

Bible Snapshots



Ephesians – The Beloved Church

Author – Paul, 61 or 62 A.D. (in prison)

- The book derives its name from the those is Ephesus to whom he wrote (1:1). It appears to be a circular letter or letter that all the churches were supposed to share in.
- Paul was on his third missionary journey when he founded the church in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-8). The city was the capital of the province of Asia, rich in commerce and industry and a port through which Orient trade would pass. It was the chief seat for worship of the goddess Diana (Artemis), where her famous temple was located. It contained the “miraculous” image of the goddess (Acts 19:27).
- The church’s membership would have consisted mainly of gentiles (2:11-19) with some Jews among them (Acts 18:19; 19:8). Paul’s success was so great in and around Ephesus that heathenism was shaken to its foundations. There were riots (Act 19, 20), caused by union leaders that opposed him. Thus, Paul would leave Ephesus
- Ephesians has 6 chapter and 155 verses.

Themes

- Unlike some of Paul’s other letters, this letter does not seem to be written to address any particular circumstance or situation, but is rather a deep felt expression of love for Christ and His church. He desires greatly that they persist in faith and continue steadfastly, which would have been difficult in the shadow of the great temple of Diana

Key chapters/verse – 1 – The believer in Christ / 1:3 The blessings in Christ

Key phrase / word / thought

- In Christ (2:6) / Of God (4:19); of Christ (4:13) and of the Spirit (5:18) / Our heavenly blessings

Christ In Galatians - Head of the church (1:22; 5:23); reconciler (2:16, 18); cornerstone (2:2); sweet smelling savor (5:2); sanctifier of the church (5:26); lover of the church (5:25); Lord of the church (5:29)

Outline

- I. Church doctrine (1-3)
 - a. The church as a body(1)
 - b. The church as a temple (2)
 - c. The church as a mystery (3)
- II. Church practice (4-6:18)
 - a. The church as a new man (4)
 - b. The church as a bride (5)
 - c. The church as a warrior (6)
- III. Conclusion (6:19-24)

“In Christ” we are - Chosen to live (1:1); adopted to privilege (1:5); accepted to be like him (1:6); sealed to serve (1:13); raised to walk (2:6); and seated to learn (2:6)

Spiritual blessing – loved (5:2); chosen (1:4); given the word (1:13); redemption (1:7); saved by grace (2:8, 9); forgiven (1:7); quickened (2:5); raised with Christ (2:6); adopted (1:5); accepted (1:6); sealed by the Spirit (1:13); given peace (2:14); a new man (4:23, 24); made children of light (5:8); seated with Christ (2:6); no more strangers (2:19); His workmanship (2:10); given boldness (3:12); strengthened (3:16); his power in us (3:20); a hope (4:4); given grace (4:7); God’s armor (6:11-16); given ministers (4:11-16); an inheritance (1:11)

Old Testament in Ephesians – Leading captivity captive (4:8 and Ps. 68:18); speak truth with thy neighbor (4:25 and Zech. 8:16); sin not (4:26 and Ps. 4:4); husband and wife one flesh (5:31 and Gen. 2:24); honoring parents (6:1-3 and Ex. 20:12); helmet of salvation (6:17 and Isa. 59:17)

Key lessons

To be in the church is to be in Christ and to be in Christ is to partake of all spiritual blessings
The church’s calling, conduct and conflict.