

Paul Writes Ephesians



When: *The winter of A.D. 62 or spring of A.D. 63*
From Where: Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:30-31)

Synopsis

- One of four epistles written by Paul while in his first Roman imprisonment
- The last group Paul addressed before completing his 3rd journey was the elders from the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:16-38)
 - Perhaps this contributed to Paul being inspired to write them a letter
- Three times Paul refers to himself as a “prisoner” (3:1; 4:1; 6:20)
- Almost no personal greetings or remarks to any specific brethren at the start or close of the letter
 - An interesting fact, considering that Paul was in Ephesus for 3 years on his 3rd journey (Acts 19:10; 20:31)
 - Given the “emotional roller coaster” he rode...the burning of the magic books [*high*] to the tumultuous riot [*low*]...one would think Paul would have mentioned some brethren by name (Acts 19:11-20, 23-41; 1 Cor. 16:8-9)
 - Contrast this to letters written on the 3rd journey (Romans, 1 Corinthians)
- This letter was carried from Rome to Ephesus by Tychicus (6:21-22)
 - He was an Asian...perhaps even from Ephesus (Acts 20:4)
- A “companion letter” to Colossians
 - Written at the same time
 - Also carried by Tychicus (Col. 4:7-8)
 - Strikingly similar themes...often called “*The Twin Epistles*”
- The theme => “*All spiritual blessings found in Christ Jesus*”
 - Thematic statement (1:3)

Outline

Paul sends his opening greetings (1:1-2)

- He was an apostle “by the will of God”...the Ephesians were “faithful in Christ Jesus”

Paul mentions the spiritual blessings found in Christ (1:3 – 3:21)

- THEME: God has “blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (1:3)
- Being chosen by God from the foundation of the world (1:4)
- Being adopted as children of God (1:5-6)

The Two Treatises

Lesson 59

Outline (cont.)

- Being redeemed by the blood of Christ and forgiven of sins (1:7-8)
- Having the “mystery of His will” revealed to us (1:9-10)
- Being His “inheritance” or “heritage” (1:11-14)
- A prayer that the Ephesians will recognize the power behind these “blessings”...a resurrected and reigning Jesus (1:15-23)
- More specifically, Paul emphasizes the following “blessings”... (2:1 – 3:21)
 - Being made “alive in Christ” after being “dead in sin” (2:1-10)
 - Gentiles being “brought near by the blood of Christ” and reconciled with Jews into “one body” in Christ (2:11-22)
 - A prayer that the Ephesians will be strengthened by these blessings (3:1-19)
 - We can know the will of God when we read what the apostles wrote (v. 3)
 - We can stand in awe of the “eternal purpose” of God in Christ (v. 10)
 - Christ can dwell in our hearts by faith (v. 17)
 - A “doxology of praise” for the God who has blessed us more than we deserve (3:20-21)

Paul instructs those who enjoy the spiritual blessings on how they should live (4:1 – 6:20)

- “Walk in a manner worthy of your calling” (4:1-16)
 - With humility and gentleness, carefully maintaining unity (vv. 1-10)
 - Use the “gifts” God has made available to the church (vv. 11-16)
- “Do not walk any longer as the Gentiles (*lost people*) walk” (4:17-32)
 - Re: the lusts of the flesh
 - Re: actions & attitudes (lying, anger, theft, unwholesome speech)
 - “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit”
 - “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving just as God forgave you in Christ”
- “Walk as the children of God” (5:1-21)
 - Imitate your Father
 - Refrain from immorality, filthiness, and spiritual darkness
 - Being wise, understanding the will of the Lord
 - Being subject to one another in the fear of Christ
- Behave appropriately in all human relationships (5:23 – 6:9)
 - Husbands & wives
 - Parents & children
 - Masters & slaves
- Fight for salvation using the armor supplied by God (6:10-20)

Paul gives his closing personal remarks & final exhortations (6:21-24)

- A commendation of Tychicus (vv. 21-22)