

# EPHESIANS

## LESSON 01

### Introduction

#### 1. Purpose of Studying Ephesians

- a. To profit from the doctrine and instruction to us today – 2 Tim 3:16
- b. It is an essential description of what God is doing through the church today
- c. It describes the mystery of Christ, the dispensation of grace, the church
- d. To understand God's calling and ministry in the church

#### 2. What to Expect

- a. Details – 49<sup>th</sup> book, 5<sup>th</sup> Pauline epistle. 6 ch. 155 v. 3,022 words. ~28week series
- b. Audience – “saints... at Ephesus” (unless you read the ESV, NASV, NIV.)
  - i. The most mentioned church in Paul's ministry – Acts 16, 18-20,
  - ii. He spent much time there, and fought with 'beasts' there 1Co 15:32, 16:8
  - iii. The capital of Asia (minor) (Act 19:22), the city worshipped Diana (Act 19:35)
  - iv. Mentioned in the list of seven in Revelation 1:11, John's warning - 2:1-7
  - v. Ephesus was diverse: Jews (Act 2:9), believing and not, John's disciples (18:24, 19:1-10), little flock (1 Pet 1:1), Paul's ministry, and Gentiles Eph 4:17
- c. Dispensational Context – Israel is fallen, but present. Mystery revealed, Paul in bonds.
  - i. Paul is in prison – Eph 3:1, 6:20 (multiple imprisonments Ac 24:23-27, 28:28)
  - ii. Speculation surrounds the dating, no direct clues except after Acts 20
  - iii. No other person/place mentioned save Tychicus (Eph 6:21, Acts 20:4)
  - iv. Tychicus also goes to Ephesus in 2 Tim 4:12
  - v. That it is similar to Colossians people want to link them together in time.
  - vi. Other possibles – Trophimus (Acts 21:29) Demas, Epaphras (Col 4:12)
  - vii. Why did he write? Perhaps they wrote to him first – Eph 6:22
- d. Themes – Church/body (16x), Christ (45x). love (16x), Grace (12x), mystery (6x)

#### 3. Popular Passages

- a. Eph 1:4-12 – Calvinism calls this home: election, predestination, sovereignty
- b. Eph 2:8-9 – On Baptist bookmarks across the country
- c. Eph 3 – In dispensational books for centuries, otherwise ignored save 3:20
- d. Eph 4:4-6 – The seven one's; Eph 4:11 – The gifts of men
- e. Eph 5 – Marriage controversy chapter; Eph 6:10-17 – The spiritual armour

#### 4. Brief Outline

- a. Ephesians 1-3 – Doctrine (standing-position) – God's glory in the church
  - i. Purpose (1), nature (2), mission (3) of the church
- b. Ephesians 4-6 – Duty (state-practice)– Their calling, walk, ministry in the church
  - i. Their union with Christ (4), their separation from vanity (5), their love for one another (5-6), their stand against the devil (6)