

EPHESIANS OVERVIEW

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS AND BELIEVERS EVERYWHERE



Ephesians

A letter of encouragement, written by Paul, from prison in Rome, possibly AD 60-62.

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians shows that Baptism united Jews and Gentiles, leaders and followers, and all believers across all generations.

Ephesus

Capital of the Roman province of Asia Minor – modern Turkey – an important political, educational, and commercial center.

Ephesus was well situated as a trade center, with its harbor, access to the Cayster River, and location close to the Meander Valley. It was a free city, famous for its temple to the Greek goddess Artemis and also for its thriving Jewish population, which enjoyed considerable privilege.

Luther on Ephesians

In this epistle St. Paul teaches, first, what the gospel is, how it was predestined by God alone in eternity, and earned and sent forth through Christ, so that all who believe on it become righteous, godly, living, saved men, and free from the law, sin, and death. This he does in the first three chapters.

Then he teaches that false teachings and the commandments of men are to be avoided, so that we may remain true to one Head, and become sure and genuine and complete in Christ alone. For in him we have everything, so that we need nothing beside him. This he does in chapter 4.

Then he goes on to teach that we are to practice and prove our faith with good works, avoid sin, and fight with spiritual weapons against the devil, so that through the cross we may be steadfast in hope.

References:

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