



Ephesians

 **THEME VERSES:** There is one body and one Spirit- just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call- one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the the measure of Christ's gift.
Ephesians 4:4-7

Author

Ephesians was written by the apostle Paul, a Jew who studied under Gamaliel, a teacher of the Pharisees. He was a tentmaker by trade, and originally persecuted the Christians in his mistaken zeal to please God. Paul wrote 13 of the 27 books in the New Testament.

Date

Paul likely wrote Ephesians around A.D. 60 from Rome where he was imprisoned for his faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 28:16). He also wrote letters, or epistles, to the Colossians and Philemon at that time.

Purpose

While many of Paul's letters were written to confront a problem or heresy in the church, his letter to the Ephesians was intended to encourage and strengthen believers by clarifying God's revealed will, which had previously been a mystery. His plan from the beginning of time was to unite all things in Christ by redeeming mankind (both Jews and Gentiles) from sin, giving them an eternal inheritance, and making them one body in Christ- the church- to God's glory.

Method

Paul first informs the Gentile believers of the incredible blessings God has bestowed on them, including the promised Holy Spirit as a guarantee of their eternal inheritance. He prays they can fully realize all they have in Christ as members of His household. He then exhorts them to be unified as one body in Christ by living in obedience to God, and standing firm against evil by putting on the armor of God.

Outline

- Chapter 1 Spiritual Blessings in Christ
- Chapter 2 God's Gift of Grace
- Chapter 3 God's Eternal Purpose Revealed
- Chapter 4 Unity in the Body of Christ, New Life in Christ
- Chapter 5 Walking in Love and Wisdom
- Chapter 6 Walking in Obedience, Having Victory over Evil