

EPHESIANS OVERVIEW
The Eternal Plan of God

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Ephesians Overview

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Outline

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| I. | Position of the Christian | 1-3 |
| II. | Practice of the Christian | 4-8 |

Book Theme: The Eternal Plan of God

Book Theme Verse: Eph 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

Lesson Verse: Eph 1:9–10 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him

Today's Theme: God's eternal plan of redemption as seen in the position of the believer in Christ and the practice of the believer imitating Christ

I. Author of the Letter

1. Paul established a church in Ephesus during his 2nd missionary journey and pastored this church for three years during his third missionary journey
2. Paul wrote Ephesians in 60-61 AD during his first Roman imprisonment
3. Paul wrote the letter to the church six years after Paul was forced to leave Ephesus

II. Purpose of the Letter

1. To reveal God's eternal plan of redemption to manifest the glory of His grace
2. To bring an understanding of the riches of God's blessings which are shared in Christ
3. To reveal the removal of distinction between Jew and Gentile, who are united in the church into one living body
4. To exhort a life of obedience to the commands of Christ, motivated by the love for the Father, who made them His sons

III. Content of the Letter

A. Position - Explanation of God's Eternal Plan of Redemption 1-3

1. God is worthy of all praise and thanksgiving for what He has done for us 1:3-14
 - a. Role of the Father – set the plan, sovereign election in eternity past 1:4-6
 - b. Role of the Son – carried out the plan, purchased our forgiveness by His death 1:7-12
 - c. Role of the Spirit – applies the plan, conviction of sin, new life, repentance and faith, seals us for eternal future 1:13-14
2. Prayer our for understanding of God's eternal plan of redemption 15-23
3. Individually accomplished in bringing us from spiritually dead to new life, to put His glory on display 2:1-10
4. Corporately accomplished in reconciling Christians with God and with each other in the church, through Christ 2:11-22
5. Centered in the church where God is exalting His Son and putting Himself on display 3:1-12
6. Prayer for understanding God's eternal plan of redemption 13-21

B. Practice - Application of God's Eternal Plan of Redemption 4-6

1. Walk in humility to preserve the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace 4:2-16
2. Walk in sanctification by laying aside the old self, being renewed and putting on the new self 4:17-24
3. Walk in love for others, as Jesus Christ loved us 4:25-5:2
4. Walk in sexual purity in order to please God and validate our witness 5:3-14
5. Walk in Biblical wisdom by the study of God's word and by being filled with the Spirit 5:15-6:9
6. Walk in the protection of the armor of God 6:10-24

IV. Application

1. If you were unaware that God has an eternal plan of redemption and you desire to be redeemed from the penalty of your sin and escape the wrath of God, you to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ today.
2. Use this study of Ephesians to give us an understanding of God's eternal plan of redemption and our participation in it.
3. Use this study of Ephesians to strengthen our foundation in the doctrines that define our position in Christ; chosen by the Father, redeemed by the Son and sealed by the Spirit.
4. Pray for clarity to make certain our practice of our faith is informed by our understanding of these Biblical doctrines
5. Daily determine to walk worthy of your calling; in unity, in sanctification, in love, in sexual purity and in Biblical wisdom

**God is redeeming a people by His son for
His son for His own glory**