

Women's BIBLE STUDY

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EPHESIANS

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STUDY GUIDE 1

Introduction

The Epistle (or letter) to the Ephesians may well have been a circular letter, intended to be passed around to a number of churches. It was probably written by the Apostle Paul while he was imprisoned in Rome in about 62 AD.

Although this letter was penned almost 2000 years ago, the ink can still seem wet on its pages, so contemporary and alive is its message. It was addressed to people living in an era of personal and social disintegration in the Roman Empire – and it is also intended for us today. Consider it to be your mail! Its purpose: to bring you great hope, vastly expanded horizons, wisdom for everyday living and a clearer picture of the exalted Lord who loves you.

For your personal study in this series, a good translation of the Bible such as the New American Standard or the New International Version is recommended. The lessons will be based on the wording in these versions.

1. What's the first thing we do with a letter? Read it - all the way through! Do this at least once. It will take about 20 minutes. (I did it __.)

As you read, jot down your observations here. (Make note of such things as repeated words, phrases or themes, structure, topics that are emphasized, goals or emotions of the writer.)

Read Ephesians 1:1-2.

The Greek word "apostolos" means messenger. And when the Bible refers to the Apostles (including such men as Peter and John), the title denotes a very special messenger. These men had walked and worked with Jesus when He lived on earth (they are called the Twelve Disciples in the Gospels), and they had seen Him after His resurrection. They were chosen by Jesus to be given unique authority to teach and lead the early church, and to serve as direct witnesses to Christ's life and resurrection. It was through these men (or under their direction) that God gave the fully authoritative instruction to the church contained in the New Testament. The New Compact Bible Dictionary says, "Their office was not, and could not be, passed on to others. It was unique."

2. You won't find Paul's name mentioned at all when the disciples (later to be named apostles) are listed in the Gospels. Yet what does he tell us about himself in verse 1?

Why do you think he tells his readers this before launching into this teaching letter?

3. There's a great story behind these words, and Paul tells it himself in Acts 26:4-6, 9-22. Read this passage, answering the following questions as you go:
 - a. How would you describe Saul before the Lord got hold of him (and renamed him "Paul")?

 - b. What happened that marked the turning point in Paul's life? (And what did God have in mind for him?)

10. Believers in Christ all live in two spheres - they take into account that there is more going on than meets the eye! What difference does this fact make in the way we live and look at life day by day? (For example, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.)

11. In Ephesians 1:2, Paul desires for his readers grace and peace. Define these terms using a dictionary.

12. Do you feel the need of these resources today? Explain.

13. They are available! Who are the sole suppliers of these precious commodities, according to verse 2?

Many of the themes Paul will explore have been introduced in these two short opening verses. There are great things to come as we dig into this book in the following weeks!

14. The following quote wraps up this study. Read, enjoy and underline anything you find particularly helpful.

“Another picture that our Lord loves to use is that of the shepherd who goes out to look for the sheep that is lost (Mt. 18:12ff). So long as we imagine

that it is we who have to look for God, then we must often lose heart. But it is the other way about: he is looking for us. And so we can afford to recognize that very often we are not looking for God; far from it, we are in full flight from him, in high rebellion against him. And he knows that and has taken it into account. He has followed us into our own darkness; there where we thought finally to escape him, we run straight into his arms.

So we do not have to erect a false piety for ourselves, to give us hope of salvation. Our hope is in his determination to save us. And he will not give in!

This should free us from that crippling anxiety which prevents any real growth, giving us room to do whatever we can do, to accept the small but genuine responsibilities that we do have. Our part is not to shoulder the whole burden of our salvation, the initiative and the programme are not in our hands: our part is to consent, to learn how to love him in return whose love came to us so freely while we were quite uninterested in him.

Also we can let ourselves off that desperate question, "Am I in the right place?" "Have I done the right thing?" Of course, we must sometimes acknowledge sins and mistakes and we must try to learn from them; but we should not foster the kind of worry that leads to despair. God's providence means that wherever we have got to, whatever we have done, that is precisely where the road to heaven begins. However many cues we have missed, however many wrong turnings we have taken, however unnecessarily we have complicated our journey, the road still beckons, and the Lord still "waits to be gracious" to us (Isaiah 30:18).

If we let these things really speak to us, then we can surely accept our Lord's invitation, indeed his command, to cast all our cares upon him (1 Peter 5:7) and let him care for them. We can give space in our hearts for Christ to dwell there, and it is faith that gives him space (cf. Ephesians 3:17). We can let him dethrone us from being God in our own hearts, and establish his own rule...

From Prayer by Simon Tugwell

☞ Kathy Rosenvall

Thoughts in the Margins – Study Guide 1

- I. Ephesians 1-3 emphasize *knowing* (doctrine,) while chapter 4-6 accentuate *walking* (application.) Why is it paramount to thoroughly understand doctrine before launching into application?
- II. The Ephesian church was seven or eight years old when it received Paul's letter. Paul's epistle isn't the only connection to the city of Ephesus in the New Testament. The following summary gives a brief overview of the city's connections to the Scriptures.

Ephesus in the New Testament

Ephesus was a thriving city in the first and second centuries. The New Testament features many direct and indirect connections to Ephesus. These connections lend weight to the significance of the Book of Ephesians.

Paul first stopped by Ephesus at the end of his second missionary journey, as he traveled from Corinth to Jerusalem to observe Passover in the spring of 52 AD.

During Paul's third missionary journey, he stayed in Ephesus about two and a half years. The gospel outreach grew in Asia Minor during this time, with Bible figures Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos all contributing to that growth through teaching and evangelism.

The prominence of the city itself helped the spread of the gospel. Ephesus was the capital of Asia Minor under the Roman Empire during Paul's day. The port city was located along key trade routes, making it a center of commerce. It was also home to one of the seven wonders of the Ancient World, the Temple of Artemis. The temple was an attraction to tourists and religious pilgrims. The city was also a center of learning and culture. Ephesus was home to the Library of Celsus and The Great Theatre with 25,000 seats.

Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesian church during his first imprisonment in Rome, sometime between 60 and 62 AD, about seven or eight years after his extended visit.

Following his time in Ephesus, Paul left his young disciple Timothy in charge of pastoring the Ephesian church and as a result we have Paul's two epistles to Timothy about leading a church and guarding against false teachers.

After Paul's execution in 64 AD, Timothy continued pastoring the Ephesian church until his own death around 97 AD. Extrabiblical sources state Timothy died from injuries following an attack for opposing a pagan festival in Ephesus.

The Apostle John and Mary, mother of Jesus, moved to Ephesus after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD during the first Jewish-Roman war. During his time in Ephesus, John was exiled (*because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus*, Revelation 1:9) to the nearby island of Patmos for about 2 years. While on the island of Patmos, John received the Revelation of Jesus Christ. The church in Ephesus is one of seven churches called out in the Book of Revelation — the church received a dire rebuke: they had *left their first love*. After the death of Roman emperor Domitian, John was released and he returned to Ephesus.

From Ephesus John wrote his gospel and three epistles near the close of the first century. John's gospel emphasizes the divinity of Jesus and the eternal life available to all who place their faith in Him. John's letters addressed the growing cultural influence of Gnosticism and encouraged his readers to remain steadfast to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As we study this doctrinally rich Scripture, keep in mind Ephesus' people, cultural influences, and unfolding history that follows this timeless letter. John Stott calls the Book of Ephesians "a marvelously concise, yet comprehensive summary of the Christian good news and its implications."

☞ Mary Ann Porter

Additional Scripture for Study Guide 1

☐ Acts 26:4-6

⁴“So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my *own* nation and at Jerusalem; ⁵ since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived *as* a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. ⁶ And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers;

☐ Acts 26:9-22

⁹“So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.

¹²“While so engaged as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, ¹³ at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me. ¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵ And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; ¹⁷ rescuing you from the *Jewish* people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’

¹⁹“So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but *kept* declaring both to those of Damascus first, and *also* at Jerusalem and *then* throughout all the region of Judea, and *even* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance. ²¹ For this reason *some* Jews seized me in the

temple and tried to put me to death. ²² So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place;

□ **Acts 20:17-38**

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them,

“You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

²⁵ “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. ²⁶ Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. ²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me. ³⁵ In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

³⁶ When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ And they *began* to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, ³⁸ grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

□ **1 Timothy 1:12-17**

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*. ¹⁶ Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

□ **Romans 11:33-12:2**

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴ For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? ³⁵ Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? ³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

¹² Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

□ **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

²⁶ For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no man may boast before God. ³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness

and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."

☐ **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

☐ **Matthew 18:12**

¹² "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying?"

☐ **Isaiah 30:18**

¹⁸ Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you,
And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you.
For the Lord is a God of justice;
How blessed are all those who long for Him.

☐ **1 Peter 5:7**

⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

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STUDY GUIDE 2

Ephesians 1:3-14

1. Make a list of the worries, concerns and pressures that are pushing in on your thoughts today. (Everything from personal headaches to today's headlines.)

What are some of the ways we can feel as we face into these matters on a day-to-day basis?

We have a goodly number of challenges coming in at us! They can seem to completely fill our horizons at times, as we're all looking for understanding, solutions and resources to meet them. And further complicating the issue is the fact that we're also looking for a way to live in peace and satisfaction, in the midst of all that life can bring.

Into our struggle, God brings His Word and Himself. And particularly in the book of Ephesians, He shows us what's really going on in this world, and what that means for us. He expands our horizons in a big way, and gives us a whole new way to look at our lives.

This week, we'll be studying Ephesians 1:3-14, which is all one sentence in the original Greek! It's a torrent of good news – some have likened studying this passage to taking a drink from a fire hydrant! God has a lot to tell you. Trust Him to be your teacher and "eye-opener".

Read Ephesians 1:3-14 two times. (___ ___) Notice that it is full of references to the Father, His son Jesus Christ, and the Spirit. As you read through these verses, look carefully at the pronouns he, him and his to determine who is doing what.

Memorize Ephesians 1:3.

2. In verse 3, Paul tells us that there's more going on than meets the eye – there is another dimension to life that he calls "the heavenly realms". From the following verses, what do you learn about the participants and activities in this unseen realm?

Isaiah 40:10, 21-31, Psalm 103:20-21

Ephesians 6:11-13, 1 Peter 5:8-9, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3. Paul also tells us in Ephesians 1:3 that the heavenly realms are the source of blessings for us – *spiritual blessings*. Using a dictionary, tell what is meant by the word "blessing".

What are some of the things the world around us would call blessings – things we really need to have or be in order to be happy or satisfied?

4. Some of us might see the offer of "spiritual blessings" in verse 3 and think, "In other words, religious things that God cares about, not the things I really want and need." What view of God does that display?

Well, Paul obviously holds another opinion! Read verses 4-6 – notice that this section begins with "For" (or "just as"). These verses begin to explain the nature of God's blessings to us.

5. Let's see if God's spiritual blessings address our real needs and desires. The following phrases from verses 4-5 show God in action -- for you. Read, consider and write down your observations, telling what is especially meaningful to you today, and why.

He chose [you] in him before the creation of the world...

...to be holy and blameless in His sight

In love He predestined [you] to be adopted as sons to Himself through Jesus Christ.

Note: Even more of God's spiritual blessings will come to light as we continue our study through Ephesians.

Note on predestination: For centuries people have been trying to figure out how to reconcile two ideas presented over and over in Scripture – the truth of God's sovereignty, and the truth of human responsibility and opportunity. Nobody has yet accomplished this! (Except God, whose understanding is infinite.) A few things are helpful to remember:

- i. God is perfectly loving, good and righteous.
- ii. Read 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Acts 17:27 – He loves you!
- iii. Notice that the NIV and NASB versions say, "In love, He predestined us..." Predestination is mysterious, but the emphasis here is inclusion, security and grace, not exclusion and fear. God tells you this truth for your supreme comfort – it is a mark of His unchangeable love for you. Let's rejoice and move on!

Read verses 6-8. The word "grace" used here contains several key ideas. It implies a desire to give joy, an intention to be kind, is directed toward one in need and helpless (even undeserving), and it is for the sake of the one helped, at the total expense of the giver.

6. Every desire and plan of God that is mentioned in this entire section is always "in Christ" or "through Christ". List every place where these phrases are used in verses 3-14.

7. Verse 7 helps us see why this is so (why it is that we are in Christ through Christ!) How does a dictionary define *redemption*?

Why did we need to be redeemed? (See Romans 3:23-24.)

According to verse 7, how was this accomplished for us? See also John 3:16 and 1 Peter 1:18-19. (Note that the word "him" in verse 7 refers to Christ.)

8. In what ways is God's grace described in verses 6-8?

Why are those such fitting words to describe what God has done for you?

This passage is intended to show Christians what they really have, and who they really are! All those great spiritual blessings – our security in God's love, our place as His children by His choice, the fact that to Him, we are HOLY and BLAMELESS!!, that all our sins of all our life (past, present, future) are forgiven – ALL of this is "freely given us" because Jesus died for us, according to God's beautiful plan. As a matter of fact, when we put our faith in Jesus, we are "put into" Him, or "clothed in Christ" (Galatians 3:27). That means that when our righteous God looks at us Christians, even at our worst times of failure, He sees not our ugly sin, but the sacrificed blood of the Son and the perfect righteousness of the Son. He knows the whole truth about us, but our standing as His perfect, loved child is unshakable.

Read verses 9-14.

9. There's even more to God's great plan. What does God have in mind for His beloved Son? (verses 9-10)

Why is this the Father's "good pleasure"? Remember verse 7; also see Philippians 2:5-11.

10. Has remembering Jesus' work on your behalf made the glorifying of Him something you long for, too? Explain.

11. We can be part of this! Verses 11-13 say that one of God's purposes in choosing us and making us His own is that we might be to the praise of Christ's glory. What are some specific ways you can be "to the praise of His glory"? (Remembering Paul's own story in 1 Timothy 1:12-17 may help.)

12. On top of everything else He has given us, what further blessing do you discover in verse 13b?

Why are we given this gift? Verse 14, see also Romans 8:15-16.

(Want to dig deeper? See also Romans 8:26-27, John 14:16-17, 16:7-15.)

13. In what ways does this gift show how well God understands our needs and loves us?
14. In this passage, the God of heaven and earth opens His heart to you. As you read back through verses 3-14, what did you see about Him (descriptive phrases, actions, characteristics) that was especially encouraging?

Has this section of Scripture given you any help or new perspective on the cares you listed in question #1? Explain.

15. Write out your memory verse (Ephesians 1:3) and substitute the word "me" in place of the word "us". Take some time to praise your Lord for what He has done for you.

☞ Kathy Rosenvall

Thoughts in the Margins – Study Guide 2

- I. Look once more at Ephesians 3:1. Paul uses the root word bless (euologéō in the Greek) in three forms. There are some interesting things to notice.

Ephesians 3:1	Part of speech?	Member of the Trinity?
<i>Blessed be the God and Father...</i>	adjective	The Father
<i>...who has blessed us with...</i>		(While God has blessed us, who brokered this blessing?)
<i>... every spiritual blessing...</i>		(Through whom is this blessing received?)

- II. In Ephesians 1:3-14, Paul seems to be walking us through a great treasury of riches we have since as believers, we are *in* Christ. (Please hang in here just a minute as we get a little bit geeky.) Koine Greek features something called Locative Case – basically this designates *location*. This matters when it comes to understanding what being *in Christ* means. There are three kinds of Locative Case: 1) Locative of Place – for example, we are *in* North America; 2) Locative of Time – *in* seven days we will be studying the second half of Ephesians 1; and 3) Locative of Sphere, which has to do being within of a framework of ideas; in essence it is one idea within the boundaries of another – thus giving the first idea a location. *In Christ* means we are within Christ's sphere – we are *in* relationship with Him. Try reading verses 3-14 one more time and with an eye for the great treasures you have because you are *in Christ*!

☞ Mary Ann Porter

Additional Scripture for Study Guide 2

☐ **Isaiah 40:10**

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God will come with might,
With His arm ruling for Him.
Behold, His reward is with Him
And His recompense before Him.

☐ **Isaiah 40:21-31**

²¹ Do you not know? Have you not heard?
Has it not been declared to you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
²² It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,
And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.
²³ He *it is* who reduces rulers to nothing,
Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.
²⁴ Scarcely have they been planted,
Scarcely have they been sown,
Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,
But He merely blows on them, and they wither,
And the storm carries them away like stubble.
²⁵ “To whom then will you liken Me
That I would be *his* equal?” says the Holy One.
²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high
And see who has created these *stars*,
The One who leads forth their host by number,
He calls them all by name;
Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of *His* power,
Not one *of them* is missing.
²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord,
And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God”?
²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth
Does not become weary or tired.
His understanding is inscrutable.
²⁹ He gives strength to the weary,
And to *him who* lacks might He increases power.
³⁰ Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,
³¹ Yet those who wait for the Lord
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up *with* wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

☐ **Psalm 103:20-21**

²⁰ Bless the Lord, you His angels,
Mighty in strength, who perform His word,
Obeying the voice of His word!

²¹ Bless the Lord, all you His hosts,
You who serve Him, doing His will.

☐ **1 Peter 5:8-9**

⁸ Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

☐ **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

☐ **2 Peter 3:9**

⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

☐ **1 Timothy 2:1-4**

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

☐ **Acts 17:27**

²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

☐ **Romans 3:23-24**

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

☐ **John 3:16**

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

☐ **1 Peter 1:18-19**

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

☐ **Galatians 3:27**

²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

☐ **Philippians 2:5-11**

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

☐ **1 Timothy 1:12-17**

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*. ¹⁶ Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

☐ **Romans 8:15-16**

¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

☐ **Romans 8:26-27**

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.

☐ **John 14:16-17**

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

☐ **John 16:7-15**

⁷ But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

¹² “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.



Ephesus and Surrounding Area

