

**TRUTH – STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS  
PART 1 – INTRODUCTION**

**John 1:16-17 AMP** - For out of His fullness (abundance) we have **all received** [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favour upon favour and gift [heaped] upon gift. For while the Law was given through Moses, **grace** (unearned, undeserved favour and spiritual blessing) and **truth** came through Jesus Christ.

**Grace** is not just a doctrine – Grace is a person – **Jesus**

**Truth** is not just information – Truth is a person – **Jesus (Living Word)**

**CALLED TO BE COMMUNITY OF GRACE & TRUTH:**

† **CULTURE OF GRACE**

- Be strong in the grace that is in grace Christ Jesus... **2 Timothy 2:1**

- But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...

**2 Peter 3:18**

† **CULTURE OF TRUTH**

- All scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**OUR HOPE AND PRAYER: 1 Thessalonians 2:13** - For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

**LETTER OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE EPHESIANS**

**Author and Date**

The letter to the Ephesians was written by Paul, the apostle, from a Roman prison. Along with Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon it is one of four letters in the New Testament known as the prison epistles. Most likely, Paul wrote the letter around A.D. 60, thirty years after Jesus' crucifixion and a few years before Paul's own death.

**Audience**

There is good reason to believe that Ephesians was not written exclusively to the church in Ephesus. Instead, it was a circular letter carried by Tychicus and read at each stop throughout Asia Minor (modern Turkey) until finally arriving at the capital city of Ephesus. Evidence of this, is that there is no personal address or commendation/exhortation to any specific individual or group. 'All the saints'

**The City**

The city of Ephesus was a large, bustling, commercial centre on the Aegean coast of Asia Minor. Originally a Greek colony, the city rose to worldwide prominence as a centre for international trade, largely due to its fine, natural harbour.

Adding to the city's mystic was the Temple of Artemis, a huge marble structure considered to be one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The statue of Artemis was thought to have descended from heaven and was widely worshipped. The city also contained a large, outdoor Greek theatre, capable of seating 50,000 people, as well as a stadium where fights, races, and other athletic contests were held.

## PAUL'S MINISTRY IN EPHESUS

On his second missionary journey, Paul visited Ephesus and left Priscilla & Aquilla there (**Acts 18:19-21**). Later, he returned during his third missionary journey and spent about three years there (**Acts 19-20**). His ministry was both effective and controversial. After three months in the synagogue, he was forced out and began teaching in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

News of Paul's message spread throughout Asia Minor and as a result, extraordinary things happened. Handkerchiefs touched by Paul were used to heal the sick, demons were cast out in the name of Jesus, and new believers burned their books of magic and idols (worth millions of dollars in today's currency).

In **Acts 19** – it was said, *'that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus'*...such was the intensity and outpouring that was happening in the region. **Truly a revival!**

Eventually, Paul's ministry caused a riot in the city of Ephesus. Demetrius, a silversmith, organized a city-wide protest accusing Paul of threatening the economic well-being of craftsmen who made their living from the worshippers of Artemis. As a result, Paul left the city and moved on to Macedonia. By this time the church was firmly established. Paul never visited Ephesus again. He did, however, give a moving farewell address to the elders of the church at the nearby port of Miletus (**Acts 20:17-38**). Later on, Paul wrote **1 and 2 Timothy** in an attempt to deal with the false teaching that had arisen in the Ephesian church.

Read **Acts 20:17-38** text for context and insight in Paul's apostolic heart for the church in Ephesus and their purpose in the context of the Kingdom of God.

**verse 32 – Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.**

**Theme** - The theme of Ephesians is living in community with God and with one another.

**In chapters 1-3**, Paul applauds the great reconciling work of Jesus Christ, who through the cross overcame Satan's power and broke down the wall between God and us and between Jew and Gentile.

**In chapters 4-6**, Paul emphasizes the practice of community in our relationships with one another at home, at work, the marketplace and in the church.

The Ephesians letter shows the balance in the Christian life between **Doctrine (Chapters 1-3) & Duty (Chapters 4-6)**, between **Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility**.

We do not obey God so that He will give us His grace, we obey Him in response to the grace He has already given us.

Paul finishes his letter by urging and reminding us that we are in a battle – a spiritual battle. All believers are called to fight the good fight of faith & to take our stand against the spiritual forces of darkness.

## PROGRESSION – WATCHMAN NEE

**But before we can fight we have to learn to worship:**

**Chapters 1-3 - Worship – our standing in Christ:**

1:3	Blessed be the God and Father of the Lord JESUS Christ
1:6	To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved
1:12	That we who first trusted in Christ, should be to the praise of His glory
3:21	to Him be glory in the church by Christ JESUS to all generations, forever and ever. Amen (praise God for who He is and what He has done)

**Once we worship, we begin to walk out our faith:**

**Chapters 4-5 - Walk**

4:1	Walk worthy of the call you have received
4:17	Walk not as the Gentiles in the futility of their minds
5:2	Walk in love, just as Christ also loved us
5:17	Walk carefully not as fools, but as wise. (work out your salvation)

**We worship, then walk and then we are ready to war - Concludes with the Warrior of the Lord**

**Chapters 6 - War**

6:10	Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might against demonic opposing forces. Put on the full armour of God, take up your sword of the Spirit and pray at all times, with all kinds of prayer for all the saints.
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## EMPHASIS – THE BIG IDEA

Some theologians consider the book of Ephesians to be the **Alps** of New Testament – the mountain upon we gaze upon our heavenly riches in Christ. **I tend to agree.**

Some theologians consider the book of Ephesians to be the **Grand Canyon** of Scripture – where we delve into the immeasurable depths of God's incredible love and meticulous plan for us, the church and the entire creation. **I tend to agree.**

Big Idea – '**In Christ**' – occurs 27 times in this book – over 150 times in Paul's writings.

Sometimes we get lost in the details of life, church, bible our relationship. We get stuck in a rut – stuck in the flesh, sin, unbelief, hopelessness – we put God in a box.

### Ephesians

Lifts us up to where we belong – removes the veil, helps to take off our old grave clothes.

It's About

- Who HE is?
- What HE has done?
- Which directly affects us (if we don't know who HE is, ...)

## EMPHASIS – THE BIG IDEA

**KEY VERSE: 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.*

Revelation of the God head – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – active, working, guiding, nurturing, encouraging, challenging – HIS Church – for bigger, better more glorious revelations and manifestations of His Goodness and Glory – through the Gospel of the Kingdom. (In a thriving church of thousands of people, in revival – Paul writes this letter to help them stay on track).

The Church – is the great theme and thrust of this book. The church in the agency on which God ‘displays His glorious grace in His kindness towards us’ – Ephesians 1.

It is where the Church is instructed to live out our purpose as the Body of Christ, through the incomparably great might of His power - Ephesians 1.

Truly, Ephesians is like no other letter or book or epistle in the Bible.

## OVERVIEW – REVEALS THE GODHEAD, ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ALL MATTERS OF LIFE

The Father	
1:3-5	Salvation is of the Father
1:6	Salvation is due to the Father’s grace
1:14	Salvation is for the Father’s glory
1:19	Salvation reveals the Father’s greatness

The Son	
1:7	Christ is the Redeemer
1:10	The One by whom history will ultimately be consummated
1:15-23	He is Resurrected King who pours His life over us
2:11-18	He is the Peacemaker – reconciles man to God and man to man as well
2:19-22	He is the chief Cornerstone of the new temple
3:8	He is the Treasure of unsearchable riches
3:17-19	The in-dweller of our hearts, securing us in the Father’s love
4:7-11	The Giver of ministry gifts to equip His church
5:25-27, 32	The Model Husband, unselfishly giving Himself to enhance His bride
6:10	He is the Lord, mighty in battle, the resource of strength for His own, as they engage in spiritual battle

<b>The Holy Spirit</b>	
1:13	The Spirit is the Sealer – authorising the believer to represent Christ
1:14,	The Spirit is our down payment, guaranteeing our complete redemption
1:17-18	The Spirit is the Revealer who enlightening our hearts to perceive God’s purpose
2:18	The Spirit is our access to the Father
2:22	The Spirit builds us together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit
3:16	The Spirit is the Empowerer who strengthens our inner man
4:3	The Spirit enables the Body to live in unity
4:30	The Spirit can be grieved through our words & deeds
5:18	The Spirit is the Fountain, that fills us, to empower us to live our lives full of worship, gratefulness, submission and obedience
6:17-18	The Spirit equips us to pray out the Word of God (which is the sword of the Spirit), so we can use to engage in battle against our struggles

**TO HELP YOU DIVE INTO THIS INCREDIBLE BOOK – YOU WILL BE BLESSED**

<b>Timeline for the Ephesian Church</b>		
<b>Acts 18:19 - 21</b>	First Visit – partners with Priscilla and Aquilla	<b>50-52 AD</b>
<b>Acts 19:1 – 20:1</b>	Second visit - First disciples, uproar, many works	<b>53–55 AD (3 years)</b>
<b>Acts 20:17 – 38</b>	Third Visit - Ephesian elder address and farewell	<b>56-58AD</b>
<b>Letter to Ephesians</b>	Around <b>60AD</b> when Paul was in house arrest in Rome	<b>(after Acts 28)</b>
<b>1 Timothy Letter</b>	written to Timothy, whom Paul had left in Ephesus while he continued his journey into Macedonia –, at least 8 years after Paul 3 year stay in Ephesus	<b>Around 63-65 AD</b>
<b>Philippians 2:19-22</b>	Paul said about Timothy, ‘I have no one else like him’ – genuinely concerned for JESUS’ interests, not his own	
<b>2 Timothy Letter</b>	Written to Timothy from Roman jail, where Paul was imprisoned by emperor Nero –Paul knew his time was coming to an end and wanting the church to remain strong through the time of persecution of Nero	<b>Around 66-67 AD</b>
<b>Book of Revelation</b>	Written by John, through JESUS – one of the 7 churches JESUS had a message for – Revelation 2:1-7	<b>Around 95 AD</b>

## CONCLUSION

Because of this incredible **GODHEAD** – we are **INSTRUCTED TO:**

### **'Walk Worthy' – Chapter 4**

**Walk in:**

- Unity
- The New Man
- Love
- Light
- Wisdom
- Submission
- Honour
- Obedience
- **Victory – by STANDING**

**LET'S THROW OFF OUR OLD DIRTY RESTRICTIVE GRAVE CLOTHES – AND CLOTHE OURSELVES IN THE RICHES OF CHRIST**