

From the Garden to Glory

Ephesians

Author: Paul the Apostle

Written to: The believers in Ephesus

Timeline: c. 60 - 63 A.D. written while in a Roman prison

Theme: Christ and the Church

Purpose of writing: Paul wrote to show believers their position in Christ and to encourage them to walk accordingly.

Introduction:

Ephesians has been called a "Rags to Riches" story. Though we *were dead in trespasses and sins...* He has *made us alive together in Christ* (2:1, 5). The letter can be divided into two parts ~ the first three chapters show the riches we have in Christ and what He has done for us. The second three chapters teach us how we should respond to the grace that we have been given.

Paul also emphasized the mystery of Christ (1:9, 3:3-6, 9), that Jew and Gentiles are one in Christ. Both are saved based on grace through faith in Jesus Christ (2:8). Paul taught unity among all believers (4:16) and that our position in Him is the same for each.

As we begin our study of the book of Ephesians consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. The letter to the Ephesians is one of the four letters known as the *Prison Epistles*. This letter was written by Paul while he was in a Roman prison. Whose prisoner does he refer to himself as in Ephesians 3:1 and 4:1? Why is this significant?

2. Read the following verses and make a note of everything you learn about the church in Ephesus. Also note what you learn about Paul's heart for these believers.

- Acts 18:18-21, 24-26

- Acts 19:1-41

- Acts 20:17-38

3. A major theme of the book of Ephesians is the riches that the believer has in Christ. In what ways has your relationship with the Lord brought you great riches?

The Believer's Position

Read Ephesians 1:1-23

1. Write out verse 3. In verses 4-14 Paul listed specific spiritual blessings which the Lord has bestowed on believers in Jesus Christ. Summarize each of these using the first person (*I* or *me* rather than *us* or *we*). Put an asterisk by the one that is the most important to you today. Why is this specific blessing so important at this point in your life?

- Ephesians 1:3

- verse 4

- verse 5

- verse 6

- verses 7-8

- verse 9-10

- verses 11-12
- verses 13-14

2. In verses 15-21 Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers. For what did he give thanks? In your own words, list the things he asked of God. How do you need each of these in your own life today? For whom would you like to pray this prayer today?

3. Re-read the first chapter of Ephesians and write one sentence describing what you learn about each of the following:

- God the Father
- the Lord Jesus Christ
- the Holy Spirit
- prayer

Saved by Grace

Read Ephesians 2:1-22

1. Read verses 1-9. What do you learn about God's grace and mercy from these verses?

2. Meditate on verse 10 today. The Greek word for *workmanship* is *poiema*. It means a work of art or a masterpiece; it is the word from which we get our English word *poem*. What does it mean to you to

know that you are God's *poiema*? What *good works* has He created you to do? In what specific way are you fulfilling His plan for you today?

3. As you study verses 14-22 make a note of everything that you learn about Jesus. Take some time today to praise and thank Him for who He is and all that He has provided for us.

A Mystery Revealed

Read Ephesians 3:1-21

1. Paul spoke of the *mystery* which God revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. What do you learn about this *mystery* from verses 3-6?
2. How did Paul describe himself in verse 7? What great truth did he describe in verses 9-12? What can you learn from Paul's thoughts about himself and his ministry? How might he be an example to you?
3. Paul's prayer in verses 14-21 records four specific petitions. Write out each of these in your own words. Which of these is your greatest need today? Why?
 - petition #1 (verse 16)
 - petition #2 (verse 17a)
 - petition #3 (verses 17b-19a)
 - petition #4 (verse 19b)

A Christian's Walk

Read Ephesians 4:1-32

1. Look at verses 1-3. What was Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians? What does it mean to *walk worthy of the calling*? How do you do this?

2. What do you learn about spiritual gifts and the body of Christ from verses 11-16? What is/are your spiritual gift(s)? How are you using your gift(s) for the edification of the body?

3. Verses 17-32 describe the need to *put off* the conduct of the *old man* and *put on* the conduct of the *new man*. As you read these verses, fill in the following chart. Put an asterisk by one thing that *you* need to put off and one that *you* need to put on today.

Verse	Conduct to be put off	Conduct to be put on

Following Christ

Read Ephesians 5:1-20

1. Read verses 1-2. What does it mean to be *imitators of God*? In what way(s) are you an imitator of God? In what way(s) are you an imitator of the world? What does it mean to *walk in love*? List one specific way you can do so this week.
2. What does verse 8 say that you once were? What are you now? How do you *walk as a child of light*?
3. Write out verses 15-16. What does the word *circumspectly* mean? How do you *walk circumspectly*? What are you doing today to *redeem the time*?

Living with Others

Read Ephesians 5:21-6:9

1. Look at 5:21. Describe the *fear of God*. How would the fear of God cause you to submit to fellow believers?
2. Paul spoke to the Ephesians about marriage in 5:22-33. What do you learn about the wife's role in marriage from verses 22-24 and 33b? If you are married, list three things you can do this week to show respect to your husband.
3. In verses 6:1-4 Paul gave instructions concerning family relationships. If you are a parent, how have you taught your children to obey you

without provoking them to wrath? As an adult woman, how do you honor your mother and father?

Christian Warfare

Read Ephesians 6:10-24

1. As soon as a woman commits her life to Jesus Christ and desires to walk worthy of Him, she immediately becomes the enemy of satan. Where does verse 10 say that the believer is to find her strength for spiritual battle? What does verse 11 say that she is to *put on* in preparation for the battle? Why?
2. Read verse 12. How is spiritual warfare described in this verse? In what spiritual warfare are you engaged right now? How do you put on the armor of God? Be specific.
3. List everything that you learn about the *whole armor of God* from verses 13-18.

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of Ephesians consider the following questions and write your answers:

1. What is the most significant thing that you have learned from your study about the Lord, His character, or His attributes? How does this encourage you? Take a few moments to thank and praise the Lord for the things that you learned about Him.

2. What is the most important lesson or new insight that you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?