The Heart of the Matter
Although brief, Paul’s letter to the Ephesians contains a wealth of profound information about the Lord and His church. It is, in fact, foundational to the doctrine of the universal church, the earthly body of Christ. It is also here that we learn of spiritual gifts and their purpose in the church, the proper relationships between family members at home, and the armor of God for His people. No serious student of Scripture remains ignorant of Ephesians. Its insights, principles, and practical admonitions are essential to our growth toward Christian maturity.

Discovering the Way
1. Introduction Information (Acts 18:18–19; 28:30–31; Ephesians 1:1; 3:1; 4:1)
Learn about the writer and date of this letter, the recipients and where they lived, and the theme and purpose of Ephesians.

See the attached outline, which divides Ephesians into two sections: doctrine (chapters 1–3) and practice (chapters 4–6).

Ephesians teaches that God chose us before creation, that Christ brings us to God by His blood, that Gentiles and Jews have been given equal status in the church, and that the church is a body comprised of various parts.

Starting Your Journey
Paul’s letter to the Ephesians reminds us that Christians: (1) operate under the headship of Christ; (2) belong to a body; and (3) can stand firm against the Enemy.
### Ephesians

#### Our Position in Christ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1–2      | Section 1: What God has done for us (1)  
Emphasis: sovereignty |
| 2:1–10   | Section 2: What Christ has done in us (2:1–10)  
Emphasis: grace |
| 2:11–3:21| Section 3: What Christ has done between us (2:11–3:21)  
Emphasis: reconciliation |

#### Our Practice on Earth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4–6</td>
<td>Section 1: Our new unity (4:1–16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Section 2: Our new walk (4:17–6:9)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Section 3: Our new strength (6:10–20)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Emphasis | Doctrinal: vertical relationship with God  
Practical: horizontal relationship with others |
| Core Phrase | "He chose us in Him." (1:4)  
"Walk in a manner worthy of the calling." (4:1) |
| Subjects | Declarations of heavenly truths  
God’s accomplishments  
Exhortations for earthly living  
Christians’ assignments |
| Prayers | Paul’s prayer for Ephesians (1:15–23)  
Paul’s prayer for the whole church (3:14–21)  
Christians’ prayers for one another (6:18–20) |
| Theme | The holy community God is creating and how it is to live out its calling |
| Key Verses | 1:9–10; 4:1–3 |
| Christ in Ephesians | Jesus is the source of spiritual blessing, the Cornerstone of the church, and the goal of spiritual maturity (1:3; 2:20; 4:11–16). |