

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 1:1-3 – *The Introduction and Context of the book*

Today's Message:

"Fully Purposed"



INTRODUCTION

Today, we begin a new book – *Ephesians* – with an overview and introduction. It is a deep book, perhaps the deepest spiritual book in the New Testament as it relates to the body of Christ. It covers the vastness of time – from eternity past (1:4) to eternity future (2:7). Ephesus was a powerful commercial center and was also a capital city of the Roman Empire. It was the center of worship of the goddess Diana (Acts 19:34-35). The temple constructed for her worship was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world (a.k.a. Temple of Artemis). The lost and idolatrous Ephesians jealously protected her worship (Acts 19:23). Because of this darkness and the unprecedented opportunity for the gospel, Paul resided there for 3 years (Acts 20:31). What a dark place Ephesus must have been; however, a light shines brightest in the darkness! God proves this point by showing us that the gospel spread from this place into all of Asia (Acts 19:10)! Is it any wonder that God would choose to reveal the mysterious “building” of the church, the chaste bride of Jesus Christ, and the unsearchable riches of His grace and forgiveness in such a place as this? And what about America today? This is God’s message to you...

FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION

Overview of Ephesians

Title Means: *Fully purposed.* **Time:** 62 to 64 AD (same as *Philippians*, *Colossians*, and *Philemon*)

The Numbers: *Chapter(s): 6 | Verses: 155 | Words: 3,039* **Ps 12:6-7; Prov 30:5**

Author: *Paul* *Written from Rome unto the Ephesians by Tychicus. (KJV translator note)*

Theme: **The Church, the body of Christ – our wealth and our walk.**

Context: *This is Paul's first imprisonment. At times we may feel like we are in bondage. It is then that we must remember that we have the potential opportunity to affect the whole world for the sake of the gospel. Instead of giving up, we should walk by faith and trust God more!*

THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS

1. **Historical** Paul writes to encourage the believers in the wealth of their position in Christ and their responsibility to walk worthy of their calling amid the spiritual wickedness.
2. **Doctrinal** Just like the Ephesus Church Period, believers must keep their focus on the doctrine of justification by grace through faith alone and walk in that faith to avoid wolves.
3. **Devotional** Our life and lifestyle reflect our true understanding of all we received when we were placed into Christ – we are His *body* and His *bride*.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." (1:3)

We are wealthy people in Christ. Amen.

OUTLINE STRUCTURE

Chapters 1-3	<i>The believer's WEALTH in Christ.</i>	1:7, 11, 14, 18; 2:7; 3:8, 16
Chapters 4-6	<i>The believer's WALK in Christ.</i>	4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15; 6:11; 13, 14

LEARNING TOGETHER❖ **The Text** **Acts 18:18-22; 19:1-41; 20:17-38; Ephesians 1:1-3****A. God's Investment – from seeds planted... to strength... to warnings...**

- Seeds Planted** – Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey came to Ephesus briefly...
 - **Acts 18:19-22** – *And he came to Ephesus, and left them... **I will return**... if God will...*
 - The first stop in Ephesus was short. Sometimes the first move of God is _____.
- Three Year Investment** – Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey stayed here the longest.
 - **Acts 19:8** – *And he went into the synagogue... **spoke boldly** for... **three months**...*
 - **Acts 19:9-10** – *... the school of one Tyrannus... continued by the space of **two years**...*
 - **Acts 20:31** – *... by the space of **three years** I ceased not to warn... night and day...*
 - **The Reach:** Acts 19:10 says *all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of God*...
 - **The Impact:** Satanic strongholds were confronted, occult books burned publicly!
 - No revival meetings or weekend conferences – daily Bible teaching *and* preaching!
 - The word of God grew mightily *and* prevailed; Satanic practices were exposed!
 - The pagan businesses and \$ supply chains were threatened; riots shook the city!
 - Ephesus became a missionary base for ministry training and church _____!
- Tears Sowed** – The Ephesians elders were called by Paul for a sober warning.
 - **Acts 20:29** – *For I know this, that **after my departing** shall grievous wolves enter in...*
 - **Acts 20:32** – *And now, brethren, **I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace**...*
 - **The Reminder:** In an emotional scene, Paul shared his heart and love for them.
 - **The Warning:** Ephesus was strong – but vulnerable to false teachers, corruption.
- Letter Written** – Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (our study) was written years later.
 - **Ephesians 1:3** – *Blessed be the God... who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings...*
 - **The Book:** 2 main NT doctrines – how to be saved, how the saved ought to live.
 - **The Keys:** We are greatly blessed *in Christ*; we are His **body** and His **bride**.
 - They had been disciplined and built up in Christ; this was not shallow Christianity.
 - God reminded them of all riches in Christ and prepared them for spiritual _____.
- Final words** – Jesus spoke to them **directly** through John's Revelation decades later.
 - **Revelation 2:1-3** – *I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience... not fainted...*
 - **Revelation 2:4-7** – *Nevertheless... against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love**...*
 - **The Good:** They were hard-working, patient, doctrinally sound, rejected heresy.
 - **The Problem:** They had all they needed yet fell out of **love** with Jesus Christ!
 - They were not heretics. They were not immoral. They simply became _____!

The Impact

Satanic strongholds were **confronted**.

Occult books were **burned** publicly.

A city-wide **riot** broke out.

Ephesus was a spiritual **battlefield**.

The church was strengthened and **fully purposed!**

Important Note

Strong churches are not built by events.

They are built by:

The word of God

Multiplied disciples

Faithful believers

Faithful warnings

Prayerful tears

Ephesus was forged – **not entertained.**

The Final Word

The church that once had...

Impacted the world
Burned occult books

Wept with Paul

Received so much

... had lost their love for the Saviour who had died for them

and given them everything He had.

“... who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”

Ephesus was fully purposed – they already possessed everything they needed.

*Not earthly blessings – all spiritual blessings **in** Christ!*

*Not worldly inheritance – heavenly identity and inheritance **in** Christ!*