

An Overview of the Book of Ephesians

The Man - Paul and His Story

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God..." - Ephesians 1:1

Paul was a **Jewish** kid from Turkey (Asia Minor).

"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today." - Acts 22:3

Paul was an effective young **zealot** (persecutor).

"For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers." - Galatians 1:13

Paul had a **dramatic** conversion story!

"But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by His grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man..." - Galatians 1:15,16

"About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. ⁷I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?' ⁸"Who are you, Lord?" I asked. "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting," He replied. ⁹My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of Him who was speaking to me. ¹⁰"What shall I do, Lord?" I asked." - Acts 22:6-10

Paul was an apostle to the **Gentiles** and he traveled the **world**.

"Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" - Acts 13:46,47



Paul was a **citizen** of Rome who was persecuted for his faith.

"For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles..." - Eph. 3:1

"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:6,7

The People of Ephesus

"To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus..." - Ephesians 1:1

Paul wrote to Christians who were **discipled** and were his personal **friends**.

The Time of Writing

Probably written about **62 AD** from **prison** in Rome.



The Place -- Ephesus

A **capital** city of the **Roman** empire (province of Asia).

A place Paul lived longer than anywhere in his Christian life.

- He **witnessed** here on his second missionary journey.

"They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews." - Acts 18:19

- He stayed here **3** years on his **third** missionary journey.

"So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears." - Acts 20:31

- During this time there was a Holy Spirit **filling** for the followers of John the Baptist; and a **riot** over the goddess, Artemis. (Notable people who lived here were Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos.)

- Later, **Timothy** became the **pastor** of this church.

The Purpose

1. To encourage Christians to **walk (live)** differently: to understand their **identity** in Christ. (chapters 1-3)
2. To encourage Christians to stop acting **childishly** and **selfishly**. (chapter 4)
3. To encourage Christians to live **righteously**, particularly within **family** relationships. (chapter 5-6)
4. To encourage Christians to "**dress for battle**." (chapter 6)

Our Purpose

1. To **understand** and to **enjoy** the benefits of our relationship with Christ Jesus.
2. To be reminded of how a Christian "**walks**" and how earthly relationships are **informed** by Heavenly relationships.
3. To celebrate the **forgiveness** and **unity** we have in Christ.

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3. To encourage Christians to live _____, particularly within family relationships. (chapter 5-6)
4. To encourage Christians to "_____ for battle." (chapter 6)

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