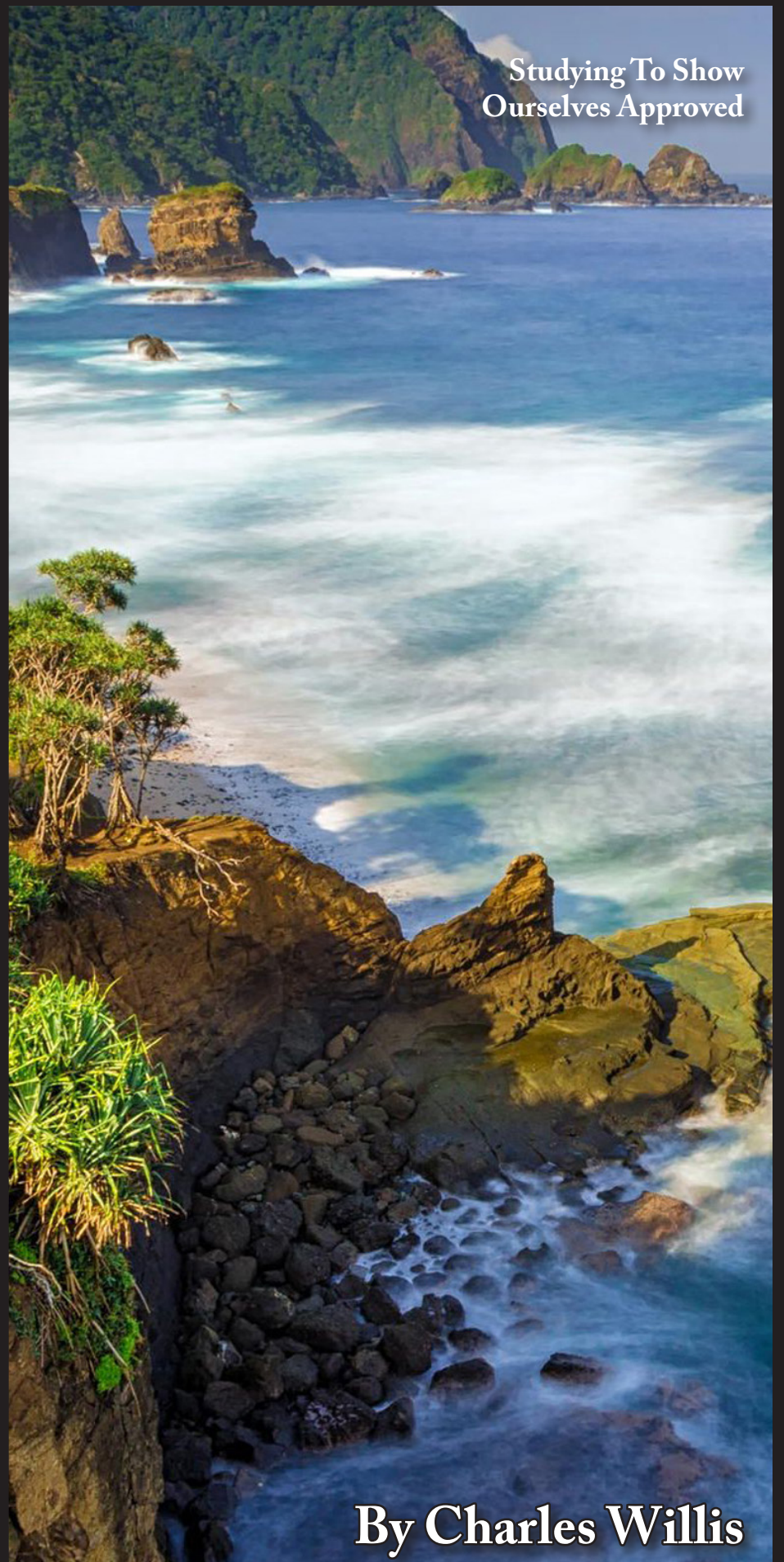


Ephesians

Studying To Show
Ourselves Approved



By Charles Willis

Ephesians – Background Information

Ephesus was the capitol of the Roman province of Asia Minor. By 1 or 2 A.D. it is estimated the city had a population in excess of one half million. It was located strategically for political purposes as well as economic being situated at a cross roads of several trade routes.

The city was very wealthy. It boasted a very large harbor. From the harbor a paved street eleven meters wide ran through the middle of town lined with columns. This road marked the end of the Asiatic caravan route. The city was also known for it's theatre (which would seat perhaps 25,000), baths, library, and paved streets.

The city's largest claim to fame was the temple to Dianna, or Artemis. This temple was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Archeologists tell us the roof of this structure was supported by 116 60-foot columns. These were 6 feet in diameter and 36 of them were carved with life-sized figures at the base. The temple was 180 feet wide and 377 feet long. It is clear that the practice of magic and the sell of figurines were connected to the temple to Diana.

The apostle Paul stayed in Ephesus nearly three years during his third missionary journey (Acts 18:23-19:41). From this city the word of God spread through the region. In Acts 19 there was a great mob scene led by the makers of religious icons sold to travelers who chanted for two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians" (v.28). It is believed the congregations in Colossae and Philippi and other cities of the Lycus valley were begun during this period of evangelism based in Ephesus. When Paul departed he left Timothy at Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3).

Ephesus is also mentioned as one of the seven churches of Asia in the book of Revelation. It is addressed as the first church (2:1-7). They are told they left their first love and needed to repent and begin doing the deeds they did at first.

All internal and external evidence agree that Paul is the author of this letter, as it claims in the first verse. It is generally held that this epistle was written in about 60 A.D. while Paul was in prison in Rome. It was at this time he also wrote to the Colossians and Philippians.

A Quick Outline

1. Redemption In Christ (1:1-14)
2. Prayer For Enlightenment (1:15-23)
3. Old Condition, New Condition (2:1-10)
4. Reconciliation (2:11-22)
5. Revelation of the Mystery (3:1-21)
6. Church Unity (4:1-16)
7. Put Off Old, Put On New (4:17-32)
8. Holiness (5:21-6:9)
9. Armor of God (6:10-17)
10. Conclusion (6:18-24)

Written By: *Charles Willis*
© 2014, All Rights Reserved

*Scripture taken from the
NEW AMERICAN
STANDARD BIBLE®,
Copyright© 1960, 1962, 1963, 1971,
1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995
by The Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission.
www.Lockman.org*

Ephesians – Chapter 1

1. Are there unfaithful saints (v.1)?
2. Write every verse reference down that speaks of “in Christ” or something similar in chapter 1.
3. Explain how we can be “holy and blameless” before God (v.4).
4. How are we adopted (v.5)? How does this teach against commonly believed errors
5. about predestination? (see also verse 11)
6. The “riches of His grace” (v.7) is lavished on us (v.8). Who is “us” in the context? All men?
7. What was God’s purpose in Christ (v.9)?
8. Explain the phrase “fullness of times” (v.10).
9. From verse 13 tell how men came to be in a right relationship with God.
10. What assurances do we have as a result of the Holy Spirit (v.13-14)?
11. For what was Paul praying (v.15-18)?
12. How are these things possible (v.19-20)?
13. What important principles about the church are taught in verses 21-23?

Ephesians – Chapter 2

1. Who are “the sons of disobedience” (v.2)? How do these relate to “the prince of the power of the air” and “children of wrath” (v.1-3)?
2. “By grace you have been saved” (v.5-8). What does this mean? Does this agree with the “in Christ” phrases in chapter 1?
3. Verse 9 is sometimes said to be a contradiction with James 2:14-26. Please explain.
4. Who were the “circumcision” and who was the “uncircumcision” (v.11)?
5. What causes some to be “excluded from the commonwealth of Israel” (v.12)?
6. What is significant about the use of “NOW” in the context of verse 13?
7. In verse 15 is “abolishing in His flesh the enmity” and “thus establishing peace” referring to the same thing? If not, please explain the difference.
8. How were these reconciled (v.16)? How do we gain “access...to the father” (v.18)?
9. Of what are we now “citizens” (v.19)?
10. What is the importance of Jesus being “the cornerstone” (v.20)? What was the “foundation of the apostles and prophets” (v.20)?
11. What is the “building” that is referred to (v.21-22)?
12. “Growing” and “being built” seem to emphasize what about believers (v.21-22)?

Ephesians – Chapter 3

1. Where do we read about “the stewardship of God’s grace” (v.2) which was given to Paul for the Gentiles?
2. What blessing do we have in the written word that men at the start of the church did not enjoy (v.3-6)? How should this impact our faith when compared with theirs?
3. Why did Paul consider himself the “least of all saints” (v.8)?
4. What does the phrase “administration of the mystery” mean (v.9)?
5. What part does the church hold in distributing the truth (v.10)?
6. How do we gain access to God (v.11-12)?
7. What is Paul’s prayer and desire for the Ephesians (v.14-19)? [Try to explain the meaning of some of these phrases]
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
8. What does Paul attest God is able to do (v.21)?

Ephesians – Chapter 4

1. What is the “worthy manner” we are called to walk (v.1-3)?
2. From the seven points of unity in verses 4-6, list the points which religious groups are not united on.
3. What was the measure of Christ’s gift (v.7)?
4. From verses 8-10:
 - a) What is the “lower parts of the earth” to which Jesus descended?
 - b) How does Jesus “fill all things”?
5. For what are the saints equipped (v.12)? How does this equipping occur?
6. Does verse 13 speak of the same things or different things in the various phrases? If different, please explain.
7. What is the result of the equipping of the saints (v.14)?
8. List two modern doctrines by which some Christians are “tossed about”.
9. List three aspects of Christ which we are to grow up in (v.15).
10. How does verse 16 describe the function of the church?
11. How do the Gentiles walk which we are not to mimic (v.17-19)?

12. How are those who have learned about Christ different from the Gentiles (v.20-24)?

13. Explain how the principles of verses 26-27 are typically violated.

14. What does verse 28 teach about the use of our money?

15. List three forms of “unwholesome words” (v.29). What importance should be attached to the phrase “according to the need of the moment”?

16. How do we “grieve the Holy Spirit of God” (v.30)?

17. What does it mean to be “sealed for the day of redemption” (v.30)?

18. In your opinion, which of the traits in verses 31-32 are most often neglected by believers?

19. What is the standard of our forgiveness (v.32)?

Ephesians – Chapter 5

1. Describe how children imitate their parents. Describe how Christians imitate God (v.1-4).
2. What is not to be named among saints (v.3). Are they?
3. Why are the traits in verse 4 “not fitting”?
4. Those who participate in the evil qualities of verses 1-5 are called what in verse 6?
5. Why are we to “not be partakers with them” (v.7-10)?
6. Instead what are we to do about these things (v.11-14)?
7. For a third time in the epistle Paul relates Christian living to a “walk”. How does he describe our walk in verses 15-16?
8. What is the comparison in verse 18?
9. How do we “make melody in our heart” (v.19)?
10. How are we to “give thanks” (V.20)? Does this apply to all prayers?
11. A wife’s subjection is compared to what (v.22, 24)?
12. A husband’s rule over the wife is compared to what (v.23, 25, 28-30)?
13. What do these verses (v.22-33) teach about what Christ has done for the church?

Ephesians – Chapter 6

1. What is meant by “in the Lord” (v.1)?
2. What reference is quoted in verses 2-3?
3. Explain the difference in making a child angry and “provoking a child to anger” (v.4).
4. In your own words explain what is meant by “bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (v.4).
5. While looking at the instructions to slaves, explain proper employee and employer attitudes (v.5-9).
6. How are we able to be “strong in the Lord” (v.10)?
7. What is the purpose of wearing the gospel armor (v.11-13)?
8. For each of the following traits explain what spiritual attribute we are instructed to use in order to stand firm.
 - A. Gird Your Loins (v.14)
 - B. Breastplate (v.14)
 - C. Shod your feet (v.15)
 - D. Shield (v.16)
 - E. Helmet (v.17)
 - F. Sword (v.17)
9. For what does Paul instruct us to pray (v.18-20)?
10. What (from this text) do we know about Tychicus?