

EPHESIANS

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INTRODUCTION

1. Church probably established by Paul on his second journey.
 2. Revisit Ephesus on his third journey and stayed 2 to 3 years.
 3. Epistle written from Rome, while Paul was in prison about A.D. 62.
 4. Has been described as:
 - a. "Perhaps the most profound book in existence" Stalker
 - b. "In this book we can enter the Holy of Holies of Paul's writings"
 - c. "There is no portion of the N.T. equal to this" Adam Clark
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God's Eternal Purpose

1. In Colossians Paul emphasizes the supremacy of Christ.
 2. In Ephesians he emphasized the supremacy of the church.
 3. Ephesians teaches us that the church is **not a part** of God's Eternal scheme of redemption...**it is God's scheme of redemption.**
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Greatness of The Church

- A. WE SOMETIMES HEAR:
 1. The church is not necessary to salvation"
 2. "We need to hear more Christianity and not so much Churchanity.
 3. "Jesus yes" the church "no".
 - B. The book of Ephesians repetitiously affirms the greatness of the Lord's church.
 1. The church was paid for at Calvary (1:25; 1:14).
 2. The church was eternally purposed (3:1, 11; 1:11).
 3. The church sustains precious relationship with the Lord.
 - a. It is His body (1:22,23).
 - b. His family (2:19).
 - c. His temple (2:21)
 - d. Lord's Army (6:10-20).
 4. Innumerable blessings are to be received in the church (1:22,23).
 - a. "If there is one blessing to be received outside of Christ, it is to that extent that Christ is not the fulness of the Godhead."
 - b. If there is just one spiritual blessing that can be received outside the church, it is to that extent that the church is not the fulness of Christ"
 5. Heaven is the destiny of the church (5:27).
 6. The church is God's glory on earth (3:21).
 7. The church is the fulness of Christ (1:22,23).
 8. The church is the demonstration of God's wisdom (3:10,11).
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FEATURES...

A. DISTINCT FEATURES OF GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE:

1. First, God purposed to save man from sin.
2. God purposed to save man by Jesus Christ (Man could not save himself)
3. God purposed that man should be saved by His (God's) grace and favor.
4. God's saving grace was to be revealed, and made efficacious, through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ.
5. God purposed that His salvation for man was to be revealed and appropriated in and through the gospel.

GRACE the GROUND----BLOOD the CAUSE— GOSPEL the MEANS

6. God purposed that His salvation would be enjoyed only "in Christ" ("In Christ" more than 30 times in Ephesians) almost 200 in Paul's writings.
7. God purposed that all who accept Christ must be saved in the church.
8. God purposed that "in Christ" and His church all redeemed people are to experience and enjoy the abundant life.
 - a. "The riches of his glory" to sustain them. (1:18)
 - b. "The riches of his grace" to save them (2:8).
 - c. "The riches of his mercy" to keep them (2:4).

B. God purposed that all redeemed people should find peace, unity, and Harmony in Christ and His church.

HOW AFFECTS LIVES..

A. HOW THIS DIVINE PURPOSE AFFECTS OUR LIVES.

1. Christians must practice unity. *"Since we, who enjoy the fruits of God's revealed purpose for mankind, are members of "one (the same) body" we should endeavor to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (4:1-3) Have we not all accepted Christ as our common Savior and Lord? Have we not all believed the "one (the same) faith"? Have we not all received the "one baptism"? Are we not all filled with the "one (the same) Spirit? And do we not all enjoy the "one hope" of our heavenly calling?*
2. Christians must attain Spiritual maturity (4:3-13).
3. Christians must live Holy lives (4:17-20).
4. Christians must maintain proper domestic relations (5:23-6:10)
Husbands, wives, children, slaves, master)

B. CHRISTIANS MUST FIGHT THE BATTLES OF THE LORD (6:10ff).

FOR AS CHRISTIANS THERE CAN BE....
NO CROWN WITHOUT FIRST THE CROSS
NO VICTORY WITHOUT FIRST THE BATTLE
NO REWARD WITHOUT FIRST THE LABOR