

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME SIX
LETTERS TO GOD'S PEOPLE—A SURVEY OF ROMANS—PHILEMON
EPHESIANS: TRUE PORTRAIT OF THE CHURCH
A SURVEY OF EPHESIANS



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.

2. The Letter at a Glance (Ephesians 1:3–11; 2:11–15; 4:17–31; 6:10–18)

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

3. Several Major Truths (Ephesians 1:4; 2:13–15; 3:6–8; 4:11–16)

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.

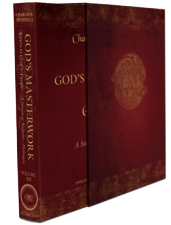


Starting Your Journey

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.



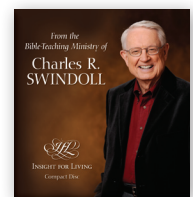
Tools for Digging Deeper



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EPHESIANS

<i>Introduction (1:1–2)</i>	<p>Our Position in Christ</p> <p>Section 1: What God has done for us (1) Emphasis: sovereignty</p> <p>Section 2: What Christ has done in us (2:1–10) Emphasis: grace</p> <p>Section 3: What Christ has done between us (2:11–3:21) Emphasis: reconciliation</p> <p><i>CHAPTERS</i> 1–3</p>	<p>Our Practice on Earth</p> <p>Section 1: Our new unity (4:1–16)</p> <p>Section 2: Our new walk (4:17–6:9)</p> <p>Section 3: Our new strength (6:10–20)</p> <p><i>CHAPTERS</i> 4–6</p>	<i>Conclusion (6:21–24)</i>
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).		

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