

The Letter to the Ephesians

*. Who wrote the letter?

Paul is stated as the author in the opening words of the letter.

*. When was it written?

This letter was written about 60-62 AD while Paul was in prison in Rome (as described in Acts 28). Apparently, he wrote this letter as well as the letters to the Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians during this same time period.

*. Why was it written?

Paul wrote a letter to the church at Colossae to help them deal with the heresy they were facing. He was sending the letter by means of his carrier, Tychicus, to the church. In addition, Tychicus was returning Onesimus (the runaway slave whose master is Philemon) for Paul.

Paul wrote this letter to the churches which had been impacted by his ministry so that Tychicus could bring greetings to Paul along the way. For example, as Tychicus was carrying the letter to the Colossians, he would stop and read this letter to other churches during the journey.

One of the churches to whom he read this letter was the church at Ephesus. Ephesus was the fourth largest city in the Roman empire. It was a place of government and a place of many diverse religions, including the Temple of Diana.

Paul first visited this church on his second missionary journey. The church apparently flourished and became a key church in the days immediately following its founding. This church would eventually be led by Timothy and later by John.

*. What is the main topic?

Christ is the center of the church, and He serves as the unifying power of the church.

Eph. 1:1-14: Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and *who 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 with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on 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 on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

Eph. 4:1-16: Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Eph. 5:15-21: Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹ and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.