

THE BOOK OF PASTOR'S BIBLE CLASS EPHESIANS

Living in Christ

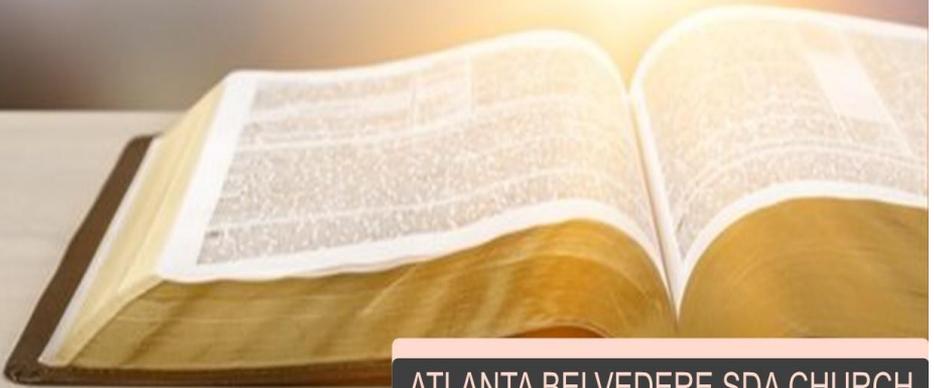


Living like Christ

EVERY
SATURDAY

AT
3:00PM

VIA FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE



INTRODUCTION

Ephesians is probably the most profound book of the New Testament. It is certainly one of Paul's best, if not the best.

Ephesians speaks to the widespread evil, meaninglessness despair, and social and religious divisions of our time. It outlines God's triumphant act in Christ to defeat the hostile powers that tear life apart and seek to bring back chaos.

Ephesians presents a new world order of unity and harmony. God casts a big vision

THEME

It is God's purpose to unite the universe in Christ.

MESSAGE

The purpose of God is to bring into being a family of loving and morally blameless children from all nations. It is a purpose established before the foundation of the world. God's purpose will be realized through Jesus Christ and through the ministry of apostles and prophets. Paul himself being a key player.

Ephesians delineates the kind of life that is appropriate for the children of God who are waiting to inherit the kingdom of God and Christ. It shows us how God will accomplish the unification of things in heaven and earth.

Ephesians opens with a thanksgiving hymn after a brief salutation in verses 1-14 of Chapter 1. This hymn is marked by the refrain "to the praise of His glory" (1:6, 14). The hymn focuses on the God and Father who blessed, chose, and destined "us" (the church) to be His

family of morally blameless children (vs. 3-6). The hymn also considers “the Beloved” Jesus Christ who, through His sacrifice, brought forgiveness of sin and begins reunification of the universe (vs. 7-12). The final stanza celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church as the guarantee of the promised inheritance (vs. 13, 14).

Chapter 2 shows how God is uniting both Jews and Gentiles who were under the power of sin and the evil one; those who are hostile to one another, spiritually dead, and subject to God’s judgment. Through God’s mercy and love they share in the benefits of Christ’s resurrection which translates into victory over sin, death, and the evil powers.

Jesus is the bridge between Jews and Gentiles, whose coming together through the work of Christ represent a new humanity, a new international family of the redeemed, at peace with God and with each other. They all have access to the Father through the Holy Spirit. They are the new temple in which the Holy Spirit dwells.

God will ultimately give freedom to His people—freedom from sin, death, and the evil powers, whose doom is already sealed.

AUTHORSHIP

Reasons for Paul's Authorship	Verses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The textual evidence. 2. The 2nd century church attributes it to Paul. 3. Its Pauline literary structure. [Opening greetings, thanksgiving, doctrinal section, ethical section.] 4. Its Pauline language and theology. [The language is 90 or 95 percent in harmony with Paul's style in every important respect.] 	1:1; 3:1; 4:1; 6:20

PLACE AND DATE OF WRITING

Ephesians was written from one of three places where Paul was imprisoned: Rome, Ephesus, or Caesarea. The epistles of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon form a group known as “The Prison Epistles”. The date of Ephesians was somewhere between A.D. 54 and A.D. 62.

OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1-2)
- II. Body (1:3-6:20)

- a. The divine plan for the unification of all things in Christ and the Church (1:3-3:21).
 - i. Praise of the Trinity for projecting the plan (1:3-14).
 - ii. Prayer for the leaders' understanding the plan (1:15-23).
 - iii. The plan at work for the unification of Jews and Gentiles (2:1-22).

	Verses
1. By grace through faith.	2:1-10
2. Brought near by His blood.	2:11-13
3. Christ our peace.	2:14-18
4. Christ our cornerstone.	2:19-22

- iv. Paul – God's instrument in the revelation of the plan (3:1-13).

	Verses
1. The mystery revealed.	3:1-7
2. The purpose of the mystery.	3:8-13

- v. Prayer for the readers' understanding of the plan (3:14-19).
- vi. Doxology (3:20, 21)

b. The Christians' role in the fulfillment of the plan (4:1-6:20).

i. We must build the church up by mutual service and love (4:1-16).

	Verses
1. Walk in unity.	4:1-6
2. Spiritual gifts.	4:7-16

ii. They must abandon completely the old pattern of life and expouse wholeheartedly the new (4:17-5:20).

	Verses
1. The new man.	4:17-24
2. Don't grieve the Spirit.	4:25-32
3. Walk in love.	5:1-7
4. Walk in light.	5:8-14
5. Walk in wisdom.	5:15-20

c. Family members must live together in mutual submission (5:21-6:9).

i. Marriage – Christ and the church (5:22-33).

ii. Children and parents (6:1-4).

iii. Bondservants and masters (6:5-9).

d. Christians must be fully equipped for the spiritual warfare in which they are engaged (6:10-20).

III. Conclusion (6:21-24)

a. A gracious greeting.

