



“Drawing From the Well”

“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

Womens Ministry of Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship

BACKGROUND ON THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Lesson 1

*“Some of God’s best truths, like priceless treasures,
are hidden in depths most folks never take the time to search out.”
Charles Swindoll*

Ephesians is considered one of Paul’s prison Epistles. He was a prisoner in Rome when he wrote the Epistle to the Ephesians in about A.D. 60. He was writing to people he knew and loved. He had spent over two years teaching the Ephesian people (Acts 19:9,10). Since there are no personal greetings at the beginning of the letter, it is possible that this was intended to function as a circular letter for several churches in Asia Minor.

The book of Ephesians is written to Christians who don’t understand the riches they have in Christ. As a Christian, are you aware of how rich you are? There was a lady by the name of Hetty Green, who was known in American history as “America’s Greatest Miser.” When she died in 1916, she left an estate valued at \$100 million. That was a lot of money in 1916! It is said that Hetty Green was so miserly that she ate cold oatmeal because it was too expensive to heat the water to warm it. Her son had a severe leg injury, but because she delayed so long in trying to find a free clinic, his leg had to be amputated. In fact, she had an attack of apoplexy, which hastened her own death, while arguing over the merits of skim milk because it was cheaper than whole milk! That’s a strange lady – one who obviously didn’t understand her resources and how to use them.

Do you know the full extent of the spiritual power offered to you to help you live a full Christian life? Paul’s letter to the Ephesians addresses this, too. This epistle has been an inspiration to new Christians as well as veterans in the faith. As you prepare to study the book of Ephesians, open your heart to God and let Him teach you new and wonderful things that were written JUST FOR YOU!

EPHESUS IN THE TIME OF PAUL

Don’t pass over this section. It is vital that you begin your study of Ephesians by understanding a little about the city of Ephesus; it’s people and the church.

The province of Asia with its many splendid cities was one of the jewels on a belt of Roman lands encircling the Mediterranean.

Located on the most direct sea and land route to the eastern provinces of the empire, Ephesus was an emporium that had few equals anywhere in the world. Certainly no city in Asia was more famous or more populous. It ranked with Rome, Corinth, Antioch and Alexandria among the foremost urban centers of the empire.

Situated on an inland harbor (now silted up), the city was connected by a narrow channel via the Cayster River with the Aegean Sea some three miles away. Ephesus boasted impressive civic monuments, including, most prominently, the temple of Aremis (Diana), one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Coins of the city proudly displayed the slogan Neokoros, “temple-warden.”

Here in Ephesus Paul preached to large crowds of people. The silversmiths complained that he had influenced large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia (Acts 19:26). In one of the most dramatic events recorded in the NT, the Apostle escaped a huge mob in the theater. This structure, located on the slope of Mt. Pion at the end of the Arcadian Way, could seat 25,000 people!

Other places doubtless familiar to the Apostle were the commercial Agora, the Magnesian Gate, the Town Hall or “Council House,” and the Street of the Curetes. The location of the lecture hall of Tyrannus, where Paul taught, is unknown.

INTRODUCTION

DAY ONE: Background of Church at Ephesus

1. For a better understanding of the book of Ephesians we need to look at the background of the Church in Ephesus. Read the following passages and briefly describe what occurred.
 - a. **Acts 18:18-21** (Paul’s first visit)

 - b. **Acts 18:24-26**

 - c. **Acts 19** (Paul’s second visit)

 - d. **Acts 20:17-27** - What testimony did Paul give in Acts 20:21?

 - e. **Acts 20:28-38** (A.D. 55-56)

 - f. **1 Timothy 1:3** (A.D. 64)
2. What is your general impression of the city of Ephesus and the people?
3. What one event in the above passages impresses you the most?
4. What person or persons stands out the strongest to you? Why?
5. What verse especially spoke to your heart?
6. Read **Revelation 2:1-7**. Although the church in Ephesus by AD 96 had many outstanding works, what did Jesus say He had against them? (verse 4).
 - a. What does this mean?

 - b. What did He tell them they needed to do?

Personal: Reflect on your life. Is your love for Jesus as fervent as when you first believed in Him for salvation? Spend some time in prayer focusing on His greatness! Selah.

DAY TWO: Overview of the book of Ephesians, Chapter One

1. Begin your time today in prayer. For the rest of the week we will look at the Book of Ephesians as a whole to see the overall message. Chapter-by-chapter study will begin next week. Please take some time in a quiet place and read the entire book of Ephesians through at one sitting, just as you would read a letter upon receiving it.
2. Go back and read **Chapter one of Ephesians**. Remember to read with a purpose! Asking yourself *who, what, where, when, why and how?*
3. What phrases or repeated words captured your attention? (This would be the central theme). You may need a separate sheet of paper for this.
4. Write a title for this chapter. _____

Challenge: From Ephesians chapter one write down all that you see about the following.

Vs	God	Vs	Jesus	Vs	Holy Spirit

5. What truth do you need to apply to your life today? Spend time in prayer, asking God to work this in you!

*You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the treasure that I seek, You are my all in all*

DAY THREE: Ephesians 2 & 3

1. Prayerfully read **Ephesians, chapter 2**. Remember to read with a purpose! Asking yourself *who, what, where, when, why and how?*
2. What phrases or repeated words captured your attention? (This would be the central theme)
3. Write a title for this chapter. _____
4. Write one sentence summarizing the following from **chapter 2**.

Challenge: On a separate sheet of paper make columns and list all you find in **Chapter 2** regarding the following subjects.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. God | d. Grace |
| b. Jesus | e. Peace |
| c. Holy Spirit | f. Citizenship |

5. Prayerfully read **Ephesians, chapter 3**. Remember to read with a purpose! Asking yourself *who, what, where, when, why and how?*
6. What phrases or repeated words captured your attention? (This would be the central theme)
7. Write a title for this chapter. _____
8. Write one sentence summarizing the following from **chapter 3**.

Challenge: On a separate sheet of paper make columns and list all you find in **Chapter 3** regarding the following subjects.

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| a. God | d. Paul |
| b. Jesus | e. Love |
| c. Holy Spirit | f. Power |

9. What did you find in these chapters to apply to your life today?

DAY FOUR: Ephesians 4 & 5

1. Prayerfully read **Ephesians, chapter 4**. Remember to read with a purpose! Asking yourself *who, what, where, when, why and how?*
2. What phrases or repeated words captured your attention? (This would be the central theme)
3. Write a title for this chapter. _____
4. Write one sentence summarizing the following from **chapter 4**.

Challenge: On a separate sheet of paper make columns and list all you find in **Chapter 4** regarding the following subjects.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| a. God | d. Growth |
| b. Jesus | e. Christian Conduct |
| c. Holy Spirit | f. Forgiveness |

5. Prayerfully read **Ephesians, chapter 5**. Remember to read with a purpose! Asking yourself *who, what, where, when, why and how?*
6. What phrases or repeated words captured your attention? (This would be the central theme)
7. Write a title for this chapter. _____
8. Write one sentence summarizing the following from **chapter 5**.

Challenge: On a separate sheet of paper make columns and list all you find in **Chapter 5** regarding the following subjects.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| a. God | d. Consequences of Sin |
| b. Jesus | e. Light |
| c. Holy Spirit | f. Marriage |

9. What did you find in these chapters to apply to your life today?

DAY FIVE: Ephesians 6

1. Prayerfully read **Ephesians, chapter 6**. Remember to read with a purpose! Asking yourself *who, what, where, when, why and how?*

2. What phrases or repeated words captured your attention? (This would be the central theme)
3. Write a title for this chapter. _____
4. Write one sentence summarizing the following from **chapter 6**.

Challenge: On a separate sheet of paper make columns and list all you find in **Chapter 6** regarding the following subjects.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| a. God | d. Relationships |
| b. Jesus | e. Christian Warfare |
| c. Holy Spirit | f. Prayer |
5. Are there areas in your life that need changing in light of your study this week? Write down some areas that you would like God to change in your life. *You don't have to share this with the group unless you wish to ask for prayer.*
 6. Write a sentence or two of **praise and thanksgiving** to Him for all the wonderful riches He has made known to you through the book of Ephesians!

Great job!

Often the most difficult part of a study is laying the groundwork.
Please don't get discouraged if you couldn't complete this week's work.

Just sit down and read the entire book at one sitting several times.

Remember, it's not *how much* you know, it's *Who* you know!

After getting a picture of the book in its entirety, we are now ready to begin the study of Ephesians!

"The Lord bless you, keep you, and cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you!"

Numbers 6:24