

OUTLINE OF EPHESIANS

I. INTRODUCTION TO EPHESIANS

- A. What happened in Ephesus is an example of what can happen when someone runs with the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed. Why Study Ephesians? God's will for us is nothing less than the fullness of Christ.
- B. The City: Ephesus was an import port city of the Roman province of Asia (Asia Minor), what is now the nation of Turkey.
 - 1. It was a very wealthy city and was the intersection of several major trade routes. Some estimate that the population was around 200,000.
 - 2. The temple of Artemis (One of the Seven Wonders of the World) was located there. Also known as Diana of the Ephesians. The silversmiths started a riot because of Paul.
- C. The Church: We know more about the Church at Ephesus than any other church in the NT.
 - 1. Paul had been to Ephesus briefly in Acts 18:2 and then he stayed there for about 3 years (Acts 20:31), longer than anywhere else in his missionary travels. It was around 52 A.D. He wrote 1 Corinthians there.
 - a. Unusual miracles (Ac. 19:11) took place, magic books were burned (50,000 drachmas worth of occult scrolls. 1 drachma = one day's wage = one man's salary for 137 years), and the Gospel went throughout all of Asia Minor (19:10), estimated 8-15 million people.
Acts 19:10 This went on for two years, so that *all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.*
 - 2. Priscilla and Aquila were left there by Paul.
 - 3. Apollos, skilled in expounding the OT (mighty in the Scriptures).
 - 4. 1 and 2 Timothy were both addressed to Timothy in Ephesus and both were about the Ephesian church.
 - 5. The Apostle John mostly likely was in Ephesus when he was arrested during Domitian's rule. He probably wrote the 3 letters of John and the Gospel of John while he was there with Mary the mother of Jesus.
- D. Ephesians is one of the "Prison Epistles." Paul wrote the book of Ephesians around AD 60 – 61, while he was under house arrest while awaiting trial in Rome (Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:20). Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon are known as the Prison Epistles. He writes this letter (to be read by several congregations).

II. OUTLINE OF EPHESIANS: SIT, WALK, STAND

A. SIT (Eph. 1-3)

And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6)

1. Ephesians reveals our identity “in Christ.” It also speaks of the wealth we have received in Christ

Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

- a. Paul’s prayer in Eph. 1:17-23

B. WALK (Eph. 4-5)

Eph. 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called. (c.f. 4:17)

1. Our marriage ought to be different than the pattern of the world (Eph. 5:22-33) because it reflects Jesus and the Church. Our home life is guided by God’s pattern (6:1-4) as is our work life (6:5-9).

C. STAND (Eph. 6)

We have been resourced by God to stand firm in the face of spiritual WARFARE (Eph. 6).

Eph. 6:10-11 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (cf. Eph. 6:13, 14)

Notes:

1. Our life begins with sitting, not with walking. We do not start with do or don’t do. We start with DONE. By Jesus. We learn how to be and become.
2. We are seated in the heavenly realms but our walk is on Earth. WALK. 8x in Eph. Once we’re seated we don’t stay that we walk. We live out our faith in the world. We’re seated in the heavenly places but we walk worthy of our calling in lowliness and meekness. (Eph. 4:1-2)
3. The breastplate of righteousness is understanding and exercising our position in Christ. The power of our position of righteousness with God is our core defense. One of the enemy’s main tactics is to accuse us to God and make us feel disqualified. E.g. Joshua the high priest Zech. 3.