

A Tour Through the Divine Library  
(Ephesians)

I. General Introduction to Ephesians

-Title and Recipients: “To the Ephesians” (1:1)

-Author: the apostle Paul (1:1; 3:1; 4:1; 6:20)

-Date: AD 60-62 during Paul’s first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:16-31)

-Purpose: remind the Ephesians of their spiritual privileges and moral obligations stemming from their union with Christ (Eph. 4:1)

-Structure:

I. The Privileges of the Christian (chs. 1-3)

II. The Practice of the Christian (chs. 4-6)

II. General Overview of Ephesians

-Greeting (1:1, 2); Hymn of Praise (1:3-14); Prayer for Enlightenment (1:15-23); New Birth (2:1-10); Reconciliation (2:11-22); Revelation of a Mystery (3:1-13); Prayer for Strength and Understanding (3:14-21)

-The Church (4:1-16); Christian Living (4:17-6:9): Not as the Gentiles (4:17-19); Not as You Used To (4:20-5:21); Home (5:22-6:9); Spiritual Warfare (6:10-20); Conclusion (6:21-24)

III. Prominent Themes in Ephesians

-Themes: Union with Christ (*et al*); Sovereignty of God (1:4, 5, 11; 3:11); The Church (1:22, 23; 4:11-16); Inclusion of the Gentiles in God’s Redemptive Plan (2:11-22); Spirit-filled Christian Living (4:30; 5:18-6:20)

IV. Christ in Ephesians

-Union with Christ; Christ central to salvation and Christian living

V. Practical Lessons in Ephesians

1) Paul’s prayers are a model for prayer (1:15-23; 3:14-21).

2) Marriage is intended to be a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church (5:31, 32).