



## STUDIES IN EPHESIANS

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS WAS A CIRCULATED LETTER, WRITTEN TO A GROUP OF CHURCHES IN ASIA-MINOR (MODERN DAY TURKEY) IN ABOUT 60AD. EPHESUS WAS THE PRIMARY CHURCH, YET COLOSSAE, HEIROPOLIS AND LAODICEA MAY HAVE ALSO READ AND APPLIED THIS LETTER. IN THE LETTER, HE IS COVERING LARGE THEMES SUCH AS SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH, THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD, THE FIVE-FOLD SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE.

### WEEK 1: EPHESIANS 1:3-2:10

WARM UP: SPEND 5 MINUTES SHARING WITH ONE ANOTHER WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CONTEXT AND PURPOSE OF EPHESIANS.

READ EPHESIANS 1:3-14

1. THIS PART OF THE LETTER IS ONE CONTINUOUS SENTENCE IN THE GREEK LANGUAGE. PAUL BEGAN WRITING AND ENDED UP DETAILING THE MANY MAGNIFICENT LAYERS OF GOD'S INCREDIBLE GRACE BEWTOED ON THE CHURCH.

- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "CHOSEN" AND "PREDESTINED" BY GOD?  
(THIS MAY TAKE A WHILE, SO ALLOW 10 MINUTES TO ANSWER THIS ONE!)

- WHERE, IN THESE VERSES, DO WE FIND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT  
OUR IMPORTANCE, OUR PURPOSE AND OUR ASSURANCE?

2. READ PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE EPHESIANS IN VERSES 17:-23

- PAUL PRAYS THAT THE FATHER WOULD OPEN UP THE EYES OF OUR HEARTS  
TO KNOW THE RICHES WE HAVE IN GOD. *KNOWING* IN THE GREEK IS  
ALWAYS EMOTIONAL AS WELL AS INTELLECTUAL. DISCUSS WHAT IT WOULD  
LOOK LIKE IF WE TRULY "KNEW" THE FOLLOWING:

- THE HOPE TO WHICH HE HAS CALLED US
- THE RICHES OF HIS GLORIOUS INHERITANCE
- HIS INCOMPARABLY GREAT POWER FOR US

3. IN CHAPTER 2:1-3, PAUL IS CLEAR ABOUT OUR RADICAL TRANSFORMATION  
IN CHRIST. HE SAYS WE WERE DEAD. WHAT DID THIS "DEADNESS" INVOLVE  
ACCORDING TO PAUL? DID YOU EXPERIENCE THIS DEADNESS BEFORE YOU  
KNEW CHRIST?

4. READ EPHESIANS 2:4-9. THERE'S NO GREATER DESCRIPTION OF GRACE IN  
THE WHOLE BIBLE! SAY OUT LOUD ALL THE THINGS GOD DOES IN THESE  
VERSES. IN WHAT WAYS CAN "WORKS" SNEAK BACK INTO OUR  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?  
WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF A NOT-FULLY-GRACE GOSPEL?

5. READ EPHESIANS 2:10. HERE ARE "WORKS"! NOT AS A REQUIREMENT FOR  
OUR SALVATION, BUT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF IT. WHAT HOPE DO YOU  
FIND IN THESE VERSES FOR A MEANINGFUL AND FRUITFUL LIFE IN CHRIST?

**PRAY:** ASK GOD TO HELP YOU FULLY UNDERSTAND HIS POWER & GRACE.