

Key Verse

4:1 “Live a Life worthy of the calling you have received”

Ephesians 1:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

“To the faithful” – His message is to encourage the faithful

“To the Saints” – Reminds them, they have been chosen by God.

“Grace” – Reminds them of the grace they have received

“Peace” – Therefore peace is the posture they should maintain

For Further Study:

“Powers of Darkness” by Clint Arnold

“Bondage Breaker” by Neil Anderson

Small Group Questions:

1. What is your initial impression of the book and message of Ephesians?
2. Based on the sermon, how might Ephesus be similar to Fairbanks?
3. What questions do you hope to have answered as we go through this book?
4. Eric stated that the theme vs. was Ephesians 4:1. Read this together as a group and consider your present walk with God. Is there a gap between your position in Christ and your walk with Christ?
5. The Apostle Paul gives the faithful saints his customary greeting: “Grace and Peace to you”. How does this greeting square with the theme of the book?
6. Why do you think the book of Ephesians is so beloved?
7. How can we pray for each other?

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Intro to the book of Ephesians: Ephesians 1:1-2 (NIV)

Eric Johns

“Understand your position in Christ, and to walk in a manner worthy of it.”

Author - by the Apostle Paul (1:1, 3:1)

Date - AD 59-61

Location - Paul is writing from prison in Rome (3:1; 4:1)

Audience/occasions - Ephesians is most likely an “encyclical” letter intended for several different churches in the region, with Ephesus being it’s primary audience.

- No specific problems are addressed (Gal, 1 Cor.)
- No personal references (Rom. 16 where he seemingly names the half the town)
- Paul’s preexisting relationship with Ephesus (Acts 18-20)

Paul’s relationship to Ephesus

Visited Ephesus on his second missionary journey (Acts 18:19)

Spent 2-3 years of his third missionary journey in Ephesus (Acts 19:8-10 and 20:31)

Later visited with the Ephesian Elders at Miletus on His journey to Jerusalem (Acts 20:17-38)

Ephesus - one of the most important cities in the Roman empire, population over 300,000

Home of the worship center for the Greek goddess Artemis (Diana in Latin) the supposed daughter of Zeus.

Theme and Purpose

Paul wrote this Epistle to make Christians more aware of their position in Christ, and to motivate them to draw upon their spiritual resources in daily living.