

# EPHESIANS - The church, the body of Christ



Pastor Tom Gang - Sunday, October 11, 2009

**Title means:** Desirable; purposed; fully 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 Diana (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 three 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 all of Asia (Acts 19:10)!

Timothy ultimately became their pastor - 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 first love - Rev. 2:4

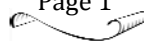
**Chapters:** 6      **Verses:** 155      **Words:** 3,039

**Author:** The Apostle Paul - 1:1; 3:1

**Time of writing:** 62-64 AD

Ephesians was written during Paul's first Roman imprisonment. It is the first of four NT books referred to as the "*Prison Epistles*." The other three books are Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. 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