

# EPHESIANS: THE WHOLE GOSPEL FOR THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD

Message #1, Ephesians 1:1-3

September 6, 2020

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:  
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us  
in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.  
Ephesians 1:1-3*

Pastor Fakkema's Coloring Challenge: I'll have a reward for every Ephesians coloring page I receive this week!

## The Ephesian ministry team

<sup>18</sup> Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken. <sup>19</sup> They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. <sup>20</sup> When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. <sup>21</sup> But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is God's will." Then he set sail from Ephesus. <sup>22</sup> When he landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.

<sup>23</sup> After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

<sup>24</sup> Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. <sup>25</sup> He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor<sup>t</sup> and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup> He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

Acts 18:81-26

Paul

Priscilla and Aquila (see Acts 18:1-4)

Apollos

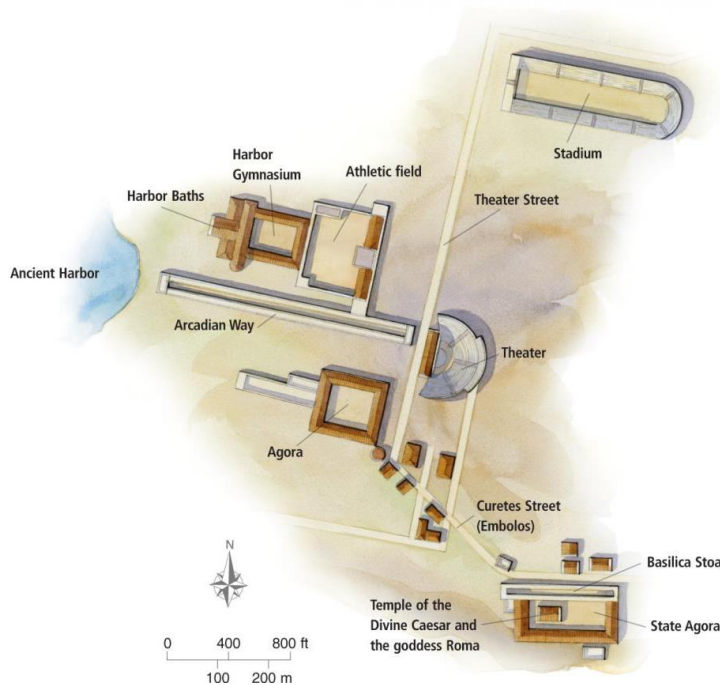


## The saints in Ephesus

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
To God's holy people in Ephesus, <sup>d</sup> the faithful in Christ Jesus: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our  
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 1:1-2

- 1) They had some great teaching (and will receive more from Peter and John!)
- 2) They are in a spiritually oppressive community facing a generation of challenge (leading off Rev. 2!)
- 3) They are located \_\_\_\_\_ in Ephesus and in Christ Jesus



## Paul's theme

<sup>3</sup> *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

Ephesians 1:1-3

- 1) You are richer than you think
  
- 2) location, location, location: in \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3) God gets a new \_\_\_\_\_ !

## How to get the most out of this incredible letter

- 1) Pray to have your eyes opened

<sup>15</sup> *When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.*

<sup>16</sup> *"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."*

<sup>17</sup> *And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

2 Kings 6:15-17 (be sure to read the unexpected ending to this wonderful story!)

- 2) Read Ephesians in at least 4 different translations or paraphrases

i. *The Mystery of God's Eternal Purpose* (Ch. 1: 4-12)

(a) *Salutation* (Ch. 1: 1-2)

To the people of God [at Ephesus]. believers in Christ Jesus, this letter comes from Paul, apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God. Grace and peace be yours from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord!

(b) *Doxology* (Ch. 1: 3-14)

All blessings be ascribed to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In Christ He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm.

F.F. Bruce's paraphrase at [https://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/1962-3\\_163.pdf](https://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/1962-3_163.pdf)

- 3) As we read and study Ephesians, summarize the structure of each section. Included below is the simple structure suggested by Bob Deffinbaugh

*Chapters 1-3 of the Epistle to the Ephesians urge us to be more heavenly minded so that, in obedience to the instruction laid down in chapters 4-6, we may be of more earthly good, to the glory of God.*

*May God grant us an appetite for the "meat" of this great epistle, and may He also grant us the ability to grasp the breadth and length and height and depth of God's glory, as seen in Christ and in His church.*

Bob Deffinbaugh's closing words in his "The Uniqueness of Ephesians" sermon

# **My working outline of Ephesians**

Overall Theme:

Chapters 1-3 The Glory of God in the Church

Chapter 1 The glory of God in redemption

Chapter 2 The glory of God in reconciliation

Chapter 3 The glory of God in the revelation of the mystery of the church

Chapters 4-6 The Glory and Pleasure of God through the Church

Chapter 4 The glory of God in the unity and growth of the church

Chapter 5 The glory of God in the imitation of Christ by the saints

Chapter 6 The glory of God in victory of Christ



## Resources for further studies of Ephesians

This is a wonderful Bible Project introduction on youtube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=12&v=Y71r-T98E2Q&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=12&v=Y71r-T98E2Q&feature=emb_logo)

Bob Deffinbaugh's Ephesian series is at <https://bible.org/series/ephesians-glory-god-church>

Spurgeon's series of messages on Ephesians are at [http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/index/r\\_eph.htm](http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/index/r_eph.htm)

Kim Riddlebarger's sermons on Ephesians are at <http://kimriddlebarger.squarespace.com/sermons-on-ephesians/?jsessionid=3799445CA50CA06F2F395D4FBE89D586.v5-web017>

ThirdMill has produced "Paul and the Ephesians" at <https://thirdmill.org/seminary/lesson.asp/vid/19/version/>

Desiring God, John Piper's media ministry, has some wonderful resources at

<https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/ephesians/1/messages>

Mark Johnston's "Preaching Ephesians" at <https://www.reformation21.org/articles/preaching-ephesians.php>

Doug's favorite commentaries are John R. W. Stott's *The Message of Ephesians* (IVP, 1979), William Hendriksen, *Exposition of Ephesians* (Baker Book House, 1967) and, much shorter, F. F. Bruce's *The Epistle to the Ephesians* (Revell, 1961).

Martyn Lloyd-Jones has a wonderful seven volume series on Ephesians (Baker Books, 1978).

The text we spent the most time on in Darrell Johnson's class was Timothy Gombis' *The Drama of Ephesians* (IVP Academic, 2010)

The Gospel Coalition has some wonderful resources on Ephesians at

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/ephesians/>

F.F. Bruce's paraphrase is available at [https://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/1962-3\\_163.pdf](https://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/1962-3_163.pdf)

	A.D.	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Death, resurrection of Christ (A.D. 33 [or 30])†		█										
Paul's conversion (33/34*)			●									
Paul's first Jerusalem visit (36/37*)				●								
Paul's second Jerusalem visit (famine relief) (44–47*)					█							
Paul's first missionary journey (46–47)					●							
Paul's third Jerusalem visit (apostolic council) (48–49*)						●						
Paul's second missionary journey (48/49–51*)						█						
Paul's third journey (incl. 3 years in Ephesus) (52–57*)							█					
Paul, under house arrest in Rome, writes to Ephesus (62*)									●			
Paul martyred in Rome (64–67*)										█		