

EPHESIANS



Rooted and Grounded
— in love —

INTRODUCTION TO EPHESIANS

Days 1 and 2

Father, as I study your words in Ephesians, please root me and ground me in love and help me to comprehend with all my sisters in Christ what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know by experience the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, and may I be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17b-19)

The apostle Paul established the church in Ephesus on one of his missionary journeys. Ephesians is a letter written by Paul to the people of Ephesus after he left there.

Chapters 1-3 of Ephesians proclaim many glorious truths about God and his eternal purposes and the reality of our identity as children of God united to Jesus. (These truths are called *indicatives*; we'll call them *realities*.) Chapters 4-6 teach us how to live in light of these realities. They show us what our response should be to such remarkable realities. (These are called *imperatives*; we'll call the *responses*.)

- Read chapters 1-3. As you are reading write down the realities (truths) that you find about God and who we (believers) are in Christ (I gave you two examples to get you started). When you are done, read through the list, soaking in these stunning realities and praising God.

Realities

Blessed with every spiritual blessing
Chosen before the foundation of the world

Realities

Days 3 and 4

- Read chapters 4-6. As you read, write down the responses that are appropriate or fitting in light of the amazing realities of being united to Jesus. When you are done, read through the list thinking about how these responses reflect who God is and praying that he would work his ways into your heart as you study his word.

Responses

Walk with humility
Walk with gentleness

Day 5

When Paul left Ephesus for the last time and went to Macedonia and then eventually on to Jerusalem, he put Timothy in charge of the church in Ephesus.

1 Tim. 1:3-5

³When I left for Macedonia, I urged you to stay there in Ephesus and stop those whose teaching is contrary to the truth. ⁴Don't let them waste their time in endless discussion of myths and spiritual pedigrees. These things only lead to meaningless speculations, which don't help people live a life of faith in God. ⁵The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. (NLT)

- What was the purpose of Paul's teaching to the people of Ephesus?

- What did Paul instruct Timothy to do to in order to help the Ephesians live out what Paul had taught?

Years later, John, while on the island of Patmos, receives the revelation from God and is instructed to write to seven churches in Asia Minor, one of which is the church in Ephesus.

Revelation 2:1-5

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.'² 'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

- What did Jesus have against the church in Ephesus?

- How do we make sure we don't lose our first love?



Now more than ever we need to thoroughly know what God says in his word. And humbly yield to it. False teaching that puts forth a false Jesus is so prevalent in our world today and it's infiltrating the church and leading people astray. We can't love God well if we don't rightly know who he is. Like the later church at Ephesus, we are all continually at risk of losing our first love if we don't stay rooted and grounded in Jesus' love as taught in the Scriptures.

- ❖ Make it your prayer as we live in Ephesians for a while to *know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.(3:19)*