

Outline of
Ephesians



Introduction

Authorship

Although scholars often dispute the authorship of Ephesians, most of the so-called non-Pauline words, phrases and stylistic features appear at least occasionally in letters that everyone agrees were written by Paul. Many differences between Ephesians and earlier Pauline letters are insignificant. For example, some note that “the genuine Paul” speaks of Christ as the head (1 Cor 11:3) and the church as his body (Rom 12:4; 1 Cor 12:12) only separately. But ancient philosophers sometimes used the body metaphor with the head and sometimes without it, and requiring Paul always to express himself the same way in his few extant letters, although other writers did not, is hardly fair to Paul.

Unlike many of his earlier letters, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians seem to have been written after Paul had experience in presenting Christianity in an ancient academic context, where he would have used some basic philosophic language to communicate to his hearers (Acts 19:9). That Paul could adapt his language to his audience, including those to whom the occasional sort of Stoic language in Ephesians appealed, is evident elsewhere in his writings (e.g., Rom 1; 1 Cor 8); such language is more common in Ephesians and Philippians, with some more Middle Platonic language in Colossians. Although the dispute over the authorship of Ephesians will continue in scholarly circles, this commentary works from the position that Paul wrote it.

Situation

Paul writes this letter from Roman custody, probably in Rome. As readers in the Ephesian region of Asia Minor would know, he had been arrested on the charge of having brought a Gentile into the temple (Acts 21:28-29; 28:16). Ethnic and cultural division between Jew and Gentile was a major issue in the Ephesian church (cf. Acts 19:17), and Paul was one of the best-qualified writers of antiquity to address both sides intelligently.

From his detention under Roman authorities (probably in Rome), Paul is also aware of the possibility of imminent persecution and the need for the church to be a good witness in society (cf. especially comment on Eph 5:21–6:9). He is also aware of the struggle of some of the believers with their own background in the occult practices of Asia Minor—magic (Acts 19:19), astrology and attempts to escape the astrological power of Fate (cf. comment on Eph 1:8-11, 19-23; 3:9-11).

Source: Keener, Craig S. (2014). *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, Second Edition. InterVarsity Press.



EPHESUS



EPHESIANS

CHAPTERS 1-3

CHAPTERS 4-6

RELATIONSHIP TO GOD
(IN CHRIST)
SALVATION WORKED IN
DOCTRINE
WHAT WE ARE SAVED BY
FORGIVENESS
JUSTIFICATION
OUR RELEASE
ADORATION
DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY

HIS | PURPOSE
POWER

Inside 'church'
Vertical dimension

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHERS
(IN THE LORD)
SALVATION WORKED OUT
DUTY
WHAT WE ARE SAVED FOR
HOLINESS
SANCTIFICATION
OUR RESPONSE
APPLICATION
HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

OUR | WALK
WARFARE

Outside 'church'
Horizontal dimension

EPHESIANS 1-3

PRAISING (1. 3-14)

GOD'S PURPOSE to sum up all things in Christ

PRAYING (1. 15-17)

GOD'S PURPOSE AND POWER to know

PREACHING (1. 19-3.13)

GOD'S POWER AND PURPOSE revealed in:

1. **CHRIST (1. 20-23)**
RAISED UP TO REIGN
2. **GENTILES (2. 1-22)**
RAISED UP TO REJOIN
3. **PAUL (3. 1-13)**
RAISED UP TO REVEAL

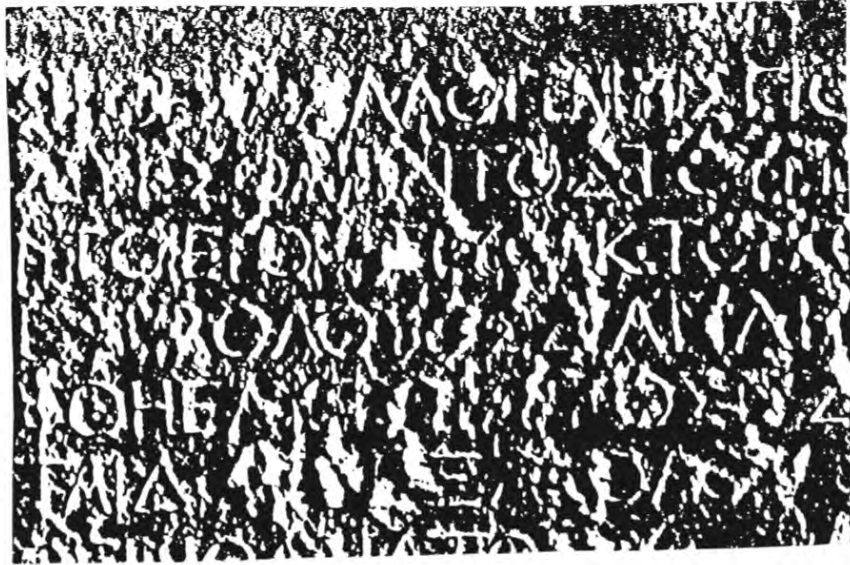
PRAYING (3. 14-19)

GOD'S POWER AND PURPOSE to know.

PRAISING (3. 20)

GOD'S POWER to do exceeding abundantly.

TEMPLE MIDDLE WALL PARTITION



* WHOEVER IS CAUGHT DOING SO WILL HAVE HIMSELF TO BLAME IF DEATH ENSUES *

EPHESIANS 4-6

A. OUR WALK (4.1 -6.9)

1. HUMILITY
2. UNITY
3. MATURITY
4. INTEGRITY
5. CHARITY
6. PURITY
7. DOCILITY
 - a. Wives
 - b. Children
 - c. Slaves (employees)
8. RESPONSIBILITY
 - a. Husbands
 - b. Parents
 - c. Masters (employers)

B. OUR WARFARE (6.10-20)

1. PROTECTION
2. PRAYER

PREDESTINATION

TO SALVATION

INDIVIDUAL
PERSONS
IRRESISTIBLE
GRACE

Destiny determined
(by God's choice).

Lost because not chosen.

Born again before
repenting and believing.

Perseverance guaranteed.

TO SERVICE

CORPORATE
A PEOPLE
CONDITIONAL
FAITH

Destiny dependent
(on our choice).

Lost because wrong choice.

Born again after
repenting and believing.

Perseverance required.

CALVIN

THOSE WHO PERSEVERE

will be saved

are predestined to glory

ARMINIUS

Chapter

1

- Eph 1:1-2** After the salutation,
Eph 1:3 and thanksgiving for the Ephesians,
Eph 1:4-5 he treats of our election,
Eph 1:6-10 and adoption by grace;
Eph 1:11-12 which is the true and proper fountain of man's salvation.
Eph 1:13-15 And because the height of this mystery cannot be easily attained unto,
Eph 1:16-23 he prays that they may come to the full knowledge and possession thereof in Christ.

Chapter

2

- Eph 2:1-9** By comparing what we were by nature, with what we are by grace,
Eph 2:10-22 he declares that we are made for good works: and being brought near by Christ,
 should not live as Gentiles and foreigners, as in time past, but as citizens with the
 saints, and the family of God.



Chapter

3

- Eph 3:1-7** The hidden mystery that the Gentiles should be saved was made known to Paul
 by revelation;
Eph 3:8-12 and to him was that grace given, that he should preach it.
Eph 3:13 He desires them not to faint for his tribulation;
Eph 3:14-21 and prays that they may perceive the great love of Christ toward them.

Chapter

4

- Eph 4:1-6** He exhorts to unity;
Eph 4:7-10 and declares that God therefore gives divers gifts unto men;
Eph 4:11-15 that his church might be edified,
Eph 4:16-17 and grow up in Christ.
Eph 4:18-23 He calls them from the impurity of the Gentiles;
Eph 4:24 to put on the new man;
Eph 4:25-28 to cast off lying;
Eph 4:29-32 and corrupt communication.

Chapter
5

Eph 5:1-2 After general exhortations to love;
Eph 5:3 to flee fornication;
Eph 5:4-6 and all uncleanness;
Eph 5:7-14 not to converse with the wicked;
Eph 5:15-17 to walk warily;
Eph 5:18-21 and to be filled with the Spirit;
Eph 5:22-24 he descends to the particular duties, how wives ought to obey their husbands;
Eph 5:25-31 and husbands ought to love their wives,
Eph 5:32-33 even as Christ does his church.

Chapter
6

Eph 6:1-4 The duty of children towards their parents;
Eph 6:5-9 of servants towards their masters.
Eph 6:10-12 Our life is a warfare, not only against flesh and blood, but also spiritual enemies.
Eph 6:13-17 The complete armour of a Christian;
Eph 6:18-20 and how it ought to be used.
Eph 6:21-24 Tychicus is commended.

ARMOR OF GOD
Ephesians 6:10-20



Quiz on Ephesians

1. In Chapter 1, when were we chosen?

2. According to Paul, who is the Head of the church?

3. In Chapter 6, what allows you to 'stand against the wiles/schemes of the devil'?

4. The belt in the armor of God, represents what?

5. Paul believes that his special calling is to preach to which group of people?

6. With what are believers sealed, according to Paul, in Chapter 1?

7. According to Paul, through whose blood do we have redemption and forgiveness of sins?

8. In Chapter 5, Paul tells the Ephesians to walk in goodness, righteousness and truth, as children of what?

9. What commandment does Paul describe as 'the first commandment with a promise', in Chapter 6?

10. According to Paul, by what are we saved?

GENEVA
BIBLE SCHOOL

