

Ephesians --- By Grace Alone

What do we know about the Book?

Author:

When:

From Where:

Miscellaneous Information:

Look up Acts 19:23-31

Look up Acts 19:10

How long was Paul evangelizing in the city?

Look up Revelation 2:1-7

How many "prison letters" did Paul write that we are aware of, and which ones are they?

The congregation was chiefly made up of Jews or Gentiles?

What other Apostle lived in Ephesus for awhile?

Purpose:

By what Means can people come to faith?

What comfort can we receive knowing faith depends on God and not on us?

What is our purpose here on earth?

Special Features:

Key Passages:

General Outline:

Read Acts 18:18 - 20:1; 13 - 38 (by-pass 19:23-31)

Comments:

Read Ephesians 1:1-2

Apostle =

Notice “an apostle” of whom?

Why significant point?

Notice, too, how he became “an apostle”?

What does this say for us today when it comes to “apostles” or “preachers”?

Whom is this letter addressed to?

How are these people described by the apostle?

What is significant about the word “saints”?

The word “Grace” used here emphasizes what?

The word “peace” used here emphasizes what?

Where can such “grace” and “peace” be found?

Anywhere else?

Read Ephesians 1:3-14

Notice who is to get the “praise” and why?

What can we learn from this verse, verse 3?

Verse 4 gets us into the Doctrine of Election. Why is this teaching hard for many?

Why were “we” “adopted as his sons”?

What important fact does Paul mention in verse 7?

Significance?

Verse 13 ties in well with Romans 10:17, how so?

Meaning for us?

Does verse 14 say “we will never fall away”?

See 2 Corinthians 1:21-24; 1 Corinthians 10:11-13

Need this trouble us?

See Hebrews 10:23-25

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul, in verse 15, has another reason to praise God, what is it?

Paul not only gives praise to God, he also does what - verse 16?

What is the content of Paul's prayers for the congregation(s)?

How was/is the "power" of God demonstrated?

What comfort can we receive from verses 21-23?

Read through the entire chapter once again, this time without interruption.

Notice again what it is that brought one into faith, vs. 13.

Why were the Jews hostile toward the Gentiles?

Was such hostility necessary or warranted?

What was Jesus' purpose on earth according to vss. 15 & 16?

See Colossians 2:16-17.

Isn't vs. 17 in contradiction to Matthew 10:34?

Why/Why not?

What is so important about having "access to the Father"?

"Consequently" - since vs. 18 is true then what follows is true also.

What benefits are there in being part of "God's household"?

What is the picture being drawn with words like, "foreigners and aliens"?

Why is our salvation so sure, vs. 20?

What evangelism message can we find in vs. 21?

If vs. 22 is true, why is there friction in the church - among us?

The "cure" for disunity is what?

Read through chapters 1 & 2.

Recap what the Apostle Paul has written so far.

Read Ephesians 3:1-13

What do the words "For this reason" refer to?

What is "the administration of God's grace"?

What is the "mystery" that was revealed to Paul?

Were non-Israelites saved in the Old Testament? If so, how?

What is it that ties believers of all ages together?

Is the church ever in danger of losing this unity? Explain.

Notice how Paul describes himself in vs. 7. What can we learn from this?

Why does Paul consider himself to be "less than the least of all God's people"?

Which type of person comes across "truly" eager for the Gospel? Why?

What act of God is made mention of in this section as well justification?

How is one able to approach God?

Faith in God gives us what? For what?

What part of the Lord's Prayer teaches us the same thing?

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

Notice what is the "heart & soul" of Paul from vs. 14 (vs. 1 too), not self-centered.

Paul's prayer is similar to an earlier one, what is he praying for again? Why?

What do human beings have a tendency to do with God, reference to vs. 18?

What comfort can we take from vs. 20?

What role can we play with what is said in vs. 21?

Define the word "unity".

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

How does one "live a life worthy of the calling received"?

If good works do not get us into heaven, why and how are they important to do?

What stands in the way of putting the words of vs. 2 into action?

Does vs. 3 indicate we must just roll over and be stepped on in order to attain unity?

Ought we concentrate more on what others churches have in common with us, than what they don't in an attempt to join together with them (how much unity does there have to be between church bodies and/or individuals when it comes to religious matters)?

What does Christ's ascension mean for us today?
(How many days after the Resurrection did the Ascension take place?)

What is the difference between an "apostle" and an "evangelist"?

The purpose of these people listed in vs. 11 is what?

How can we (the laity) help those who have been called by God through the congregations in their work?

Vs. 14 indicates as well why the work of "pastors and teachers" is so important.
What are some "waves"/"teachings" that can toss people back and forth?

Can everyone who claims to be a preacher be trusted? Why/Why not?

What are we to look for before we follow a preacher or join a church?

Vs. 16 - we are in this together, work together in love, support one another. Is there room in our lives for improvement when it comes to this?

Read Ephesians 4:17-32

What is meant by the words "the futility of their thinking"?

How can we tell Paul is serious about this, not living like the Gentiles do?

Who is Paul referring to here with the word "Gentiles"?

Vs. 18 makes reference to what teaching in Scripture, thus they are ignorant?

Vs. 19 - Sometimes God allows people to have what they ask for as punishment.
(see Romans 1:18-28)

How did the Ephesian believers come to know Christ?

Do we still need the encouragement to "put off the old self"? Explain.

Reread vs. 25. What do we hope to accomplish by this vs?

Why is it good advice not to "let the sun go down while still angry"?

Paul recognized too that idle hands meant trouble.

How good are we at practicing vs. 29?

Notice we are to "build one another up", too often we "love" to do the opposite.

Vs. 30 indicates a continual grieving of the Spirit, bad habits.

Vs. 31 - "get rid of" = make a clean sweep; "bitterness" = crabby, sour;
"rage" = expressed immediately and with passion; "malice" = every way of
hurting one another

Vs. 32 - "kind" = useful; "compassionate" = sensitive and open to the needs of
others; "forgiving" = recall the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer ---
Discuss ways we can put this verse into practice, but first look at it in the
light of God's mirror (we fall way short of what God expects from us, give
thanks for His grace)

Review "Key Passages" in Chapters 1 - 4.

Read Ephesians 5:1-21

What does it mean to be an "imitator"?

Notice who we are to be imitators of, not man, but God.

Are we to be role models, are we responsible for setting examples for others?

Notice how we can be imitators of God. How so?

How much of our lives as Christians is to be consumed by living a life of love?

What picture do we see with the words, "fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"?

Vs. 3 gets us into what is not a part of living a life of love, being imitators of God;
what is that?

What is meant by the words, "not even a hint of..."? (discuss: living together
outside of marriage to keep income checks)

Notice what is to be the predominant attitude expressed by a believer in vs. 4.

What is the stern warning given in vs. 5?

Vs. 6 - pick your "associates" carefully, wisely; not cold toward others though.

Vs. 8 repeats a common theme throughout Ephesians - once in darkness, now
in light, thus live as light. (Law - Gospel - Law)

Vss. 9-10, see Galatians 6:1-10.

Vs. 11 tells us not to just watch sin do its work, but do what with it?

Vs. 12 - is it still considered this way today? Why/Why not?

Vss. 13-14, see Hebrews 4:11-13.

Vss. 15-17 indicate that there is no good time to rest from doing God's will.

Vss. 18-20 encourage us to be encouraging, see Matthew 25:34-40.

Vs. 21 - based on what was just said, here is the reason to put into practice what
is going to be said; if we keep this in mind, who we are ultimately doing this for
and why the negative vibes are dispelled

Read Ephesians 5:22-33

What comes to mind with the word "submit"?

What does God have in mind with the term?

How has God's intentions been taken and used the wrong way?

Notice the order God has established in vs. 23.

Vs. 25 tells husbands that they don't have a free reign, how are they to act?

If a husband puts these words into practice, what will be the result?

Neither husband nor wife have a license do to do what pleases them but what pleases God, this in turn will be pleasing to them (according to the New Man)

Why in vs. 33 why does Paul emphasize to the husband to "love", and to the wife to "respect"?

Sum up the content of chapter 5.

More practical advice for the child of God follows in chapter 6, advice/words we are willing to put into practice out of love for God.

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

Why is difficult for many children today to “honor father and mother”?

Vs. 3 - what is meant by the words “enjoy long life,” not many do, do they?

Vs. 4 - what does the word “exasperate” mean?

Notice to whom the primary responsibility of raising children in the Lord has been given.

Read Ephesians 6:5-9

What was the advice given to slaves, and why were they to follow it?

What is the application from this section for us today?

Vs. 8 - what kind of “reward” will be received from the Lord?

God truly demonstrates “no favoritism” when He also addresses the “masters”.

Read Ephesians 6:10-24

What does it mean to be “strong in the Lord”?

How can one be “strong in the Lord”?

Notice who provides the armor/ the protection to put on - God.

What is implied with the words “take your stand”?

Notice who the battle is against - the devil.

In addition to putting on the armor of God, what also is the Christian to do?

What are we to pray for?

What stands in the way of our being bold witnesses of the Gospel?

What was Paul's purpose in writing this letter?

Notice how he ends the letter, same as he started it - “grace and peace”

Insights/comments on Ephesians.

474 - Stand Up...

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross!
Lift high his royal banner; It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory His army shall he lead
Till every foe is vanquished And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Stand in his strength alone.
The arm of flesh will fail you; Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle, The next, the victor's song.
To him that overcometh A crown of life shall be;
He with the King of glory Shall reign eternally.