



Ephesians



THEME VERSE: "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."
Ephesians 2:8-10

Author

Paul - while under house arrest as a prisoner in Rome.

Date

About 60 A.D., around the same time he wrote Colossians and Philemon.

Setting

Ephesus, prosperous port city in the Roman province of Asia Minor.

Purpose

To strengthen the faith of the believers in Ephesus by explaining the nature and purpose of the church - the body of Christ. Ephesians deals with topics at the very core of what it means to be a Christian—both in faith and in practice.

Key Points

Christ, the Center - Jesus is the focus of history as well as the head of his body, the church. Because Christ is central to everything, His priorities must be central to us.

New Family - Because God through Christ paid our penalty for sin and forgave us, we have been reconciled to him. Being united with Christ means that we are one family in Christ. Because we all belong to him, we have the responsibility of living together in harmony.

Christian Conduct - Paul encourages all Christians to make wise decisions. With that goal in mind, God provides his Holy Spirit to enable us to live his way.

Outline

Opening greeting - Ephesians 1:1-2.

Christ redeems all things - Ephesians 1:3-14.

Paul gives thanks and prays for the Ephesians - Ephesians 1:15-23.

Redemption has been accomplished - Ephesians 2:1-3:13.

Prayer for Ephesians' strength, praise to God - Ephesians 3:14-21.

Specific instructions for Christian living - Ephesians 4:1-6:10.

Putting on the Full Armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-20.

Conclusion and blessing - Ephesians 6:21-24.