

AN INTRODUCTION TO EPHESIANS
(Ephesians 1:1-2)

I. BACKGROUND TO THE BOOK

II. PAUL'S PURPOSE IN WRITING

A. The *Focus Or Purpose For Writing Is ...*

- 1) To understand or grasp that the _____ Church or the _____ of Christ is part of God's _____ for mankind.
- 2) Some see Christian _____ in the church to be the issue or point of this epistle
- 3) Others say that Paul emphasized the need for _____ within the body

III. HOW THE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED (There are several thoughts about its establishment):

- 1) On the Day of _____, when the Church was born, there were people from many nations in Jerusalem who heard "*the wonderful works of God*" as proclaimed by the apostles. Perhaps the visitors of these nations carried the _____ back to Asia and it's capital in Ephesus
 - 2) Paul had come to Ephesus at the end of his _____ missionary journey. He could have brought the _____ to these people at this time (Acts 18:18-21)
 - 3) A third possibility was through _____ coming to Ephesus to preach (Acts 18:24-26)
 - 4) The fourth possibility was at Paul's _____ to Ephesus on his _____ missionary journey. (Acts 19)
- What was the *difference* between Apollos message and that of Paul?
 - What is it that *saves* a lost sinner?
 - What was the *result* of what the Ephesians heard from Paul? (19:4-5)

IV. WHAT WILL WE SEE IN EPHESIANS?

- A. Its *Extent Or Scope*** – it is addressed to the _____ of Christ – Christians _____ concerning their place in God's _____ plan!
- B. The *Content of Ephesians*** – it speaks of the _____, the _____, and _____ of the believer in Christ!
- C. It's *Emphasis*** – is on our heavenly _____ (chp 1-3) and our earthly _____ (chp 4-6) in Christ!

- The key phrase of Ephesians is that we are ... “ _____ ” (12x)

D. The Central Thought of Ephesians is 2-fold:

1. Christ is set forth as the _____ of His Church... meaning... He makes the Church complete as He _____ & _____ it to control it for God's _____ and _____!
2. On the other hand, Christ is _____ w/o His _____ - the _____ of Christ!

E. Some Truths To Take With You Today

1. Jesus Christ is our _____ & very _____ in the Church today – yet we must _____ in Him by _____ to draw upon His resources for _____ in life!
2. What Christ is to the church completely covers our past _____, our present _____, and our future _____!
3. You will see the _____ at work for _____, the believer, in the epistle to the Ephesians

V. Paul's Introduction and Greeting (1:1-2)

A. The Human Author Is... _____

- How did he become an apostle?

B. The Recipients...

1. They are the “ _____ ”.... those who live in _____ or _____
2. They are the “ _____ ”.... the ones who show themselves _____ in life

- What is their spiritual address?

C. The Greeting (1:2) – 2 aspects

- _____ to you and _____

D. Although Written by Paul, This Teaching Is Really From... (1:2b) ... _____

Ephesians teaches us that the Church of Jesus Christ is part of God's _____, and it prospers & grows as a result of _____ working through believer's, even to _____ their spiritual _____!