



# REDEEMING HOPE

**In Him**  
Experiencing the Love of  
God in the Work of Christ

[February - April, 2022]

## Series Overview

Paul followed a similar pattern in his letters. First he would rehearse gospel doctrine, then he would offer, as an outflow of the gospel at work in us, practical application of what it looks like in family and community. Ephesians follows the same pattern. First he presents the cause of our salvation—Jesus. Then he shows the effect of our salvation—love and good works, which Paul calls “walking in love.”

Several things are repeated and crystal clear throughout the book. First, that Christ is preeminent and His sacrifice sufficient. Second, that Christ in us is sufficient. The phrase Paul uses the phrase “in Christ” or some variation of it 15x by the end of Ephesians 1. It was the hallmark phrase of his teaching. The phrase is used 75x in the New Testament and 73 of them are Paul.

The aim of this series is to show the beauty of Christ and His sacrifice, who we are “in Him,” and to discuss what living by faith “in Him” looks like in the church and the home.

### **Ephesians: The Guide Book to New Life in God’s Family**

This book opens a window into the new reality we have as “saints” in God’s household. Paul prays that we’d see it in Ephesians 1:17-18 when he prays “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.”

So first, Paul teaches us to think like God’s family. Second, he teaches us how to live it out.

# Occasion, Purpose, and Message

## OCCASION

*What prompted the writing of this book?*

Occasion and purpose: Paul founded the church in Ephesians, though he now writes this letter from a prison cell. Many of Paul's letters were responses to false teaching or problems that developed in certain churches, but Ephesians is a sermon. It's all gospel and deals with topics at the very core of what it means to be a Christian—both in faith and in practice. This book is a spiritual father writing to his spiritual children to make sure the church family has the blueprint to stay healthy now and in future generations.

## Message

### Localized Message for Clarksville, TN

Clarksville believes:

- **Lies:** "My identity is in my work. I'm defined by what I do. Things outside of God are ultimate."
- **Hedonism:** "I'll be fulfilled if I pursue pleasure."
- **Legalism:** "I'm saved by my morality, my achievements, or other externals like family pedigree, military career, or my ethnicity."
- **False gods:** "Things outside of God are ultimate—work, family, success, sports, reputation."

God gives:

- **Truth:** "Charles Spurgeon said, 'Sin always ruins where it reigns.' Sin destroys us, but Jesus rescues us."
- **Identity:** "My identity is not in my work, but Christ's work. My identity is not centered on who I am, but whose I am. I'm now a child of God through Christ."
- **Salvation:** "We were spiritually dead and separated from God but He saved us."
- **Spiritual power:** "The Holy Spirit helps me, fills me, and enables me to comprehend the gospel, grow in God, and serve others with supernatural results."
- **Mission:** "Once I am saved, I am given a new way of living and a new mission—to glorify God through my life and in the nations of the world."
- **Family:** "I belong. I'm united with Christ and am loved perfectly by the Father."

## Authorship, Audience, and Date

<b>Authorship</b>	Paul the Apostle
<b>Audience</b>	The church in Ephesus
<b>Date</b>	60-61 AD (while Paul was imprisoned in Rome)
<b>Location</b>	unknown
<b>Delivered</b>	Tychicus
<b>Corspnd Texts</b>	Matt. 7:15-23; John 15:1-17; Gal. 2:20-21; Gal. 4:1-7; Gal. 5:16-26
<b>Corspnd Books</b>	Galatians, 1 John

## Major Theological Concepts

We are chosen (Ephesians 1:4-5).

We are adopted (Ephesians 1:4-5).

We're united with Christ (Ephesians 1:7-10)

Without Christ, we're separated from God and spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1,11-13).

We're saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-10).

The gospel is the message of grace (Acts 20:24).

Prayer for spiritual power for others to comprehend the gospel is crucial (Ephesians 1:17-20, Ephesians 3:14-19).

We can be filled with the Spirit (5:18).

The church is one unified worldwide and local family (Ephesians 4:13-16).

We should use our spiritual gifts to build one another up (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Spiritual warfare is real (Ephesians 6:10-20).

Family love is liberty-limiting, sacrificial, servant love (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).

## Broad Exegetical Outline

### ESV OUTLINE

Introduction (1:1-14)

Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:15-23)

    Salvation by Grace through Faith (2:1-10)

    Unity and the Peace of Christ (2:11-22)

    Revelation of the Gospel Mystery (3:1-13)

    Paul's Prayer for Strength and Insight (3:14-21)

Unity of the Body of Christ (4:1-16)

    Paul's Testimony (4:17-24)

    Encouragement for a Holy Lifestyle (4:25-32)

    New Life in Love (5:1-20)

    Submission to One Another (5:21-6:9)

    The Whole Armor of God (6:10-20)

Conclusion (6:21-24)

## Blue Letter Bible Outline

### INTRODUCTION (Eph 1:1-2)

1. DOCTRINE: OUR RICHES IN CHRIST (Eph 1:3-3:21)
  1. OUR SPIRITUAL POSSESSIONS IN CHRIST (Eph 1:3-14)
    1. From the Father (Eph 1:4-6)
    2. From the Son (Eph 1:7-12)
    3. From the Spirit (Eph 1:13-14)
    4. First Prayer: for enlightenment (Eph 1:15-23)
  2. OUR SPIRITUAL POSITION IN CHRIST (Eph 2:1-22)
    1. Raised and seated on the throne (Eph 2:1-10)
    2. Reconciled and set into the temple (Eph 2:11-22)
    3. Second Prayer: for enablement (Eph 3:1-21; with verses 2-13 as a parenthesis)
2. DUTY: OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN CHRIST (Eph 4:1-6:20)
  1. A CALL TO WALK IN UNITY (Eph 4:1-16)
    1. Preserving the unity of the Spirit with proper attitudes (Eph 4:1-7)
    2. Edifying the body of Christ by the grace given us (Eph 4:8-16)
  2. A CALL TO WALK IN PURITY (Eph 4:17-5:21)
    1. Walk not as other Gentiles (Eph 4:17-32)
    2. Walk in love (Eph 5:1-6)
    3. Walk as children of light (Eph 5:7-14)
    4. Walk as wise (Eph 5:15-21)
  3. A CALL TO WALK IN HARMONY (Eph 5:22-6:9)
    1. Husbands and wives (Eph 5:22-33)
    2. Parents and children (Eph 6:1-4)
    3. Masters and servants (Eph 6:5-9)
  4. A CALL TO WALK IN VICTORY (Eph 6:10-20)
    1. Standing strong in the power of the Lord (Eph 6:10-13)
    2. Equipped with the whole armor of God (Eph 6:14-20)

## Thematic/Timeline Outline

### In Him: Experiencing the Love of God in the Work of Christ

02/06/2022	Ephesians 1:1-2	"The Apostle of Grace"
02/13/2022	Ephesians 1:3-10	"Blessed in Christ"
02/20/2022	Ephesians 1:11-14	"Chosen For Worship"
02/27/2022	Ephesians 1:15-23	"How To Pray For Others"
03/06/2022	Ephesians 2:1-10	"Made Alive"
03/14/2022	Ephesians 2:11-22	"The God of the Far Off Ones"
03/21/2022	Ephesians 3:1-13	"A Wider View of Grace"
03/28/2022	Ephesians 3:14-22	"The Fullness of God"
04/03/2022	Ephesians 4:1-6	"The Unity of the Saints"
04/10/2022	Ephesians 4:7-10	"The Supremacy of Christ"