


A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF
EPHESIANS

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...POTENTATE (Monarch, Ruler, Sovereign)



...PLAN



...PURPOSE



...PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION TO EPHESIANS

“a theologically based, pastorally-oriented” ...letter written to a circle of churches in Asia Minor around **addressing two pragmatic concerns:**

- **the internal unity of the congregations and**
- **the need for a distinctively Christian lifestyle in a pagan environment**¹

The Author: Paul, an apostle (least of all...the apostles...least of all the saints 3.8)

Author of 13 or 14 (Hebrews) NT documents

Truly a Jesus hater...now one who: loves the Lord Jesus with love incorruptible (6.24)

Never underestimate the grace of God in the gospel of Jesus! Never!

May you & I be inspired by the story of his life...and attempt great things for God...and NOT WASTE YOUR LIFE!

The Recipients: Those Ephesians Ancient Ephesus forms an appropriate background to the book of Ephesians because of this city's fascination with magic and the occult (see [Acts 19:19](#), and below). This helps explain Paul's emphasis on the power of God over all heavenly authorities and on Christ's triumphant ascension as head over the church and over all things in this age and the next. The Ephesians needed to be reminded of these things in order to remain resolute in their allegiance to Christ as the supreme power in the world and in their lives.

The Theme: sublime: lofty, transcendent, uplifting, awe-inspiring, deep, wide, long, expansive!

Ephesians unfolds the glories of the details of the Sovereign Triune God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) who has revealed His plan and purpose for His people, the Church, for the ages!

R. Schnackenburg, however, describes Ephesians as a genuine letter. More specifically, he sees it as “a theologically based, pastorally-oriented” ...letter written to a circle of churches in Asia Minor around A.D. 90 **addressing two pragmatic concerns: the internal unity of the congregations and the need for a distinctively Christian lifestyle in a pagan environment**

The theme of *Ephesians* is the disclosure of God's eternal divine plan & purpose, which is the uniting together and reconciliation of all things in and through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The Framework: There is no particular “issue” going on here with these Christians, as so often the case in Paul's other letters. Here is the placarding, the bill-boarding, the up in neon lights as it were, of the glories of God in the church!

1. **Theology / Truth / Indicative (1-3)** (This is not our doing) This is God working in a gracious manner toward us.

¹Clinton Arnold, “Ephesians, The Letter to” from Hawthorne, G. F., Martin, R. P., & Reid, D. G. (1993). *Dictionary of Paul and his letters* (245). Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.

See where Paul begins. He wants to write to these people...see where he begins? What God has done? Not what we do or are to do! Once again, here is the horse of the horse and buggy

2. Living Reality / living out / practice / imperative (4-6)

This is what God, in His grace produces. This is the fruit of the Spirit!

Here is the buggy, as in the horse and buggy

The Hinge Verse:

Ephesians 4:1-6 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, (2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, (3) eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (4) There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- (5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

PIC They're Baaack! Horse & Buggy

CONCLUSION

Let's go from "Accuracy...to more accuracy" as we grow together in this examination of Ephesians. Here are some ways to grow:

- Read
- Listen
- Write
- Intro of the ESV Study Bible
- Mark Dever's one sermon on Ephesians
- See our audio and resources page: www.haverhillcc.org

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had set his heart **to study** the Law of the LORD, and **to do it** and **to teach** his statutes and rules in Israel.

To the glory of God and by the power of the Risen Jesus!

AMEN!