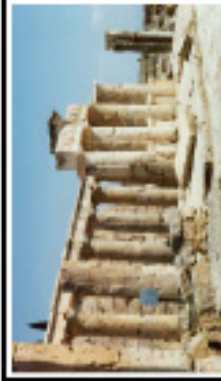


EPHESIANS: Being the Body



Paul's Connection with the Ephesian Church

1. Ephesus was an important commercial center in the Roman Province of Asia and served as it's capital. It was at the intersection of several major trade routes.
2. It was famous for it's temple honoring Diana, the fertility goddess, & was considered one of the seven ancient wonders of the world.
3. Paul visited Ephesus briefly at the end of his 2nd missionary journey, establishing the church, leaving Priscilla & Aquilla behind to care for the church (Acts 18:18-21).
4. On his 3rd missionary journey he spent three years at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-20) during which time the church became a center of outreach for all of Asia.
5. On his way to Jerusalem he stopped and met with the elders from Ephesus and gave them an emotional farewell challenge (Acts 20:17-38).

Ephesians Insights

1. Ephesians seems to have been a circular letter shared between many churches.
2. It is the least colored by local issues of all of Paul's letters and thus is easy to apply.
3. Paul's enthusiasm is seen in eight long sentences in the letter (1:3-15, 15-23; 2:1-7; 3:2-13, 13-19; 4:1-6, 11-16; 6:14-20).

Practice

"Act like it!"

Epistolary Prescript: Grace to You and Peace		E:1-2 E:3	
The Praiseworthy Work of the Trinity The work of the trinity in salvation should lead to praise of God's glory: • Selected by the Father (1:3-6) • Sacrificed for by the Son (1:7-12) • Sealed by the Holy Spirit (1:13-14)		E:14	E:15
A Prayer for Insight into Our Position in Christ • Spirit of wisdom & revelation to know God better (1:17) • Eyes enlightened to see Hope, Inheritance & Power (1:18-23)		2:1	2:3
REDEMPTION - Made Alive in Christ Past - Dead (2:1-3) Present - Made Alive (2:4-6) Future - Displayed (2:7) Current Purpose - Saved by Grace for Good Works (2:8-10) RECONCILIATION - Peace Through Christ Past - Far Away (2:11-12) - Present - Brought Near (2:13-22) MINISTRY - The Mystery of Christ Message - Jew & Gentle as Partners (3:1-6) - Ministry - Preaching (3:7-13) A Prayer to know God's Wisdom and Christ's Love Attitude (3:14-15) - Request (3:16-19) - Doxology (3:20-21)		4:1	3:14-21
THEME: "Walk Worthy (chs.4-6) of Your Calling (chs.1-3)." The Churches Unity should reflect the Tri-unity of God (4:2-6) God's Program for the Church (4:7-16) Gifted leaders training every believer for ministry so that the church grows in unity, maturity, & Christ-likeness.		4:16	4:16
Walking in New Life means Putting off the Old Lifestyle and Putting on the New Lifestyle by Changing the way we Think (4:17-24) Walking in New Life is Characterized by Truthfulness, a Constructive Use of Anger, Hard Work, Beneficial Speech, & Forgiveness (4:25-32)		5:1-6	4:17 4:32
The Heir of the Kingdom of God must Imitate God by Loving like Christ not Lusting like Unbelievers (5:1-6)		5:7-14	5:1-6
Christians should be Living Lights who Expose the Deeds of Darkness by Knowing and Doing what Pleases God (5:7-14)		5:15	5:7-14
The SPIRIT FILLED LIFE is Characterized by Praise & Harmony Walking in Wisdom means Holy Spirit Control (5:15-18) Exhortation: Be Filled with the Spirit (5:18) - Evidence: Praise & Harmony (5:19-6:9) General Principle: Submitting to One Another (5:21) Submissive Wives & Churches (5:22-24) • Loving Husbands & Loving Lord (5:25-33) Orphan Children & Nurturing Parents (6:1-4) • Hard Working Employees & Fair Employers (6:5-9)		6:9	5:15
Christians in Spiritual Battle must Rely on God's Strength and Resources by Wearing the Armor of God (6:10-20)		6:10-20	6:10-20
Epistolary Postscript: Peace and Grace		6:21-24	6:21-24

We are in Christ.

We must walk as Christ.

Blessing		Grace & Peace		Stand in Armor	
Exordium		Narratio		Peroratio	
Engendering Goodwill		Narration of Background		Summary & Call to Action	
Exhortatio		Exhortation to Act in Keeping with Truth		Peroratio	

Paul, writing from prison to the church at Ephesus, reminded them of the blessings of being "in Christ" and set forth the glory of being the church, challenging them to live in a manner worthy of their calling as the Church, in order to enthusiastically call the church to experience all that God had for them, both in this life and in the life to come, by walking as Christ (Practice) just as they are *in* Christ (Position).