



An Introduction to Ephesians

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace and peace

to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

Saul (Paul) was born a ROMAN citizen in the town of Tarsus and studied under the teaching of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).

He appears in scripture at the STONING of Stephen (Acts 7-8) and is said to have fully endorsed his death.

Saul became a PHARISEE and after the stoning of Stephen, he was considered the chief persecutor of the Christians.

While on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), he miraculously encounters JESUS and is subsequently converted and starts to declare that Jesus is the Messiah.

After a multi-year preaching and learning experience (Galatians 1:11-24), Saul and BARNABAS are set aside by the church at Antioch to go into Asia Minor and preach the Gospel (Acts 13).

After time of constant conflict with the Jews, Paul declares at Antioch Pisidia that he would primarily go only to the GENTILES (Acts 13:46-47).

Paul first arrives at Ephesus on the return trip of his SECOND missionary journey (Acts 18:18-21).

Ephesus, The City



Ephesus was the capital city and a leading seaport located on the western shore of the Roman Province of Asia Minor (Turkey).

It was the home to the Temple Of Artemis, which was one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient World. It reached its pinacol during the Roman empire and was one of the

wealthiest cities in the empire. It was full of trade guilds, with idol making being one of the most prominent.

After a brief stop, Paul leaves Priscilla and Aquila at Ephesus on his way back to Jerusalem. He will return after several months while on his third missionary journey (Acts 18:19-21).

Paul stays in Ephesus for THREE years during which time he experiences Gospel success while also being given miraculous powers. (Acts 18:18-21; 19)

Ephesus is mentioned as the FIRST church in the book of Revelation. They are charged with “losing their first love.” (Rev. 2:4-5)

The Greeting

To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Paul lifts the recipients to an exalted level of spirituality:

They are GOD'S.

They are HOLY.

They are FAITHFUL.

There is some consideration that this was meant to be a letter that was circulated because “*in Ephesus*” is missing in some of the earliest manuscripts.

To God's holy people in Bluffton, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul reminds them (us) that having PEACE in our lives is dependent upon us first experiencing God's Grace through His son Jesus Christ.

