

# A LOOK AT THE BOOK EPHESIANS

Ralph Porter  
© 2003

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The situation is parallel to that of Philippians and Colossians which were probably carried by the same person.

Paul had been arrested in Jerusalem because of the complaint of the Jews against him. Their main complaint was that he was preaching that God had turned from them to the Gentiles.

In the delay over the proceedings and the threats to his life, Paul appealed to Caesar and was sent to Rome.

He waited there for two years for the arrival of his accusers.

They apparently never arrived and Paul was released.

While waiting in Rome, Paul wrote to these churches (about A.D. 60).

## PURPOSE AND THEME

Paul has received word of divisions within the churches.

The underlying problems seem to be similar to those found in other churches.

The divisions may revolve around conflicts between Jews and Gentiles, especially.

Paul writes them concerning God's program for the church in this age, in order to correct the problem.

If God has eliminated the basis for distinctions within the church, they ought to live in a way that reflects what God has done.

The content of the book is presented as a hymn of praise because those who were separated have been made members of God's family.

We ought to act like members of a family and live in a way that is worthy of the family to which we belong!

If God has accepted all of us without distinction, we ought to accept one another.

## PAUL HAD TWO MAIN PURPOSES FOR WRITING:

There was something he wanted them \_\_\_\_\_

There was something he wanted them \_\_\_\_\_

**He wanted them** \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DOES HE SAY GOD DID?

1:3 \_\_\_\_\_

1:18-20a \_\_\_\_\_

3:17b-19 \_\_\_\_\_

3:20-21 \_\_\_\_\_

**What does he want them** \_\_\_\_\_ ?

4:1 \_\_\_\_\_

4:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

5:21 \_\_\_\_\_

*Make a list of all the things chapters 1-3 tell us God has done for us.*

*Personalize them, either with 1st person (I, me, my), or with your name.*

## EPHESIANS

The CHURCH, **BEING** united in Christ, should **WALK** in unity

Ralph Porter

<b>G R E E T I N G</b>  1:1-2	<b>PRAYER: Praise for our calling in Christ</b> 1-3		<b>APPLICATION: Walk worthy of our calling</b> 4-6						<b>B E N E D I C T I O N</b>  6:21-24	
	<b>PRAISE: God's eternal plan</b> 1:3-3:13		<b>PETITION</b>	<b>WALK in Unity</b>	<b>WALK different than the pa-gans</b>	<b>WALK in Love</b>	<b>WALK in Holiness</b>	<b>WALK as the Wise</b>		<b>POST-SCRIPT: Spiritual Warfare</b> 6:10-20
	Praise for God's Plan 1:3-14	Praise for our part in God's Plan 1:15-3:13	3:14-21	4:1-16	4:17-32	5:1-2	5:3-14	5:15-6:9		
	<p>The Plan: Bless us with every spiritual blessing</p> <p>The purpose: <u>Provoke praise for God</u></p> <p>The Father's work 1:3-6</p> <p>-Election</p> <p>His work through the Son 1:7-12</p> <p>-Redemption -Forgiveness -Inheritance</p> <p>His work through the Spirit 1:13-14</p> <p>-Sealed</p>	<p>For their faith and love 1:15-23</p> <p>His thanks-giving 1:15-16a His petition 1:16b-23</p> <p>For the change in their life 2:1-22</p> <p>Life given by grace 2:1-10 Former condition 2:11-12 Present condition 2:13-22</p> <p>For his ministry with them 3:1-13</p>	<p>For their comprehension of God's plan 3:14-19</p> <p>For God's glory through His plan 3:20-21</p>	<p>The unity in the body of Christ 4:1-6</p> <p>The diversity in the body of Christ 4:7-11</p> <p>The unity of purpose in the diversity 4:12-16</p>	<p>Life among the Gentiles 4:17-19</p> <p>Life in Christ 4:20-32</p> <p>New clothes for the new man 4:20-24</p> <p>Fitting conduct for the new man 4:25-32</p>		<p>Prohibition of participation 5:3-7</p> <p>Light in the midst of darkness 5:8-14</p>	<p>Living as wise rather than foolish 5:15-17</p> <p>Controlled by the Spirit rather than by wine 5:18-6:9</p> <p>Praising God in fellowship 5:18-19a Praising God in the heart 5:19b Giving thanks for everything 5:20 Submitting to one another 5:21-6:9</p>		<p>Preparation for the battle 6:10-13</p> <p>Armor for the battle 6:14-20</p>