

# Ephesians

## Breakdown

- Ephesians is the 5<sup>th</sup> epistle in the New Testament, and it is clear at the beginning of this letter that Paul is the writer.
- Ephesus was an ancient port city located near the western shores of modern-day Turkey. Paul visited Ephesus twice during his missionary travels, staying over 2 years on his 2<sup>nd</sup> visit. The Ephesian Church included many Jews but even more Gentiles.
- Paul wrote Ephesians during his first imprisonment in Rome from 61-63 A.D.

## Main Points

- Paul had spent approximately 3 years in Ephesus, and their love for Paul as well as his love for them was very evident (Acts 20:13-38). Knowing he would not be able to visit Ephesus again, he wrote this letter to them, reminding them of their God-given purpose. Paul gave the Ephesians three basic instructions for all followers of Christ:
  - We must fully understand who God declares us to be.
  - We must be grounded in the knowledge of what God has done for all humanity.
  - We must live lives that are fully devoted to God based on who He made us to be and what He has done for us.
- Paul also emphasizes that the only way we can live according to these instructions is through unity with other believers working together in the body of Christ.

## Did you know?

- Paul told us that from the foundation of the world, God already had a plan for us. What did Paul say God's plan was?
- Even though we were dead because of our sins, God gave us life when He raised Jesus from the dead. Why did Paul say God did this for us?
- Paul explained that God has a wonderful inheritance planned for us. In the meantime, He has given us a guarantee that we can count on until we take possession of the inheritance. What is the guarantee?
- God is building Himself a house that He will live in, but His building materials are not wood or stone. What is God using to build His house?
- Paul urged us to follow the example we have been given of how to walk in love with one another. Whose example does Paul say we should follow?
- Paul compared some of the amazing gifts God has given us to different parts of a suit of armor. What does Paul say we should use the armor for?

## Further Thought

- Paul said that God marked us as His own by giving us the Holy Spirit. What does it mean that God has marked us as His own, and why is that important for us to know?
- There was a wall of hostility that separated us from God, but Jesus broke down that wall on the cross. How did Jesus break down the wall, and what does that mean for us?
- Paul said that we aren't fighting against flesh and blood enemies. What are we fighting against, and how does knowing that change the way we fight?