

Ephesians: Alive in Christ

Week 1: Introduction to Ephesians

**“What if you’ve been living as if the gospel is true,

but not that important?”**

Before We Open the Letter

What Scripture is, and how we read it

Foundation 1: God's Word

From God, not merely about God

2 Timothy 3:16–17

It has a definite meaning — God communicated intentionally

The Word does something

Hebrews 4:12

We are not the only agents in the room

Foundation 3: Truth

Without error. Fully sufficient.

Psalm 119:160 / John 17:17

We come to receive it, not evaluate it

Foundation 4: Will Not Return Void

It accomplishes what God intends

Isaiah 55:10–11

Faithful handling is never wasted

Our Posture

Humility — we come as recipients

Interest — there is always more here than we've seen

Intention — we come to obey, not accumulate

One meaning. Intended by the author.

Who wrote it?

Who received it?

What world did it inhabit?

Literal · Grammatical · Historical

Literal

plain, natural meaning

Grammatical

words and structure carry meaning

Historical

written at a specific moment, to specific people

One meaning. Many applications.

- 01** Shared situations
- 02** Underlying principles
- 03** Where they stood in salvation history
- 04** Different impacts, same meaning

Now — The Letter

Author · World · Structure · Themes

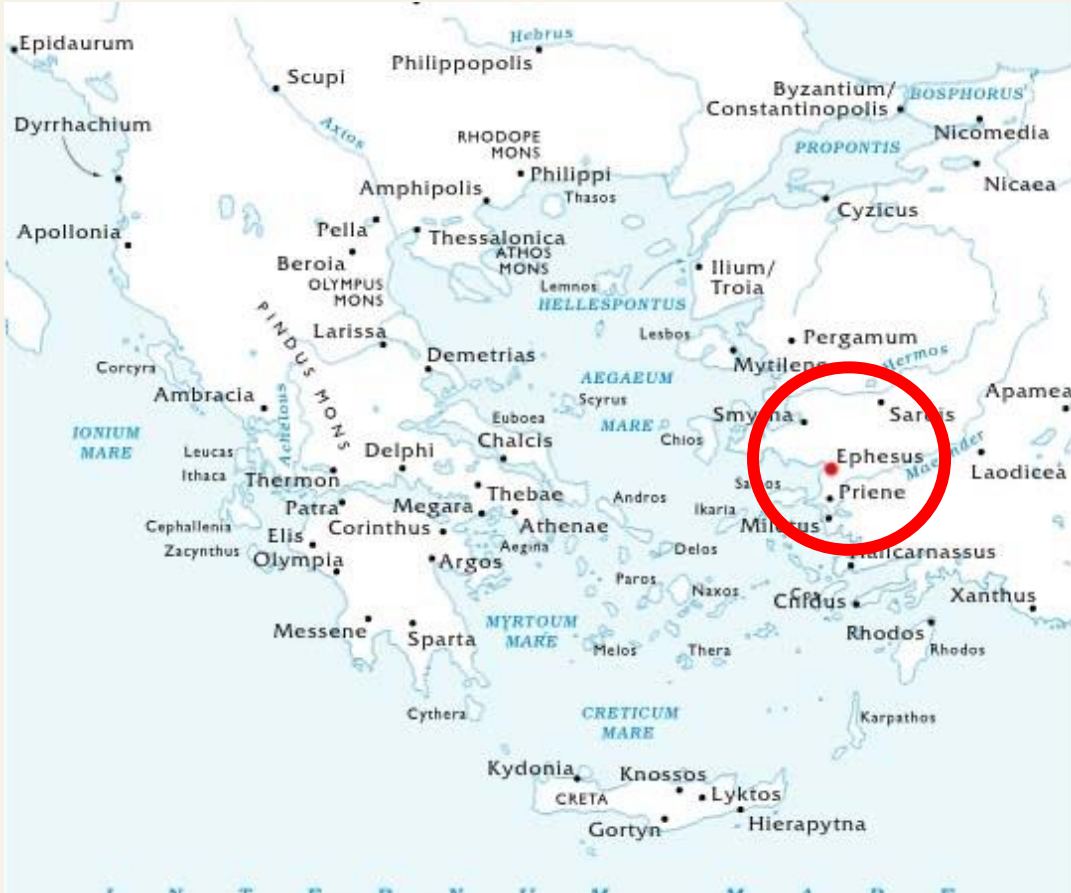
Paul — Apostle by the Will of God (1:1)

Writing from house arrest in Rome, ~A.D. 60–62

Chained to a guard. Confident in Christ.

What does it tell us that he wrote this in chains?

The City: Ephesus



- 4th largest city in the Roman Empire — ~250,000 people
- Home of the Temple of Artemis — one of the Seven Wonders
- Center of magic, occult practice, and emperor worship

Paul plants “one God and Father of all” (4:6) here

What does it cost to say that in this city?

Who Is This Letter For?

Likely a circular letter — multiple churches across Asia Minor

No personal greetings. No local controversy.
Written for the faithful — wherever they are.

...Including us

Paul's Relationship with This Church

3 years — his longest stay anywhere (Acts 19–20)

Farewell at Miletus — warned of wolves, wept with elders (Acts 20)

By Revelation 2 — doctrinally sound, but lost their first love



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The Shape of Ephesians

WEALTH · WALK · WARFARE

Chapters 1–3 · Chapters 4–5 · Chapter 6

First who you are — then how you live

Five Threads That Run Through Everything

1. The sovereign grace of God
2. Union with Christ
3. The church as God's new humanity
4. Spiritual warfare
5. Walking worthy

Theme Spotlight: Union with Christ

“In Christ” — 30+ times

Not positional accounting. A living, transforming union.

Ephesians 1:3

Theme Spotlight: The Church

The church is not incidental — it is the point

The advance exhibition of what the whole cosmos will become

Ephesians 3:10

Paul doesn't give embattled people better survival strategies.

He gives them a bigger view of what God has already done.

That's what this summer is about.
