



English Standard Version

Ephesians

THE CHURCH:
ROOTED IN LOVE,
WALKING IN POWER

IN AND OUT[®]

EPHESIANS

THE CHURCH: ROOTED IN LOVE, WALKING IN POWER

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Blessed

“Blessed . . . with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.”

Why did God ordain these words to be recorded for all time in the Holy Bible? What is His purpose? And what difference can knowing this make?

How can it take you and others through the day-to-day conflicts of life?

This, Beloved, is what you will see in the weeks to come! The truths you are about to understand and possess are liberating. This knowledge in turn will produce great power to those who believe and choose to live in its light. It is our prayer that you will discipline yourself for the goal of godliness and find yourself among these committed believers.

TAKING IT IN

Our task for this week is simple—get an overview of this amazing epistle (letter) written nearly two millennia ago.

1. Your first assignment is to begin in prayer. You are about to study the words of God! That ought to bring awe to your heart. Because this is God’s book, you need to go to the Author and ask Him to lead and guide you into truth and use this truth to set you apart from every lie and deception of the evil one.
2. Read Ephesians using the Observation Worksheets in the Appendix.
 - a. Color references to the author in a distinctive color. Mark the name of the author and the pronouns (*I, me, my*) that refer to the author, but do not mark *we* or *us* where the author links himself to the recipients. Remember at this point our focus is the author.
 - b. Now, what did you learn about the author? List information on the chart “The Author and Recipients of Ephesians” at the end of this lesson, but don’t include instructions or what he prays for them.



3. Now, take a few minutes to reflect on what you observed. Did you gain any insights into Paul's calling as a child of God, where he is, and why he is writing? If so, write them out.

4. Read Ephesians again.
 - a. This time mark clear references to the saints at Ephesus, including the pronouns *you* and *your*. Do not mark the pronouns *we* or *us*.
 - b. As you did with the author, list the facts (not instructions) about the saints in Ephesus on the chart "The Author and Recipients of Ephesians."

We are so proud of you in the Lord for your desire and determination to discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness. Godliness comes only through knowing your God and disciplining yourself to walk in a manner worthy of your calling.

5. In the Appendix you'll find an "Ephesians at a Glance" chart. Fill in as much of this chart as you can at this point. You can record chapter themes in pencil in case you want to erase anything and rewrite it, or you may want to wait and record these as we study the book chapter by chapter. It also may be premature to try to do the book theme. So relax.



6. If you have time, read Acts 19:1–20:2 found at the end of this lesson, since it will give you some historical background on the church at Ephesus.

As you do, you'll find it helpful to:

- a. Mark mentions of *Ephesus* and *Asia* (the province where Ephesus is located).
- b. Mark mentions of the time Paul spent in Ephesus (Asia), such as *three months* in verse 8.
- c. Use a few words to summarize each main event in the margin. You may want to do this paragraph by paragraph. A bold verse number indicates the beginning of a paragraph.

LIVING IT OUT

You've covered a lot this week! As you studied, what were some of the truths God used to speak to your heart in some way? Write them below, then take time to ask Him to continue to teach you concerning these truths and how they affect your life.



Well done. You're on your way to understanding the epistle. Remember, we are at the beginning stage in studying Ephesians; so be patient and diligent. Hangeth thou in there!

Ephesians introduces you to a power within that will enable you to live as more than a conqueror! Make your study a priority. Don't let the devil deter you in any way. There will be spiritual warfare—which is good news because it means you are a threat to the kingdom of darkness. Just remember the victory is yours for the taking. Persevere as His valiant one.



THE AUTHOR AND RECIPIENTS OF EPHESIANS

Author	Recipients



ACTS 19:1–20:2

- AND it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples.
- 2 And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”
- 3 And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.”
- 4 And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.”
- 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.
- 7 There were about twelve men in all.
- 8 And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.
- 9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.
- 10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.
- 11 And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.
- 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.”
- 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this.
- 15 But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?”



- 16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.
- 17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled.
- 18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices.
- 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.
- 20 So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.
- 21 Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”
- 22 And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.
- 23 About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way.
- 24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen.
- 25 These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth.
- 26 “And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods.
- 27 “And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.”
- 28 When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”



- 29 So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel.
- 30 But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him.
- 31 And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater.
- 32 Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together.
- 33 Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd.
- 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"
- 35 And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky?
- 36 "Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash.
- 37 "For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess.
- 38 "If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another.
- 39 "But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly.
- 40 "For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion."
- 41 And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.
- 20:1** After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.
- 2 When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.



EPHESIANS 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

PAUL, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

- 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us
in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
- 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we
should be holy and blameless before him. In love
- 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the
purpose of his will,
- 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the
Beloved.
- 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our
trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
- 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight
- 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which
he set forth in Christ



- 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven
and things on earth.
- 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according
to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his
will,
- 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his
glory.
- 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your
salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
- 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to
the praise of his glory.
- 15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and
your love toward all the saints,
- 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,
- 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the
Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,
- 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the
hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious
inheritance in the saints,
- 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe,
according to the working of his great might



- 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him
at his right hand in the heavenly places,
- 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every
name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
- 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to
the church,
- 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



EPHESIANS 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

AND you were dead in the trespasses and sins

2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.



- 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- 11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—
- 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility
- 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,
- 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.
- 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.
- 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.
- 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,



- 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself
being the cornerstone,
- 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy
temple in the Lord.
- 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the
Spirit.



EPHESIANS 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

FOR this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you
Gentiles—

2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was
given to me for you,

3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written
briefly.

4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,
5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has
now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same
body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace,
which was given me by the working of his power.

8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to
preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for
ages in God who created all things,



- 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made
known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
- 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus
our Lord,
- 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in
him.
- 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is
your glory.
- 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
- 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,
- 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened
with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
- 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being
rooted and grounded in love,
- 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and
length and height and depth,
- 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be
filled with all the fullness of God.
- 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or
think, according to the power at work within us,
- 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.



EPHESIANS 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—

5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

8 Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

9 (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?

10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)



- 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
- 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
- 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
- 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
- 17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.
- 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.
- 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.
- 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!—



- 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,
- 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,
- 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,
- 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.
- 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
- 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.
- 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.
- 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
- 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



EPHESIANS 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEREFORE be imitators of God, as beloved children.

- 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- 3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.
- 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.
- 5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
- 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
- 7 Therefore do not become partners with them;
- 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light
- 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),
- 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.



- 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.
- 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.
- 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,
- 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
- “Awake, O sleeper,
- and arise from the dead,
- and Christ will shine on you.”
- 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,
- 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.
- 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,
- 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,
- 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
- 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.



- 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.
- 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
- 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
- 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
- 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,
- 30 because we are members of his body.
- 31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”
- 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
- 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.



EPHESIANS 6

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

- 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),
- 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”
- 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- 5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ,
- 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,
- 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,
- 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.
- 9 Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
- 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.



- 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.
- 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
- 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.
- 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
- 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.
- 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;
- 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
- 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
- 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,
- 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.



- 21 So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything.
- 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.
- 23 Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 24 Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.



EPHESIANS AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

	Segment Divisions	Chapter Themes
Author:		1
Date:		2
Purpose:		3
Historical Setting:		4
Key Words:		5
		6

