

An aerial, sepia-toned photograph of the Ephesus Amphitheater, showing the semi-circular seating area and the central stage. The theater is built into a hillside. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Ephesians: An Introduction

Ephesians 1:1-2

On “Ephesians”

- “The letter to the Ephesians is one of the most significant documents ever written.”

—Peter T. O'Brien

On “Ephesians”

- “The Book of Ephesians is the divinest composition of Man.” —Samuel T. Coleridge

On “Ephesians”

- It is ... “the quintessence of Paulinism ... which in large measure sums up the leading themes of the Pauline letters, and sets for the cosmic implications of Paul’s ministry.”

—F.F. Bruce

On “Ephesians”

- “Only Romans could match Ephesians as a candidate for exercising the most influence on Christian thought and spirituality.”

—Raymond Brown

Our Riches in Christ

- **Key words:**

- **Rich(es) (6x)**—1:7, 18; 2:4, 7; 3:8, 16

- **Grace (13x)**—1:2, 6, 7; 2:1, 5, 7, 8; 3:2, 7, 8; 4:7, 29; 6:24

- **Glory (glorious) (8x)**—1:6, 12, 14, 17, 18; 3:13, 16, 21

- **Fullness, filled up, or fill (6x)**—1:10, 23 (2x); 3:19 (2x); 4:10, 13; 5:18

- **And the key phrase of Ephesians:**

- **“In Christ, or in Him” (22x)**—1:3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 (2x), 20, 22; 2:6, 7, 10, 11, 13; 3:6, 11, 12; 21; 4:21, 32

Our Riches in Christ Are Based on:

- His grace (1:2, 6-7; 2:7)
- His peace (1:2)
- His will (1:5)
- His kind intention (1:9)
- His purpose (1:9-11)
- His glory (1:12, 14)
- His calling (1:18)
- His inheritance (1:18)
- His power (1:19)
- His love (2:4)
- His workmanship (2:10)
- His spirit (3:16)
- His gifts (4:11)
- His sacrifice (5:2)
- His strength (6:10)
- His armor (6:11, 13)

Ephesians 1:1-2

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (ESV)

The Author

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus
by the will of God” (1:1)*



Dates of Journeys to Ephesus

- 2nd Missionary Journey to Ephesus (A.D. 53)
- 3rd Missionary Journey (A.D. 55-56)
- Writing of Ephesians (A.D. 61-62)

The Audience

“To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus” (1:1)



Saint (*hagios*)

- Set apart for God; dedicated by God; set apart as sacred.

Deuteronomy 7:6

“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”

(ESV)

1 Peter 2:9-10

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (ESV)

Most Important Theme

- **Jesus Christ** himself (164x)
 - Jesus
 - Christ
 - Jesus Christ
 - Christ Jesus

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (ESV)

Ephesians 1:1

“To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus.”

(ESV)

The Address

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ” (1:2)*



Grace

- The Greeks greeted each other with the word “*chairein*”—“rejoice” or “be glad.”
- Paul alters this to “*charis*”—grace. In Christianity, grace denotes the goodness and kindness of God that he has so freely bestowed upon us. Grace connotes a gift of mercy, goodwill, favor, and loving kindness.

Amazing Grace

“Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind but now I see.”

—John Newton

Peace

- Paul uses the Greek word “*eirene*” which is the adaptation of the Hebrew word “*Shalom*”—peace.
 - This was not a wish for the absence of war, or even for ease and tranquility. Peace refers to the gift of God which leads to your total well-being in spite of the circumstances.
 - At its core, the greeting conveys: “May God bless you with all of his goodness.”

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

(ESV)

John R.W. Stott

- “The whole letter is thus a magnificent combination of Christian doctrine and Christian duty, Christian faith and Christian life, what God has done through Christ and what we must be and do in consequence.”

Ephesians 1:1-2

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

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Philippians 1:21

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

(ESV)

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

(ESV)

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Help us, as a Church, be completely
immersed **“In Christ”**