

Bible Reading Notes
Ephesians

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Ephesians 1

Paul wrote Ephesians at the same time he wrote Colossians. There is a considerable similarity in the themes. Tychicus delivered both letters (6:21; Colossians 4:7).

1:3-14 – This is one long sentence in the Greek blessing God for spiritual blessings. It can be looked at from the perspective of past (vv. 3-6), present (vv. 7-10), and future (vv. 11-14) or from the perspective of the three persons of the Trinity.

1:15-23 – Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians. His concern is that their spiritual eyes would be opened to discern their hope, God’s inheritance of them, and God’s great power.

1:21 – Christ is seated above Satan and all of his demonic host.

Ephesians 2

2:4 – But God – Salvation could only come at God’s initiative because our spiritual deadness made it impossible for us to take any action.

2:14 – peace – Christ not only brought peace between the sinner and the holy God but also between believing Jews and Gentiles.

2:17 – far off – Gentiles who were not part of the covenant. **Near** – The Jews who were the covenant people.

Ephesians 3

- 3:1 – For this reason** – This refers back to the material of chapters 1-2 and God’s gracious salvation of his people.
- 3:3 – mystery** – A mystery in the Bible is something that was hidden and could only be understood by revelation from God.
- 3:6** – The mystery is that Gentiles are included as part of the people of God.
- 3:14-21** – Paul now prays that the Ephesians would understand in a deeper way the greatness of God’s love which he has shown to them.
- 3:20 – than all we ask or think** - This is why we can never request too much from God!

Ephesians 4

- 4:1 – therefore** – Paul now moves to apply the implications of the great salvation God has given.
- 4:3 – unity** – The unity of God’s people is shown in the following verses by using the term “one” six times.
- 4:7** – Our unity also includes the diversity of gifts that God has sovereignly given his people.
- 4:9 – descended** – to earth in his incarnation. **Ascended** – to the right hand of God.
- 4:12** – Key text for properly understanding the roles of the pastor and the congregation in the work of the church.
- 4:17-32** – Paul now lays out the changes that Christ makes in the life of a believer. Believers do not live like those around them apart from Christ.

4:22-24 – **put off...put on** – Paul uses the analogy of taking off dirty clothes and putting on clean clothes to refer to our sanctification.

4:25-32 – The new life we have in Christ should be seen first in how we interact with others.

Ephesians 5-6

5:1-21 – The Christian life is a life of love imitating God (v. 1). We are called to a life of moral purity (vv. 3-5), living in the light (vv. 6-14), redeeming our time (vv. 15-16) and living with one another in the power of the Holy Spirit (vv. 17-21).

5:21 – **submitting to one another** – Submission is the mark of the believer.

5:22-6:9 – Paul explains what should characterize the Christian home by showing each person's role in that home.

6:10-20 – In our spiritual battle the only sure defense is to put on the spiritual armor that the Lord provides.