

Jason Briggs

SESSION 2: Ephesians

Class Schedule

- Session 1: Galatians
- Session 2: Ephesians
- Session 3: Philippians
- Session 4: Colossians
- Session 5: 1 Thessalonians

Today's Plan

- Landscape - the man, church, & message
- Mapping of Ephesians (outline)
- Key landmarks (themes)
- Further exploration... (further study)

"The letter to the Ephesians is a marvelously concise, yet comprehensive, summary of the Christian good news and its implications. Nobody can read it without being moved to wonder and worship, and challenged to consistency of life." – John Stott¹

Galatians was a defense of the gospel

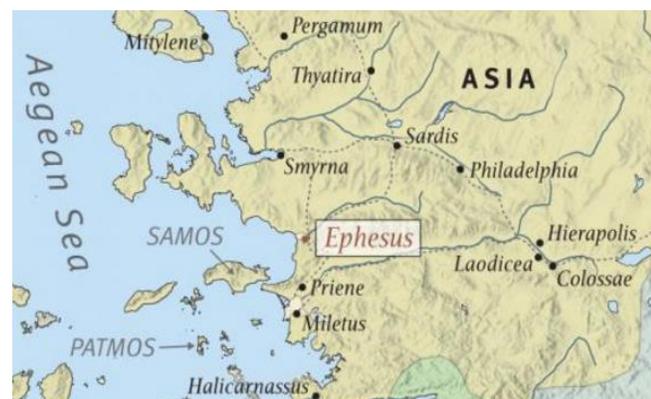
Ephesians is a celebration of the gospel

LANDSCAPE:

- **The Man (1 Timothy 1.12-16):**

| | Born | Pharisee - Pupil | Pharisee - Persecutor | Convert, Disciple, Fugitive Minister | Missionary, Prisoner & Martyr |
|-------|------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| AD | 5-10 | 15-20 | 20-34 | 34-46 | 46-67 |
| Years | 5 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 21 |

- **The Recipients (Eph 1.1; Acts 18-19):**



- **The Message: Vision of the Church**

¹ John Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*, pg 15

Landscape:

- **Why it Matters:**

"What is it in the Christian faith that excites you? . . . Today there are endless subgroups of confessing Christians who invest enormous quantities of time and energy in one issue or another: abortion, pornography, home schooling, women's ordination (for or against), economic justice, a certain style of worship, the defense of a particular Bible version, and countries have a full agenda of urgent, peripheral demands. Not for a moment am I suggesting we should not think about such matters or throw our weight behind some of them. But when such matters devour most of our time and passion, each of us must ask: In what fashion am I confessing the centrality of the gospel?" – D.A. Carson

Ephesians "is a manifesto for the church, describing its essence and identity' who it is, how it came about, how it must conduct itself, and what its mission is within the larger framework of Christ's cosmic rule." – NIV study bible

Ephesians "holds us face to face with God, and what God is, and what God has done; it emphasizes throughout the glory and the greatness of God...We must not start by examining ourselves and our needs microscopically; we must start with God, and forget ourselves." – Martyn Lloyd Jones

*"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." John Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*, 25.*

Paul's letter to the Ephesians gives us

- Gospel-Centered Vision:

- Gospel-Centered Mission:

The Map (outline):

1.1-2 Greetings

1.3-3.21 DOCTRINAL FOUNDATION:

Laying the bedrock truths...

CHURCH: God's created workmanship

1.3-14 Praise

- God's electing purpose in the past 3-6
- God's redeeming work in history 7-10
- God's purpose for the future 11-14

1.15-23 Prayer for illumination

- Illumination that would motivate 15-18
- Illumination that would empower 19-23

2.1-10 Reminder: we are reconciled to God

- What we were 1-3
 - What God did 4-7
 - What we are 8-10
- } Vertical

2.11-22 Remember: we are reconciled to each other

- What we were 11-12
 - What God did 13-18
 - What we have become 19-22
- } Horizontal

3.1-13 Paul's job description - steward of the mystery of the Gospel

- Mystery explained 1-6
- Mystery reveals God's manifold Wisdom 7-12
- Paul's suffering for the Gospel Mystery is worthwhile 13

3.14-21 Paul's corresponding prayer for the church

- Strengthened with power 16-17
- Rooted & Established in Love 17
- Grasping the magnitude of God's love 18-19
- Filled to the measure of all the fullness of God 19
- Amen 20-21

4.1-6.20 PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

Building on the foundation

CHURCH: God's empowered workmanship

4.1-16 Church is called to...

- Walk in a worthy manner 1
- Maintaining unity of the Spirit 2-6
 - Pillar 1 - humility
 - Pillar 2 - gentleness
 - Pillar 3 - patience
- Be united, unique & maturing 7-16
 - Leaders uniquely contribute 7-14
 - Saints uniquely contribute 15-16
 - Side note: leaders are first and foremost saints...

4.17-6.9 As a new creation... walk as Children of light

- Put off/put on 4.17-32
- Be imitators of God 5.1-6.9
 - in contrast to the world (5.1-21)
 - worlds goods
 - worlds pleasures
 - worlds relationships
 - in your marriages (5.22-33)
 - in your family (6.1-1-4)
 - in your work (6.5-9)

6.10-20 You are warriors - dress for success and stand firm together

6.21-23 Closing

KEY LANDMARKS (Themes & Application)²:

Christ's work in reconciling and uniting the CHURCH to God is the dominant pulse of Ephesians. So, let's look at the various themes of Ephesians in light of how they relates to the Jesus' Church.

A FRESH VISION OF THE CHURCH

- *Conceived and formed in eternity past... (1.3-14; 2.4, 8-9)*
- *Once dead, now alive in Christ... (1.7; 2.1-12)*
- *Reconciled individuals and peoples to God through Christ (2.11-22)*
- *To represent Christ on earth (5.1-6.9)*
- *As Sojourners be a Contrast Kingdom (4.17-5.21)*
- *For the praise of his Glory (1.6, 14; 2.7-10)*

A FRESH COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH

- *To unity (4.1-16)*
- *To purity (4.17-24)*
- *To victory over evil (6.10-20)*

A FRESH FAITH FOR THE CHURCH

- *There can be no doubt that God is fully committed to it – dearly loved, His bride, His body...*
- *God is empowering it...*
- *God will protect it...*
- *God will grow it...*

² Adapted from Jeff Purswell's summary notes on Ephesians

FURTHER EXPLORATION: reading plans and resources

| | |
|--|---|
| Traditional Day 1 - Ephesians 1-6 Day 2 - Ephesians 1 Day 3 - Ephesians 2 Day 4 - Ephesians 3 Day 5 - Ephesians 4 Day 6 - Ephesians 5 | Study of Paul's prayer: Day 1 – Read and pray through Eph. 1-3 Day 2 – Read and pray through Eph. 4-6 Day 3-4 – outline in your own words & pray through Paul's prayer in 1.15-23. Day 5-6 – outline in your own words & pray through Paul's prayer in 3.14-21. |
| <p>Good questions to reflect on regardless of the reading plan³:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does this scripture reveal about who is God & what He has done?• How then should I live in light of what God has done?• How does this scripture inform my ADORATION of God?• What does this scripture reveal that I need to REPENT of?• Where do I need grace to live in light of this truth?• How is Jesus<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The ultimate revelation of this attribute?○ The sole solution for this sin?○ The singular source of this grace? | |

AUDIO

- Gospel Coalition interview of Bryan Chapell on Ephesians (links to many sermons):
 - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/help-me-teach-the-bible-bryan-chapell-on-ephesians>

READING

- ESV study Bible on Ephesians
- John Stott – The Message of Ephesians
- Brian Chapell – Ephesians Commentary

³ Some questions adapted from a lecture Tim Keller gave in his class "Preaching Christ in a Post Modern World"
