

# **Ephesians**

God's Vision for His People

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Published by Q Place

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# 1

## Ephesians 1—6

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### Getting the Big Picture

**W**ho were these Ephesians? How did they become Christians? As preparation for the study of this letter, read Acts 18–20 to learn how the gospel came to Ephesus and nearby cities of Asia Minor. Then read through the letter Paul wrote to the Ephesians. Picture yourself as a member of the group of believers in Ephesus, eager to know what Paul had written. Everyone would want to hear the whole letter, not just part of it. Read it as eagerly as they would have, without getting bogged down with details, to get an overview of what Paul is writing about. (The original letter did not have chapters and verses to divide its thoughts.)

#### Read Ephesians 1—6

1. Using a modern paragraphed Bible such as the *New Living Translation* (NLT), the *Good News Translation* (GNT), or *The Message*, ask one person to go through the whole letter again, reading aloud only the first verse or complete sentence of each paragraph. Other group members should listen rather than following in their Bibles. This exercise will remind you of the main ideas of the letter.

What thoughts or ideas impress you from reading this letter?

2. Why does Paul write the letter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How is the first half of the letter (chapters 1-3) different from the second half (chapters 4-6)?

Why is this order important?

4. If this were your only source of information about Paul, what would you know about him, his job, his situation, his ambitions, etc.? See 1:1, 16; 3:1-4, 7-9, 13; 4:1; 6:19-20.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. From your survey of this letter, what do you learn about the people to whom the letter is written?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Using information from Acts 18–20, what do you learn about the society in which these Christians live?

7. Imagine yourself as a first-century resident of Asia Minor who hears this letter. What impression would you have of Jesus Christ and of what it means to be his follower?

## SUMMARY

The lives of believers in Ephesus have radically changed because of their commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Paul writes this letter to help them understand the scope and purpose of what God is doing in the world. God is creating a new family, a new society of which they are part—a people who are in sharp contrast to the world around them. The church as a body and its individual members are to ***be for the praise of his glory*** (1:12). This letter gives practical teaching about how this should work out in the everyday lives of Christians.

## PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, we eagerly await your teaching as we study this letter together. Thank you that you have an eternal purpose for our lives that goes beyond what we can see. We want to listen to your teaching with genuine humility, realizing what a wonderful salvation you have given us in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Help us to live this week in light of your great purpose in saving us. For Jesus' sake, amen.*