-6 - What we are in the present:

v. 6 – speaks of the spiritual position the believer has in Christ: we sit or rest in His finished salvation. The Book of Ephesians is governed by the three words: sit, walk and stand. In Eph.2:6 Paul speaks of the fact that Christ has caused us to sit in heavenly places, resting in His finished work. Then Paul speaks in chapters 4 & 5 of what we should do because of Christ’s salvation: we should walk worthy, walk in love, walk in the light, walk circumspectly, etc. Then in chapter 6, Paul says that we should stand firm against the devil, Eph.6:11, 13, & 14.

3. 2:7- What we shall be in the future: “In the ages to come” from the Greek, means “the many ages that will continually come.” What are some of the ages or dispensation or different ways that God has work with mankind in the past?

1. The Age of Innocence (Gen 1:26-28, 2:21-25). The time period in the Garden of Eden.

2. The Age of Conscience (Gen. 3:7-24). After the Fall, when man was governed by his conscience.

3. The Age of Human Government (Gen. 9:1-6). Man was required to execute the death penalty for innocent bloodshed in this new level of responsibility.

4. The Age of Promise (Gen. 12:1-3). Made to Abraham and his seed concerning the land of Canaan, justification by faith, and the coming of Christ.

5. The Age of the Law, or the Jewish Age (Ex. 19:5-8). This age started when the Law was given through Moses, and was a period lasting 1,500 years.

6. The Age of Grace, or the Church Age (John 1:17) – The era of grace that started with Christ’s death and resurrection, and lasts until the Second Coming of Christ.
7. The Age of the Millennium, or the Kingdom Age (Rev 20:6). The thousand year reign of Christ upon earth with His saints.
8. The New Heaven and New Earth, Rev. 21:1. There will be many more ages here!

Eph. 2:7 says that in the many, many ages to come. The Lord will forever be leading His people into new levels of wisdom, grace, and authority, Is.9:7. In 2 Cor. 12:4 Paul speaks of a time when he was caught up in the Spirit to the third heaven, where he heard things that are “not lawful for a man to speak” now upon the earth, Deut.29:29. We are like young, ignorant children who can understand so little of God’s future plans for the redeemed, 1 Cor.2:9. But what is important is that we properly develop in all the areas that He has purposed for us while we are in this lifetime, so that we become qualified to be promoted into all the purposes and positions that God has ahead for us in the ages to come, Mt.25:21.

4. 2: 8-10 - Saved by grace, and saved for good works

In verse 8 Paul tells us that we are not saved by good works, but by God’s grace. Then in verse 10 he tells us that we are to live a life of performing good works. We are not saved by good works but for good works. We are saved by Christ’s good work- on the cross- but then the good works done by Christ in us prepare us for our rewards and positions in God’s eternal kingdom, Lk.19:17, Mt.19:27-30.

D. EPH.2:11-3:13 A MYSTERY REVEALED – THE GENTILES & JEWS ARE MADE ONE

1. 2:11-12 The Former Hopelessness of the Gentiles- they were outside of God’s covenant of salvation given to Abraham and Moses.
2. 2:13-22 The Reconciliation of Jews & Gentiles through the Blood of Christ, through the New Covenant, Gal.3:8-9 &28-19.

The mystery was revealed to Paul that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel. All the Old Testament promises to the Jews are open to the Gentile believers in Christ.

3. 3:1-13 Paul was chosen to receive this revelation and bring it to the church. While Peter and others also had this revelation (Acts 10:9-11:18), it was Paul who was mainly used by God to make it accepted doctrine in the early church. Today it is “old news,” but whenever God gives fresh revelation it takes time- and controversy- for it to become accepted.

3:10 -The purpose of this mystery is to manifest the manifold wisdom of God. The angels in heaven’s glory are taught God’s ways by the release of God’s wisdom through His church, 1 Peter 1:12. This verse can also signify that we will teach, and enforce, Christ’s victory to the satanic fallen angels that seek to rule over the nations and cities, Eph.6:12, Is.52:15, 1 Cor.6:3, Ps.149:8-9.

E. EPHESIANS 3:14-21 PAUL’S SECOND PRAYER

1. In v.15 Paul prays for them to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in their inner being. Being strengthened by might in our inner man includes the following areas in our lives:
 - a. Our mind – We need to put on the mind of Christ, 1 Cor. 2:16
 - b. Our conscience – We want a sensitive conscience that convicts us of sin, Is.11:3
 - c. Our will – Our will must be controlled by the Lord, Ez. 36:27
2. Verse 17 says that the purpose of being strengthened in our inner man is that Christ may

- dwell within our hearts. “Dwell” in the Greek means “to permanently take one’s abode.”
3. Verses 18 & 19 - Being rooted and grounded in love – God wants us to be rooted in love so that everything we do springs from love, Mt.22:36-40.
 4. The greatness of God’s love can be illustrated by its width (Christ’s outstretched hands on the cross), its length (God’s longsuffering over sinners, 2 Pet.3:9), its depth (Christ descending to death and hell (Eph.4:9 & 1 Pet.3:18-19), and its height (Christ raising the redeemed up to the heights of heaven (1 Sam.3:8, Eph.1:21-23)).

SECTION II: CHAPTERS 4-6 WISDOM FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Paul starts this second half of his letter with “therefore.” On the basis of the message of the first half of the book- by revelation to sit with Christ in His finished work of imputed righteousness- Paul can “therefore” go on to the second half of his message- to wisely walk & stand as godly Christians in the world, completing our unfinished work of developing imparted righteousness through Christ in us developing to maturity.

- A. EPHESIANS 4:1-16 CHRISTIAN UNITY is the foundation to help bring us to full maturity.
 1. 4:1-3 Walk worthy of our Christian calling by developing godly character and unity
Three Levels of Unity:
 - a. Unity of the heart Ps. 86:11. Unless our heart is united, we cannot multiply unity in the body of Christ. The mixture in our hearts will be multiplied through us. Abraham’s mixture brought forth Ismael and Isaac, which has produced the conflict between the Arabs and the Jews and the Muslims and the Christians. Solomon’s mixture was shown by the years he spent building God’s house and his own house, 1 Kngs 6:38-7:1. Of the 20 kings after him in the Kingdom of Judah, 7 were good kings and 13 were evil.
 - b. Unity of the Spirit, Eph.4:3. If our heart is united to serve the Lord, then we can join in with all the brethren who have united hearts after God, 1 Jn.1:7. Here it is not the amount of light, but our obedience to the light we have, that gives us fellowship. This is a spiritual unity we should endeavor, or strive, to keep so that we can together build towards maturity and the unity of the faith (Eph.3:13).
 - c. Unity of the faith, Eph.4:13. As the ministers and every member work together (Eph.4:11-12) in the unity of the Spirit, the body of Christ will develop to full maturity, Eph.4:13-16. This will bring us to the the unity of the faith, which is much fuller than the unity of the Spirit in verse 3.
 2. 4:4-6 Seven “ones” of Christian unity. These are commonly understood except for the “one baptism” of verse 5. This is not water baptism or the baptism of the Holy Spirit. There are many baptisms taught in the New Testament, Heb.6:2, Mt.20:22-23, Mt.3:11. The “one baptism” spoken of here is that we are all baptized into the one body of Christ, 1 Cor.12:13.
 3. 4:7-11 The means for maturing unity: the 5 ministry gifts of Christ
 1. Apostle – the founder and leader
 2. Prophet – the spokesman for God
 3. Evangelist – the winner of souls
 4. Pastor – the shepherd of the flock who cares and nurtures them
 5. Teacher – the one who feeds the flock with spiritual truths so they may grow
 4. 4:12-16 The perfecting of unity: the matured body of Christ

- a. The purpose of the five-fold ministry is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, not just do all the ministry themselves. It will take every member of the body of Christ to build the church up to full maturity, verses 12-13.
- b. The unity of the faith will include united doctrine, Eph.4:14.
- c. When every member of the body is properly connected and functioning, they will each contribute their share towards the body of Christ growing to maturity, Eph.4:16. This is what Ezekiel saw when the bones came together & became a mighty army, Ezek.37:2-10.

B. EPHESIANS 4:17- 5:21 THE CHRISTIAN WALK- This section lists many practical areas of wisdom to follow to have a transformed life that is worthy of Christ.

* The following counsel of Paul is that in all areas of life the works of the old adamic nature need to be actively replaced by the works of the nature of Christ. If we try to remove the old without replacing it with new, the empty vacuum can invite the old to return, Lk.11:24-26.

1. 4:17-21 Don't walk like the unsaved:
2. 4:22-24 Put off the old nature, put on the new
3. 4:25 Put away lying and speak truth
4. 4:26 Do not sin when you are angry, and remove your anger before you sleep at night!
5. 4:28 Do not steal, but work and give.
6. 4:29-32 Do not speak corrupt words, but speak good, edifying, kind forgiving words.
7. 5:1-7 Walk in love, not in sexual corruption and sin.
8. 5:8-14 Walk as children of light and have no fellowship with darkness
8. 5:15-17 Walk not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time
9. 5:18-20 Do not be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit by singing and thanksgiving

C. EPHESIANS 5:22-6:9 FAMILY AND BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS

1. 5:22-24 Wives (submit) Col. 3:18. Yet this is not a blind, slave-like obedience, for it is founded on the previous exhortation that we need to submit to each other, verse 21. Sarah is given to us as an example of godly submission (1 Pet.3:5-6) yet during one important conflict God told Abraham to submit to Sarah, Gen.21:9-12.
 - * How can wives submit when their husbands are foolish or irresponsible? Sarah submitted to her husband when he chose to be deceptive (Gen.12:13), not because she trusted him, but because she trusted God, 1 Pet.3:5-6 & Gen.12:17-20.
2. 5:25-33 Husbands (love). This is an agape love that husbands are commanded to give to their wives- a spiritual, sacrificial love, Jn.3:16.
 - * Wives are only taught that they should give a phileo love to their husbands, Tit.2:4. The responsibilities on the men are higher!
 - * How does a husband love his wife as Christ loved the church?
 - a. Love your wife by your sacrificial actions, Eph.5:25.
 - * Meet your wife's need for companionship and conversation. The average woman talks twice as many words daily than her husband, but the husband usually works and talks a lot outside of the home- his wife is waiting to talk when he comes home!
 - * Meet your wife's need for security: men like to take risks, but women want security- it is a "mother" instinct.
 - b. Love your wife with your words, Eph.5:26 Praise her, honor her, build her up! (Prov.31:28-29, 1 Pet.3:7)
 - * many people have a low self-esteem, they are like "valleys" that need to be lifted up, Is.40:4. Loving actions & words can wash away many hurts and wounds from the past, Eph.5:27.

3. 6:1-3 Children (obedience and honor). Adults do not have to obey their parents (Gen.2:24 and Ps.45:10-11), only honor them, Ex.20:12. But obedience & honoring your parents (both natural and spiritual) will cause us to inherit their blessings and their inheritance for a long time, Eph,6:2-3 & Ex.20:12.
4. 6:4 Fathers (train your children in the Lord). Children need a father to train them to live responsibly. Children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to go to jail as an adult, and have multiplied problems in many other areas. A child who is taught how to obey their earthly father has much less problems obeying the Heavenly Father!
5. 6:5-8 Slaves / servants (obey). While the Spirit of the New Testament was against slavery (Gal.5:13, 4:7, & Philemon v.15-17) rebellion against the existing social order was not approved. Christianity has uplifted the moral values of the nations to make slavery unapproved today among almost all cultures. Slaves (and servants and employees) are to serve their boss as they would serve Christ so that they will also be rewarded by Christ, Eph.6:6-8.
6. 6:9 Masters (do good). We reap what we sow, Gal.6:7. If we are generous to our servants, Christ will be generous to us- if we are merciful, He will be merciful, Ps.18:25-26.

D. EPHESIANS 6:10-20 THE CHRISTIAN WARFARE

1. 6:10-12 Our enemy: the hosts of satanic angels in the first heavens, who control most of the positions of power over the nations, states, cities, towns, communities, and families (Eph.6:12, Col.1:16, Dan.10:2-14).
2. 6:13-17 Put on the whole armor of God:
 - a. The Belt of Truth- The Roman soldier first used his belt to secure his entire armor. We need to gird up the loins of our mind (I Pet.1:13) with truth- with the word of God (Jn.17:17) to have victory, Jn.8:31-32
 - b. Breastplate of Righteousness- is to protect our heart from sin, I Jn.2:15, Heb.1:9.
 - c. Feet shod with the Gospel of Peace- to protect our walk (Deut.33:24-25) and prepare us to be messengers of the gospel, Is.52:7.
 - d. Shield of Faith- must be anointed to help deflect the darts, Is.21:5.
 - e. Helmet of Salvation- this is to protect our head, or our mind & thoughts. Hope will guard our thoughts, I Thess.5:8.
 - f. Sword of the Spirit- this is our offensive weapon to attack with, the rhema word spoken by God. It is a two-edged sword (Rev.1:16) because truth is two-sided, to be balanced. We must learn how to skillfully use the word of God (II Tim.2:15) as Jesus used it during His temptation. Study "it is written" (Lk.4:4), "it is written" (Lk.4:8), "it is written" (Lk.4:10), and then "it is said" (the rhema sword, Lk.4:12).
3. 6:18-20 Watchful prayer and prayer for boldness
 - a. 6:18 Watchful prayer will guard the saints from attack, Mat.28:40-41.
 - b. 6:19-20 Praying for a preacher can give him greater anointing and boldness.

E. EPHESIANS 6:21-24 CONCLUSION

1. 6:21-22 Paul sent Tychicus, a minister who helped him, to bring his letter to the Ephesian Church (2 Tim.4:12) as well as a letter to the Colossian church, Col s & Col.4:12.
2. 6:23-24 Paul's benediction blessing to the Ephesian Christians.