

# EPHESIANS: The Letter to the Saints

## MAJOR THEMES

The Gospel Story & Our Story | The Church | Spiritual Warfare

## KEY VERSES

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!” 2:4-5*

*“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope at your calling—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” 4:5-6*

*“Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.” 6:11-12*

## OCCASION FOR WRITING

Mystery | Unity | Spirituality

*“Paul’s references to the church as a “mystery” (divine secret), previously unknown but now revealed, identify the apostle’s main purpose in writing, as having been the exposition of the mystery of the church (1:9; 3:3-4, 9; 5:32; 6:19). His emphasis on the church as Christ’s body, in which both Jewish and Gentile believers are one, suggests that Paul wrote to promote unity in the Ephesian church and in the universal church.” T. Constable*

*“Ephesians emphasizes God’s action in planning, decreeing, and providing salvation, the importance of the Christian’s growth in knowledge, the importance of living out one’s faith consistently, and spiritual warfare. Ephesians is one of the most well-loved of Paul’s epistles, because it is both very important doctrinally and extremely practical.”*

## FOR THE CHURCH TODAY

*In the Church, every Christian is part of God’s glorious redemption plan uniting a holy God to a sanctified people that is matriculating throughout every nation and generation. Through the Church, the truth and power of the gospel are displayed. With the Church, the Holy Spirit invites any to join in God’s redemption plan.*

**Ephesians 1-3 SIT in the SALVATION of God in Jesus**

**Ephesians 4:1-6:9 WALK in the STATUTES of God through Jesus**

**Ephesians 6:10-24 STAND in the SPIRIT of God with Jesus**

**Ephesians 1:1-6** Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

## Greeting

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:

To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus. <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## God's Rich Blessings

<sup>3</sup> Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding. <sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the right time — to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.

<sup>11</sup> In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.

<sup>13</sup> In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. <sup>14</sup> The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

## Prayer for Spiritual Insight

<sup>15</sup> This is why, since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.

## God's Power in Christ

<sup>20</sup> He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens— <sup>21</sup> far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And **he subjected everything under his feet** and appointed him as head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.