

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

The Doctrinal Section - Ephesians 1-3

- I. The Apostle Paul's Greetings (Eph. 1:1-2).
- II. God glorified in our salvation (Eph. 1:3-14).
- III. Prayer #1 - Paul's prayer for their understanding of salvation (Eph. 1:15-23).

Note that at the end of his prayer, in verses 22 and 23, Paul mentioned "the church, which is his body," a subject which is not explained until chapter 3. The Church is Paul's main theme in Ephesians doctrinally.

- IV. The extension of salvation to the Gentiles (Eph. 2:1-22).

Note in verse 11 Paul indicated that he was writing especially to Gentile believers. And he was tracing their spiritual history from the past, to the future, back to the past, and then to the present.

- A. "In time past" (2:1-6).
 1. For them, the Gentiles (2:1-3).
 2. For God (2:4-6).
- B. For the future - "That in the ages to come (2:7-10).
- C. Another look at the past - something to remember - "in time past" (2:11-12). In verse 12 we have another expression of time: "at that time," that is, "in time past."
- D. The present - "But now . . ." (2:13-22).

Note in these last verses of chapter 2 Paul explains how in the body of Christ there is a union between Jews and Gentiles. In OT times the Jews were near to God, the Gentiles "afar off." Now in Christ and in the Church that distinction in the purpose of God does not exist. God will still fulfill His purpose with Israel, but we must understand that in the NT Israel does not become the Church, nor is the Church, Israel.

- V. The calling of the Apostle Paul (Eph. 3:1-12).

Paul was called especially to minister to the Gentiles with the message which he called, “the mystery,” which he described in verses 5 and 6, and again in verses 8-10.

VI. Prayer #2 - Paul’s prayer for their fellowship with Christ and their understanding of the love of Christ. The prayer concludes by ascribing the glory for all of the preceding truth to God (Eph. 3:13-21).

The Practical Section - Ephesians 4-6

This section of Ephesians can be divided according to Paul’s use of the verb *walk*. It is used first in the doctrinal section in Eph. 2:2, 10. Then in the practical section (which we are here concerned with) in 4:1, 17 (2x); 5:2, 8, and 15. These, along with *conversation* Eph. 2:3 and 4:22, refer to how a person lives, his conduct.

VII. “Walk worthy” of your calling (Eph. 4:1-16).

VIII. “Walk not as other Gentiles walk,” that is, as unsaved Gentiles (Eph. 4:17-32).

IX. “Walk in love” (Eph. 5:1-7).

X. “Walk as children of light” (Eph. 5:8-14).

XI. “Walk circumspectly,” meaning *carefully, accurately, perfectly* (Eph. 5:15-6:9).

All of the above leads to what the Apostle Paul needed to say about:

XII. The Christian’s Warfare (Eph. 6:10-20).

XIII. The Apostle’s Conclusion (Eph. 6:21-24).