

## **Ephesians: The Work and Wealth of God in Jesus Christ**

Ephesians 5:1–2  
1 Timothy 3:14-15

The book of Ephesians is a “miniature doctrine of the church” according to Jim Boice, “a short course in ecclesiology.”

Clinton Arnold who says, “This letter summarizes what it means to be a Christian better than any other book of the Bible.”

F. F. Bruce writes that it is the “quintessence of Paulinism.”

Missionary and author Ruth Paxson called Ephesians “the Grand Canyon of Scripture,” meaning that it is breathtakingly beautiful and apparently inexhaustible to the one who wants to take it in.

P.T. O’Brien calls Ephesians “one of the most significant documents ever written.”

### **Three relational encouragements in Ephesians:**

1. It points us upward to our relationship with God.
2. It points us inward to our relationships in the church.
3. It points us outward to our relationships with unbelievers.

Theology is broken down into some basic categories, or taxonomies. Ephesians does serious business in all of them...

### **Theology proper** – The study of the character of God

- Teaches us that God is glorious in grace, rich in mercy, great in love, good, kind, purposeful, sovereign, and that He is Triune. It is a compass that points to the Godhead. It is thoroughly Trinitarian! Ephesians is known as the Trinity Letter

### **Angelology** – The study of angels

- Teaches us that there are beings in the heavenlies—angels and demons, that we are in a battle against forces we cannot see

### **Christology** – The study of Christ

- Teaches us that Jesus is both God and man, that He is the Personal means of all God’s blessings, the provision for the forgiveness of sins, and the fullness of life is found “in Him.”

### **Eschatology** – The study of the end times

- God has created a sovereign administration with Jesus as the Head that will be brought about in His perfect timing.

### **Hamartiology** – The study of sin

- We learn that sin is inherited and part of our nature, we learn that before salvation we are ruled by our fleshly lusts

### **Theological anthropology** – The study of the nature of humanity

- The unbeliever is dead in sin, living according to Satanic principles,

### **Pneumatology** – The study of the Holy Spirit

- The HS seals us as believers, He protects us, and guarantees our hope of eternal life

### **Soteriology** – The study of salvation

- We are saved through grace alone, in Christ alone, by faith alone, the gospel is a mystery—not revealed in the OT, but disclosed to us in the NT, and God has given us everything we need for living the Christian life faithfully.

### **Ecclesiology** – The study of the church

- The church is Christ’s body, the church glorifies God by her multi-ethnicity, by her unity, by faithful marriages, by faithful parenting, and by being faithful where you work.

Harold W. Hoehner writes:

It seems reasonable to conclude that the purpose of Ephesians is to promote a love for one another that has the love of God and Christ as its basis. Paul approaches this very carefully because forced love is not genuine love. He uses the example of God's and Christ's love to the human race in general, and to believers in particular, which serve as the basis of the believers' love for one another. This provides the basis for unity. Possibly realizing that the Ephesians were starting to forsake their first love, Paul wrote this letter to encourage them to love both God and their fellow saints more deeply.<sup>1</sup>

Ephesians 3:1

Ephesians 3:8

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<sup>1</sup> Harold W. Hoehner, [Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 106.