

1 – THE LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS (EPHESIANS 1:1-2)

I. Introduction to the Letter

A. The Nature of the Epistles

1. New Testament Literature

- The New Testament is made up of four types of books.
- The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), Historical (Acts), Apocalyptic (Revelation) and Epistles.
- Each type of book varies in its purpose and structure.
- The difference in types requires approaching the book based on its type.

2. The Epistles (Letters)

- The epistles can be divided into two groups: The Letters of Paul and The General Letters.

3. Characteristics of the Epistles

- The epistles are not consistent and uniform.
- The epistles were intended for a specific occasion.
- The occasion of the epistle must be taken seriously.
- The epistles are not necessarily theological treatises.

4. Basic Rules for the Epistles

- The text cannot mean what the verses never meant to its author or original readers.
- Where we share similar life situations with the first century church, God's word is the same for us.

B. The Purpose of the Letter

- This letter was written in A.D. 61, while Paul was imprisoned in Rome under house arrest.
- Paul does not deal with any known problems or issues in this letter.
- The purpose of the letter was to strengthen believers by explaining the nature of the church.
- He explains the nature of the church by presenting God's overall design for it.

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- Paul also sought to relay the practical demands of Christian living in this world.

C. A Basic Outline Of Ephesians

1. Doctrinal Instruction Concerning the Christian Faith (Ephesians 1:1-3:21)
2. Practical Instruction Concerning the Christian Life (Ephesians 4:1-6:24)

II. Paul's Letter (Ephesians 1:1-2)



A. The Author (Ephesians 1:1a)

- The writer identifies himself as the apostle Paul.
- Paul states that he was an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God.

SCRIPTURE Acts 9:1-19

- Paul established the church in Ephesus.

SCRIPTURE Acts 19:1-10

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- Paul maintained a close relationship with the church.
- Paul continued to give guidance to the church as he ministered in other areas.

SCRIPTURE Acts 20:17-38

B. The Recipient (Ephesians 1:1b)

1. Saints

- Paul refers his letter to the saints who are in Ephesus.
- The word “saints” means a person sacred to God and usually refers to members of a church.

2. Faithful

- Paul also refers to the believers in Ephesus as faithful.
- The word “faithful” expresses that the believers in Ephesus stayed true to Gospel.

C. The Greeting (Ephesians 1:2)

- Paul greets his readers with a greeting of grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus.