

EPHESIANS - The church, the body of Christ



Pastor Tom Gang - Sunday, September 27, 2009

Title means: Desirable; purposed; _____ purposed

Ephesus was a powerful commercial center and was also a capital city in the Roman Empire. It was the center of worship of the goddess _____ (Acts 19:34-35). The temple that was constructed for her worship was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The lost and idolatrous Ephesians jealously protected her worship (Acts 19:23). Because of this darkness and the unprecedented opportunity for the gospel, Paul resided there for _____ years (Acts 20:31). What a dark place Ephesus must have been - however, a light shines brightest in the darkness! God proves this point by showing us that the gospel spread from this place into _____ of Asia (Acts 19:10)!

Timothy ultimately became their _____ - 1 Timothy 1:3

Grievous wolves had entered into this church - Acts 20:29

This is a good, hard-working church - Rev. 2:1-3

This is the church that left their _____ love - Rev. 2:4

Chapters: _____ **Verses:** _____ **Words:** _____

Author: _____ - 1:1; 3:1

Time of writing: _____ AD

Ephesians was written during Paul's _____ Roman imprisonment. It is the first of four NT books referred to as the "*Prison Epistles*." The other three books are _____, _____, and _____. Paul refers to his incarceration often - Ephesians 3:1; 4:1; 6:20; Phil. 1:7, 13-14; Col. 4:3, 10, 18; Philemon 9-10, 13, 23.

Theme: The church, the _____ of Christ - our wealth and walk; possessing our inheritance; _____ in Jesus

_____ is the OT counterpart to the NT book of Ephesians - Both books concern our _____ with Jesus.

THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS

Historical: Paul writes to encourage this local body in the _____ of their position in Christ and of their responsibility to _____ worthy of his calling (in the presence of the idolatrous environment of Ephesus, and in the face of the principalities and powers associated with spiritual wickedness).

Doctrinal: Just as the church of the Ephesus period in _____, we too must keep our focus on the doctrine of justification by grace through faith alone, and the duty to walk in that faith if we are to avoid the grievous wolves of these _____ days.

Devotional: Our lifestyle reflects our true understanding of all that we received when we were placed _____ Christ. We are his body and his beloved bride.

OUTLINE STRUCTURE

Basic outline

1-3: The believer's _____ in Christ

4-6: The believer's _____ in Christ

Key Chapter: ____ Reveals the mystery of the church ____ Christ – vs. 1-6, 9

Reveals the overarching _____ of the body of Christ – vs. 21

Key Verses: 2:8-10; 4:1-3