

# EPHESIANS

**Author: Paul**

**Date: A. D. 60-61**

Paul's letter to the Ephesians is categorized as one of the "prison epistles" (the name given collectively to Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon). Paul wrote this letter during his first imprisonment in Rome. This letter was sent to strengthen and encourage the churches in the area of Ephesus. He wanted to make the Christians more aware of the riches they had in Christ and to encourage them to draw upon these spiritual resources in daily living.

Paul had visited Ephesus at the end of his second missionary trip (Acts 18:18-21). He returned there on his third missionary journey and stayed nearly three years working as a preacher and a tentmaker. Ephesus was the most important city in Asia Minor (today Turkey). It was a tremendous commercial center because of its location on the trade routes. It had several gymnasiums, theaters and temples to pagan gods. The Temple of Artemis (also called Diana) was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Paul caused quite a stir when he encouraged the people of Ephesus to burn their idols of Diana along with other pagan objects. This started a riot among the craftsmen and people of Ephesus (Acts 19:23-41).

**Theme:** Salvation comes by grace through faith alone. All believers are united in Christ because the church is the body of Christ.

**Key verses:** *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (2:8-9). "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." (6:10-11).*

## OUTLINE

- I. Central Doctrines of the Christian Faith (1:1 – 3:21)
  - A. Introduction and Salutation (1:1-2)
  - B. Praise for Redemption (1:3-14)
  - C. Prayer for Revelation (1:15-23)
  - D. Position of the Christian (2:1 – 3:13)
  - E. Prayer for Realization (3:14-21)
- II. Spiritual Truths Reflected in Christian Behavior (4:1 – 6:24)
  - A. Unity in the Church (4:1-16)
  - B. Holiness in Life (4:17 – 5:21)
  - C. Responsibilities in the Home and at Work (5:22 – 6:9)
    1. Husbands and Wives (5:22-33)
    2. Children Should Obey Parents (6:1-4)
    3. Service in the Workplace (6:5-9)
  - D. Conduct in Conflict (6:10-24)
    1. Put on the Full Armor of God (6:10-17)
    2. Pray for Boldness (6:18-29)
    3. Conclusion (6:21-24)