

# EPHESIANS OVERVIEW

## **Author**

Paul, written while he was imprisoned in Rome, probably between 60-62 AD. He likely wrote Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians during this same imprisonment.

## **Audience**

The church at Ephesus, founded by Paul on his second missionary journey. He had left Priscilla and Aquila there along with Apollos who came later to serve this body. He returned to Ephesus later and stayed three years, this time leaving Timothy to continue equipping and encouraging this body of believers. The church was made up of both Jewish and Gentile converts. This church was crucial to the spread of the gospel due to its location.

## **Background passages**

Acts 18-20

1 Corinthians 15:32

Revelation 2:1-7

1 & 2 Timothy were also written to encourage Timothy as he led this church

## **Ephesus**

- Fifth largest city of the time
- Commercial and religious center of Asia Minor
- Not a primitive place
- Heavily influenced by Greek thought
- Deeply immoral culture
- Materialistic
- Contained many religious and spiritual schools
- Pluralist culture
- Many ideas vying for power

## **Themes**

1. Christ, Lord of all creation
2. Nature and Purpose of the Church
3. Unity in a Divided World
4. Calling on Believers' Lives
5. Choose to Walk Worthy

Like many of Paul's letters, Ephesians begins by explaining a worldview and then moves into more specific instruction. Chapters 1-3 are focused on doctrine, 4-6 focused on practice.

Ephesians contains big themes and truths to be shared with a little church that likely felt insignificant and unimportant.