

EPHESIANS

Salutation 1:1,2

Author

Recipients

Blessing

Doctrinal Section 1:3 - 3:21

I. God's Plan of Redemption 1:3 - 14

1. The Part of the Father
2. The Part of the Son
3. The Part of the Holy Spirit

II. Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving 1:15 - 23

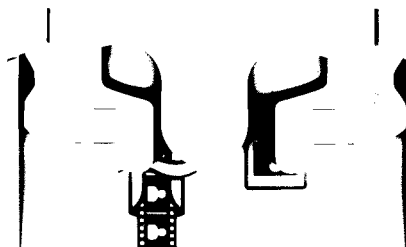
1. Gratitude for faith and love
2. Prayer for illumination
3. The center of gratitude

III. God's Creation of a New People 2:1-22

1. Created by a spiritual commission
2. United in one spiritual people

IV. The Mystery: The Salvation of the Gentiles 3:1 - 21

1. Paul's knowledge of the mystery
2. Paul's prayer for the saints



Practical Section: 4:1 - 16

V. The Unity of the Church 4:1 - 16

1. Preserve the unity
2. Exercise the gifts
3. Grow toward maturity

VI. The Christian's Conduct 4:17 - 5:20

1. Break with pagan practices
2. Walk in the Spirit
3. Imitate God
4. Walk as Children of Light
5. Walk as wise men

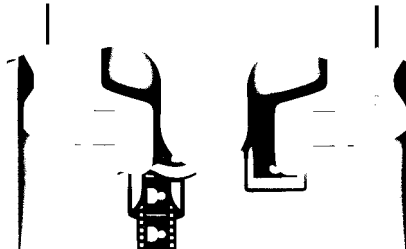
VII. The Christian Household 5:21 - 6:9

1. Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ
2. Children and parents
3. Slaves and Masters

VIII. The Christian Warfare

1. Put on all (the whole) the armor
2. Stand firm
3. Pray at all times

Conclusion



A WORKING OUTLINE OF EPHESIANS

(P.S. James)

General Theme: The New Community - One People in Christ - God's Plan for Man.

Devotional Thrust: "The wealth, walk and warfare of the Christian" (Grace Paxson)

Overview

Doctrine: Our Riches in Christ. Chapters 1-3
Our spiritual possessions and position in Him. Epistle's main thrust.

Duty: Our Responsibilities in Christ. Believers' new life-style. Chapters 4-6.

Background

The religious situation in Asia Minor in A.D. 60-65: the claim and challenge of Judaism, Greek Philosophy, the Mystery Religions and Christianity.

Salutation

1:1-2

I - PRAISE TO THE GOD OF ALL BLESSING. 1:1-14

1. God's purposes in eternity and time.
2. Thank God for what He has done for us Christians.
 - a. The Father's choice. 1:3-6
 - b. The Son's redemption. 1:7-10
Summary of entire book - Vrs. 9-10
 - c. The Spirit's ministry. 1:11-14

II - PAUL' PRAYER FOR HIS READERS. 1:15-23

1. I thank God for you and pray for you. 1:15-23
 - a. Prayer for their enlightenment. 1:15-19
 - (1. That they might know God. 1:17b
 - (2. That they might know God's calling. 1:18a
 - (3. That they might know God's riches. 1:18b
 - (4. That they might know God's power. 1:19-23
 - b. The exalted Christ and His church. 1:20-23

III - GOD'S POWER IN THE LIVES OF BELIEVERS. 2:1-10

1. We were dead but God gave us life through Christ.
2. Humanity outside of Christ. 3:1-3
 - a. Dead. 2:1
 - b. Disobedient. 2:2-3a
 - c. Depraved. 2:3b
 - d. Doomed. 2:3c
3. Humanity in Christ. 2:4-6
4. What it means to be in Christ. 2:7-10

IV - THE INCLUSION OF THE GENTILES. 2:11-22

1. You were Gentiles, we were Jews, but God has made us fellow-Christians. 2:11-22
2. Gentiles before and after Christ. 2:11-13
 - a. Separation Without 5 things. 2:11-12
 - b. Reconciliation. 2:13-18
3. Jews and Gentiles now one body in Christ. 2:14-18
4. One church on one foundation. 2:19-22
 - a. Unification

V - PAUL, APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES. 3:1-13

1. Paul's calling - how he understood it. 3:1-6
2. Paul's calling - how he fulfilled it. 3:7-13

VI - PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE SAINTS. 3:14-21

1. A prayer for empowering

VII - LIFE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. 4:1-24

1. Christians should be one as God is one. 7 great one's. 4:1-6
 - a. The grace of unity. 4:1-3
 - b. The ground of unity. 4:4-6
2. God's gifts vary but it is the same God who gives. 4:7-13
 - a. The gifts for unity. 4:7-11
 - b. The growth of unity. 4:12ff
3. True maturity means growing up into Christ. 4:14-16
4. Leave the old life; learn the new. 4:17-24
 - a. The admonition: mental darkness, spiritual death, moral degeneracy, physical depravity. 4:17-19
 - b. The argument: put off and put on. 4:20-24

VIII - CHRISTIAN MORALITY 4:25-5:20

1. The new life means positive good. 4:28-5:4
5 vices of the old life contradicted by Christianity.
2. Evil is as different from good as light from darkness. 5:5-14
3. You know the truth; let your life show it. 5:15-20

IX - THE CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLD. 5:21-6:9

1. Christ and the church - the pattern relationship for husband and wife. 5:21-23
2. Children and parents, servants and masters. 6:1-9

X - PREPARE FOR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL. 6:10-24

1. The enemy. 6:10-12
2. The equipment. 6:13-17
3. The energy. 6:18-20
4. The encouragement. 6:21-24

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Ephesians
in its
Life Situation

Probably from Roman imprisonment following arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21:17-33) on charge of having taken Greeks (Gentiles) into the temple (Acts 21:28). Paul went to Jerusalem with an offering, seeking to unite Jewish and Gentile Christians, was arrested there on charge of taking Greeks into the temple, and from prison wrote Ephesians as his classic on God's eternal purpose to unite Jew and Greek in Christ, breaking down the middle wall of partition (Eph. 2:14; 3:6-11).
Date: around A.D. 60.

- I. Paul's purpose to go to Spain (Romans 15:14-33).
 - A. Had been his longing for many years (Rom. 15:23f.).
 - B. Had preached gospel from Jerusalem to Illyricum (Rom. 15:19).
 - C. Wanted to go to Rome, then to Spain.

- II. Turns back to Jerusalem (Rom. 15:25).
 - A. Earlier had censored Mark for turning back (Acts 15:36-41).
 - B. From Corinth where he wintered following third missionary crusade (Acts 20:1-6), and from whence he wrote Romans, Paul turned Eastward to Jerusalem (about 1200 miles) although he wanted to go Westward to Rome and Spain (about 1200 miles). Why?
 - C. Foreign missions postponed indefinitely for what at Jerusalem?

- III. An offering (and more) to Jerusalem (Romans 15:26).
 - A. The offering.
 1. Earlier at Ephesus, on eve of departure to Macedonia and Corinth, Paul was uncertain about next step from Corinth: Jerusalem or Spain (I Cor. 16:1-6). Would go to Jerusalem if "worthy" or "proper." Not size of offering but urgency of situation.
 2. From Macedonia, wrote II Corinthians, urging completion of offering (II Cor. 8-9). Concern that it be out of love, expression of grace and gratitude, that it be joyous and generous, that it be an occasion for their discovering anew their longing for one another. The offering was not only to feed the hungry but to unite Jewish and Gentile Christians.
 3. A Committee of at least eight (Acts 20:1-6) was appointed by the churches to take the money to Jerusalem. Paul's going involved more than the delivery of a sum of money.
 - B. The compulsion to go to Jerusalem. During winter at Corinth, Paul came to conviction that it must be Jerusalem and not Rome and Spain.
 1. Strong enough to overcome longing of many years to go to Jerusalem.
 2. Strong enough to prevail over pleadings and warning of friends.
 - Acts 20:22ff.--Would go "bound" to Jerusalem.
 - Acts 20:36-38--Friends at Ephesus weep at his going to Jerusalem.
 - Acts 21:4--Friends at Tyre beg him not to go.
 - Acts 21:10-14--Agabus warns him.

- C. Paul's concern for unity of the church outweighed foreign mission to Spain, other dangers at Jerusalem, and pleadings of friends. The offering was to be an act of grace (I Cor. 16:3) and a koinonia (fellowship or communion), not just a contribution (II Cor. 9:14; Rom. 16:26).
1. Unity of the church was that important to Paul.
 2. That important to Jesus (John 17:21-23).

IV. Wrote Ephesians in all probability from Roman imprisonment following arrest in Jerusalem.

- A. Arrested in Jerusalem (Acts 21:17-33).
1. Charged with taking Greeks (Gentiles) into temple.
 2. Wall separating court of Gentiles from court of Jews had plaques in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin warning Gentiles that to enter meant death.
- B. After two years in jail at Caesarea and a shipwreck at sea, Paul reached Rome, where he was in chains for at least two years (Acts 21-28).
- C. Probably wrote four letters from Roman imprisonment: Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians.
- D. Ephesians, a letter to various churches, concerned with God's eternal purpose to break down the middle wall of partition and in Christ to create one new people, the church as the body of Christ.
- E. Against the background of the rift dividing man against man as well as against God, Paul writes of God's plan of the ages, his purpose to create one new man in Christ, neither Jew nor Greek. The church as the people of God is both the goal and the instrument of his purpose. With his purpose to create the church is God's moral demand: unity of his people, purity or separateness from paganism, the Christian home, and the full armor of each Christian.

OUTLINE OF EPHESIANS

Theme: God's eternal purpose to unify humanity in Christ and this realized in the church.

Greeting: 1:1-2

I. The unity of all things in Christ (1:3-3:21).

A. Doxology: Praising the triune God for eternal; purpose of redemption through Christ (1:3-14).

1. Praise for the Father in whose love the purpose has its origin (1:3-6).
2. Praise for the Son who makes the purpose effective (1:7-12).
3. Praise for the Spirit the present possession of whom gives assurance of final consummation (1:13-14).

B. The unity of all mankind in Christ (1:15-3:21).

1. Prayer for their illumination (1:15-23).
To know the hope implied in his calling, the wealth of the inheritance, the power which is inherently God's and which expresses itself in overcoming all resistance--to experience in ourselves that very power which raised Jesus.
2. The quickening of Gentiles (and Jews) from moral and spiritual death (2:1-10).
3. Jew and Gentile made into one new man in Christ (2:11-22).
4. Paul's part in declaring the mystery of the unity of Jews and Gentiles in Christ (3:1-9).
5. God's wisdom exhibited to principalities and powers through the church thus unified (3:10-13).
6. Prayer that the readers be strengthened and illumined in the inward man (3:14-19).
7. Doxology (3:20-21).

II. Practical exhortations (chapters 4-6).

A. Basis for unity (4:1-6).

B. Diversity in gifts (4:7-16).

C. Exhortations to avoid the old life (4:17-5:21).

1. Former vices (4:7-16).
2. Sins of the spirit which destroy unity (4:25-5:2).
3. Sins of sensuality which corrupt and degrade (5:3-14).
4. Virtues to practice (5:15-21).

D. Unity in various relationships (5:22-6:9).

E. Christian armor (6:10-20).

F. Concluding words (6:21-24).