

**Ephesians Part 1:
Introduction to Ephesians**
Ephesians 1:1-2



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January 8, 2017

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 1:1-2*

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

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 3:20-21*

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ... *Ephesians 4:11-12*

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... *Ephesians 5:25*

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. *Ephesians 6:11*

New Series: Ephesians: God's Purposes for You in Christ

January 8 – Part 1: Introduction to Ephesians

January 15 – Part 2: God's Purposes For You in Christ

January 22 – Part 3: A Prayer for All Who are In Christ

January 29 – Part 4: Dead in Sin, Alive in Christ

February 5 – Part 5: Saved by Grace, Not Merit

February 12 – Part 6: The Mystery of the Gospel

February 19 – Family Day

Prelude:

Why "Expository Preaching"?

Why Ephesians?

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1. An Overview of Ephesians' Six Chapters

Key Theme: The Unity of all Things in Christ

Key Phrase: "In Christ"

[God]...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Ephesians 1:9-10

Ephesians is divided into Theology & Practice

- a. *Ch. 1-3 Theology: God's Cosmic Plan for us to be in Christ*
 - Ch1 God's Purpose is for us to be "in Christ"
 - Ch2 God gives us Salvation in Christ by grace through Faith
 - Ch3 God offers salvation in Christ to Gentiles (ie us!)
- b. *Ch. 4-6 Practice: The Practical Impact of being in Christ on our lives*
 - Ch4 God calls us to unity and life transformation in Christ
 - Ch5 God wants our actions and relationships to be in Christ
 - Ch6 God equips us with spiritual armour to live in Christ

2. Topics in Ephesians

- a. God's cosmic plan for you and all His people
- b. Salvation is a free gift of God, by grace, through faith in Jesus
- c. God offers salvation in Christ to the Gentiles
- d. How to pray like God wants you to pray
- e. How you fit in God's plan for building up the church
- f. God's amazing process for making changes in your life
- g. Teaching on living a righteous life as God's children of light
- h. Lessons for Husbands and Wives
- i. Lessons for Children and Parents
- j. Lessons for the Workplace
- k. The Spiritual Battles you face and the Armour of God

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3. Introduction to Ephesians (v1)

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus,
and are faithful in Christ Jesus:*

- a. A letter from the Apostle Paul to the church in Ephesus
 - Written from prison, likely in the early AD60's, in Rome, near the end of his life
 - Possibly a 'circular' letter (shared with several churches)
- b. About Paul
 - Apostle, Missionary Leader, started several churches in the Mediterranean basin
 - Wrote letters to churches to teach and encourage them, many which became part of the New Testament
- c. Written by Paul, Inspired by the Holy Spirit
 - Human writing inspired by the Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21...)
- d. About Ephesus
 - Located on the coast of Western Turkey
 - Ruins can be visited today
 - The Temple of Artemis was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World
 - Paul stayed there for two years, a riot ensued (Eph. 19)
 - Paul's colleague Timothy pastored the church in Ephesus

4. Opening Greeting (1:1-2)

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus,
and are faithful in Christ Jesus:*

*Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

- a. *To the Saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus*
 - Saints = 'holy ones' or 'set-apart ones'
 - Faithful in Christ Jesus, refers to their trust in Jesus
 - The letter is to God's 'set-apart' people who trust in Jesus
- b. "Grace and Peace to you" is a common greeting from Paul
 - Grace to you from God
 - God's unmerited favour is offered to you
 - Peace to you from God
 - Peace with God, leading to peace with one another

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Your Response

1. Prepare your heart and mind for this series on Ephesians. Ask God to teach you, and attend as many services as possible.
2. Read Ephesians in your Bible. Use an accurate, readable translation such as the English Standard Version or the New Living Translation.
3. Believe in Jesus for forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Him.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus Romans 3:23-24

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Questions for Application

1. What is Expository Preaching? Why is it worthwhile?
2. What topics in Ephesians are of most interest to you?
3. Why do you think Paul commonly opens his letters with a Blessing of "Grace and Peace to you from God."? What does he mean by "Grace?" by "Peace?"
4. What does it mean to be a "Saint?" Are you a Saint? How do you know?
5. Have you responded to the gospel message in faith and repentance, trusting in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, and eternal life? Why not do so today?

2 Cor. 6:2b *now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

*Other sermons and notes are available for free download at www.waverleyroadbaptist.ca
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