



# God's plan for us

A study from  
Ephesians

# INTRODUCTION

Ephesus was the most important city in western Asia Minor (now Turkey). It had a harbor that at that time opened into the Cayster River, which in turn emptied into the Aegean Sea. Ephesus was perhaps best known for its magnificent temple of Artemis (or Diana), one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It was also an important political, educational and commercial center, ranking with Alexandria in Egypt and Antioch of Pisidia, in southern Asia Manor.

Paul ministered to the church at Ephesus for a brief time at the end of his second missionary journey, and then left Priscilla and Aquila there while he continued on his journey. He came back during his third missionary journey (Acts 18:18–21; 19:1–41) and stayed for more than two years. During his time in Ephesus Paul saw many converted to faith in Jesus Christ and many others who opposed his preaching in the synagogues and homes. Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians sometime in AD 60–61. It was during this time that Paul sat in Rome undergoing his first Roman imprisonment (Ephesians 3:1; 4:1.)

Scholars believe that this epistle was not designed for just one church, but intended to be passed around to several churches in the area surrounding Ephesus – therefore a circular letter.

Ephesians is one of Paul's most formal letters. While Galatians offers instructions particularly important for those churches overrun with legalism, Ephesians deals with topics at the very core of what it means to be a Christian—both in faith and in practice—regardless of any particular problem in the community.

While Paul was not responding to a particular theological or moral problem, he wanted to protect against future problems by encouraging the Ephesians to mature in their faith. The first three chapters of Ephesians expound on the very core foundations of faith which we have as believers. Salvation, Holy Spirit, predestination, redemption, faith, and Jesus are just a few of the doctrines which Paul covers.

But he does not leave his readers with just a bunch of spiritual truths. In the last three chapters he clearly shows us how believers are to apply these lessons into our own lives. He expected that this community of faith would walk in accordance with its heavenly calling.

As a circular letter, Ephesians is a manifesto for the church, describing its essence and identity: who it is, how it came about, how it must conduct itself and what its mission is in the larger framework of Christ's reconciliation work.

May this study from the Epistle of Ephesians, help you to better understand the plans that God have for you and the church and to mature in your faith.

Soli Deo Gloria

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