

EPHESIANS - OUTLINE

BY

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Introduction: 1:1-2

Theme - The Importance and Glory of the Lord's Church

I. Foundation of the Church In the Eternal Purpose of God - 1:3-14

A. Definition: Church is Spiritual Kingdom - the "heavenly places in Christ" (1:3)

B. Based on God's Purpose:

1. vs. 2 - "chosen" before foundation of the World
2. vs. 5 - "foreordained" - adoption as sons
3. vs. 7 - "redeemed" by blood
4. vs. 9 - "instructed" by revelation
 - (a) "fulness of times" - under God's control
 - (b) "summed up in Christ" - God's plan
5. vs. 11 - "made a heritage"
6. vs. 13 - "sealed" by the Holy Spirit

C. Church is blessed, instructed, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

II. The Head of the Church - Christ Himself - 1:15-23

A. Vs. 15-19 - Prayer for Them

1. vs. 17 - to understand
2. vs. 18 - to be enlightened about:
 - a. hope of His calling
 - b. riches of the inheritance
 - c. vs. 19 - greatness of His power - as seen in the resurrection of Jesus

B. Vs. 20-23 - Dominion of Jesus:

1. vs. 20 - seated at God's right hand
2. vs. 21 - far above all authorities
3. vs. 21 - far above all names
4. vs. 22 - over all things
5. vs. 23 - Head over the church

C. Vs. 23 - Another Definition of the Church

1. "Body" of Christ
2. "fulness" of Christ

- a. fitly framed
 - b. grow into a temple
 - c. habitation of God
- V. Function of the church - 3:1-21 - Preaching
 - A. Goal of Knowledge - vs. 1-6 - to understand
 - 1. Method of Transmitting Knowledge
 - a. Revelation - vs. 3
 - b. Inspiration - vs. 3
 - c. Study of Scripture - vs. 4
 - 2. Specific "mystery" involved - vs. 5-6
 - Gentiles are:
 - a. fellow-heirs
 - b. fellow-members
 - c. fellow-partakers
 - B. Use of Knowledge - Preaching - vs. 7-13
 - 1. Preaching
 - a. a "grace" - vs. 8
 - b. designed to make men "see" - vs. 9
 - c. designed to unfold drama of redemption - vs. 10
 - 2. Preaching - related to Eternal Purpose - vs. 11-13
 - C. Knowledge as Channel of Strength - vs. 14-21
 - 1. focus - inner man - vs. 16
 - 2. creates Christ within - vs. 17
 - 3. result of faith:
 - a. rooted and grounded in love
 - b. strong to apprehend and know love
 - c. filled unto all the fulness of God
 - 4. Gratitude and trust - vs. 20-21
 - a. praises to God - able to do according to power at work within us
 - b. glory forever
- VI. Unity of the Church - 4:1-16
 - A. Created by the Holy Spirit - vs. 1-3
 - B. "Oneness" defined - 7 distinctive areas - vs. 4-6

1. one body
2. one Spirit
3. one hope
4. one Lord
5. one Faith
6. one Baptism
7. one God

C. Basis of "Oneness" - the Ascended Jesus - vs. 7-10

D. Method of "Keeping" Unity - teaching - vs. 11-16

1. "gifted" men - vs. 11
2. Purpose - to "perfect" the saints:
 - a. unto ministering - vs. 12
 - b. unto building up the Body - vs. 12
 - c. bring to a unity of the Faith
 - d. ...to a knowledge of the Son
 - e. ...unto a full-grown man
 - f. ...unto a measure of Christ
 - g. ...unto stability

3. Teaching of Christ produces growth - vs. 15-16

VII. Integrity of the Church in a Pagan World - 4:17-6:20

A. Avoid Gentiles moral standards - 4:17-24

1. Ignorance causes darkness, alienation - vs. 18
2. Contrary to learning Christ - vs. 20-24

B. Cultivate responsible speech - vs. 25-32

C. Imitate God - 5:1-14

D. Use Life for Worship and Service - 5:15-21

E. Serve in Your "Calling" - 5:22-6:9

1. wives - help the husbands - vs. 22-24
2. husbands - be responsible
 - a. as Christ is over the church - vs. 23
 - b. love as Christ loved - vs. 25-30
 - c. Example - Christ died to save the church
 - d. Example - Christ nourishes and cherishes the church - vs. 29
 - e. Actually - marriage is a type of Christ and the church (vs. 32), and lessons may be mutually applied between "marriage" and "Christ and His Church".
3. children - obey and honor parents - vs. 6:1-3
4. parents - nurture without provoking - 6:4
5. Servants - obey - as unto Christ - 6:5-8

6. Masters - treat servants as you want Christ to treat you - 6:9
7. Strengthen yourselves "in the Lord" - 6:10-20
 1. Prepare self totally - vs. 11
 2. Recognize the nature of the battle - vs. 12
 3. Description of the armor - vs. 14-17
 4. Remember prayer - vs. 18-20

Conclusion - Consult with Tychicus - vs. 21-24

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR EPHESIANS

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I. 1:3-14 - "Foundation of the Church"

1. Explain the significance of "has blessed us" being an aorist tense in Greek.
2. What are "the heavenly places" as used in this book?
3. What are "the heavenly places in Christ"?
4. When did God plan the church?
5. What did God foreordain (1:5) and where did he elaborate on this scheme?
6. What is the plan made known to us?
7. How is the church a "heritage" (1:11)?
8. How is "grace" the foundation of the church (1:4-7)?

II. Head of the Church - 1:14-23

1. How does God build us up?
2. Where does wisdom come from in our lives?
3. What demonstration of God's power does Paul refer to?
4. Where is Jesus now?
5. What things in the church is Christ the Head over?
6. How is the church the "fullness" of Jesus?
7. Describe the Dominion of Jesus
8. What are the "eyes of the heart" (vs.18)?

III. 2:1-10 - Life in the Church

1. What "killed" us and how?
2. Where does Satan work?
3. What did grace do for us (vs.5)?
4. What does "made us to sit with him" mean (vs. 6)?
5. Are we saved by grace or works?
6. Explain - "we are His workmanship"!
7. What does Paul say about "baptism" in this section?

STUDY QUESTIONS - EPH.

IV. 2:11-22 - "Universality of the Church"

1. Describe the condition of Gentiles before Christ.
2. Explain how they were "made nigh"
3. What did Jesus do to the law?
4. What is the "one new man"?
5. How is the "one new man" formed?
6. What is the relation of Gentiles to Jews in Christ?
7. What characteristic of the church is mentioned in vs. 21-22?

V. 3:1-21 - Function of the Church

1. What does "dispensation" mean in 3:2?
2. How does Paul's knowledge become ours?
3. What was the revelation he received?
4. What is the purpose of the church?
5. Explain how Christ "dwells in us"!
6. What does Paul say about God that should assure us?
7. What does "fellow heir" mean?
8. What is the "eternal purpose" of God?

VI. 4:1-16 - Unity of the Church

1. Why did Paul say "keep" the unity of the Spirit instead of "creat" it?
2. What are the areas out of which created a distinct body of people?
3. How does the Holy Spirit create unity?
4. How does the church grow?
5. What is the "bond of peace" (vs. 3)?
6. Explain God as "over all, through all, in all".
7. How is teaching the "Foundation" of the church?

VII. 4:17-6:20 - "Integrity of the Church"

Explain what "Integrity of the church" means.