

Connecting Through the Word
“That You May Know”
Ephesians

Ephesians 1:15-23

*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is **the hope** of His calling, what are **the riches** of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is **the exceeding greatness of His power** toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

The Apostle Paul wrote at least 13 of the 27 books in the New Testament. He wrote them as letters, epistles to churches or to individuals.

Nines letters to Churches

Romans

1 & 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 & 2 Thessalonians

Four letters to Individuals

1 & 2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Most of Paul’s writings were written over a span of 15 years. Four of Paul’s letters are called the “Prison Epistles.” They were written between AD 60 - 62, when he was in prison in Rome under house arrest. (Acts 28:30-31)

He sent these letters with four different men.

Tychicus from Ephesus (Ephesians 6:21) had the Epistle to the Ephesians.

Epaphroditus from Philippi (Philippians 4:18) had the Epistle to the Philippians.

Epaphras from Colosse (Colossians 4:12) had the Epistle to the Colossians.

Onesimus (Philemon’s slave) from Colosse (Philemon 10) had the Epistle to Philemon.

These four men left Rome in the year A.D. 62, bound for the province of Asia, which was located in what was designated as Asia Minor and is currently called Turkey.

At the time Paul's letter to the Ephesians was written, the city of Ephesus was a commercial and religious center of Asia Minor.

The Book of Acts records **three** missionary journeys that took Paul throughout the Roman Empire.

On his second journey, he traveled through Ephesus (Acts 18:19) where he stayed a short time.

Two years later, while on his third journey, Paul stayed in **Ephesus** for at least two years and saw that whole vast area evangelized (Acts 19:1-20).

In Acts 20:17-38, on his way to Jerusalem, Paul met with the **elders** of the church of Ephesus and we find a description of his ministry.

Then ten years later (A.D. 62) while a **prisoner** in Rome, Paul wrote this letter.

Unlike many of his letters, Paul's letter to the Ephesians wasn't written to correct any wrong behavior or address problems in the church. Instead, he wrote to encourage the Ephesian church

and Christians at large to continue to walk in accordance with their calling as followers of Christ. Structurally, the book of Ephesians reinforces the believer's position and role as a Christian (chapters 1-3) before discussing specific practices and the way Christians should behave (chapters 4-6).

This epistle shows us the great **mystery** of the Church. The real Church is the Body of Christ, and believers are members of that sacred Body of which Christ is the Head.

The Father not only prepared a **body** for Jesus Christ to suffer in, but He prepared a Body for Him in which He would be glorified. The Greek word for church is "**ecclesia**," which means an assembly of called-out ones.

This letter is addressed to **saints**. The word saint is used 9 times. The word *saint* means "one who has been set apart." It is related to the word *sanctified*, which means "set apart." When the sinner trusts Christ as his Saviour, he is taken out of "the world" and placed "in Christ."

The word **grace** is used twelve times in Ephesians, and refers to "the kindness of God toward undeserving people."

The phrase "in Christ Jesus" is used fifteen times in this letter! It describes the spiritual **position** of the

believer: he is identified with Christ, he is in Christ, and therefore is able to draw on the wealth of Christ for his own daily living.

The theme of the book is found in:
The Christian's **riches** in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

The Story of Hetty Green (1834-1916)

Worth over 100 million dollars... today – \$2.5 billion

Called the witch of Wall Street

Also called in Guinness Book of Records - "America's Greatest Miser,"

It is reported that she ate cold oatmeal because it cost to heat it.

She was said never to turn on the heat or use hot water. She wore one old black dress and undergarments that she changed only after they had been worn out; she did not wash her hands and she rode in an old carriage. She ate mostly pies that cost fifteen cents.

One tale claims that Green spent half a night searching her carriage for a lost stamp worth two cents. Another asserts that she instructed her laundress to wash only the dirtiest parts of her dresses (the hems) to save money on soap.

Her son had to suffer a leg amputation, because she delayed so long in looking for a free clinic that his case

became incurable.

How sad!

But sadder is the fact this is the way most Christians live.

The believer's progression in the Christian life is found in Paul's words to this church.

Sit – Our Rest

Ephesians 2:6

“And raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, “in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”

Walk – Our Work

“Walk Worthy”

Ephesians 4:1

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

“Walk In Love”

Ephesians 5:2

“And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

“Walk in Light”

Ephesians 5:8-9

“For at one time you were darkness, but now you are

light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

“Walk Carefully”

Ephesians 5:15-16

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. (5:15,16)

Stand – Our Warfare

Ephesians 6:10-14

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Go back to the first chapter and the three things that Paul prayed for the church.

“That you may know”

*“That you may know what is **the hope** of His calling, what are **the riches** of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is **the exceeding greatness of His power** toward us who believe, according to the*

working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places..”

The Hope of His calling...

The riches of the glory of His inheritance...

The exceeding greatness of His power toward us....

The Hope of His calling is possible because:

Ephesians 1:7

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

The Lord's Supper

The Riches of the Glory of His Inheritance

We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ – Romans 8

The Exceeding greatness of His Power

Resurrection Power!

Philippians 3:10-11

That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Hebrews 2:14-15

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh

and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Today, do you know the hope of His call?
Do you know riches of the glory of His inheritance?
Do You know the exceeding greatness of His power?

There are three prayers in Ephesians:

- A. Paul's prayer for **Ephesians** (1:15-23)
- B. Paul's prayer for the whole **church** (3:14-21)
- C. Christian's prayers for one **another** (6:18-21)

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.

Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.
For "*He has put all things under His feet.*" But when He says "all things are put under *Him*," *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.

Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.