

In Christ: A Study of Ephesians Introduction

Ephesians 1:1-14

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians reveals the position and job description of the Church in effecting God's new order. It answers the question, *what does it mean to be in Christ, and what does this demand of us?*

Hughes, R. K. (1990). [*Ephesians: the mystery of the body of Christ*](#) (p. 15). Crossway Books.

As Christians, we so often live like spiritual paupers when we are spiritual billionaires, blessed in Christ “with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places”

Hamilton, I. (2017). [*Ephesians*](#) (J. R. Beeke & J. D. Payne, Eds.; p. 2). Reformation Heritage Books.

The message of the Bible from beginning to end is designed to bring us back to God, to humble us before God, and to enable us to see our true relationship to Him. And that is the great theme of this Epistle; it holds us face to face with God, and what God is, and what God has done; it emphasizes throughout the glory and the greatness of God—God the Eternal One, God the everlasting, God over all—and the indescribable glory of God.

This Epistle tells us throughout that we should always contemplate our salvation in this way. We must not start with ourselves and then ascend to God; we must start with the sovereignty of God, God over all, and then come down to ourselves.

Lloyd-Jones, D. M. (1978). [*God's Ultimate Purpose: an Exposition of Ephesians 1*](#) (p. 13-14). Banner of Truth Trust.

60 A.D.

What was Ephesus like?

Prison epistle

Key words:

In 86 x: in Him, In Christ, In the Beloved

Grace twelve times: glorious grace

riches of His grace, by grace

will ten times: will of God, purpose of His will,
counsel of His will

One twenty-nine times: one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord

Mystery six times: mystery of His will,
mystery of Christ, mystery of the Gospel

Pastoral letter

Ephesians 1:16–23 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 3:14–21 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Theme: the sovereignty of God

Salvation

Ephesians 1:3–6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Time

Hebrews 1:1–2 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the **world**.

Aiōn: ages, time, and space

Ephesians 1:10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Kairos: opportune time

Isaiah 49:8–12 Thus says the LORD: “In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, ⁹saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’”

Romans 5:6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Purpose

Ephesians 1:10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 1:16–20 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

Ephesians 3:14–19 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Outline

1-3 The Gospel

4-6 The Church

bibleproject.com/explore/video/ephesians/

That we would know the hope to which is ours. The power which is ours. The unity we are to have. The love that is ours. The love we are to have. The conduct we are to have. The readiness which we are to have. The boldness we are to have.