



## February 2016 – Education Month Ephesians Reading Plan

<i>Author: Paul</i>		<i>Date: A.D. 60, 61</i>		<i>Theme: The Glorious Church</i>		<i>Key Words: Glory, Body, Heavenly Places</i>	
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>1:1 - 5</b>	<b>1:6 - 10</b>	<b>1:11 - 15</b>	<b>1:16 - 20</b>	<b>1:21 - 2:2</b>	<b>2:3 - 7</b>	<b>2:8 - 12</b>	
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	Tue 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>2:13 - 17</b>	<b>2:18 - 22</b>	<b>3:1 - 5</b>	<b>3:6 - 10</b>	<b>3:11 - 15</b>	<b>3:16 - 20</b>	<b>3:21 - 4:4</b>	
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	
<b>4:5 - 9</b>	<b>4:10 - 14</b>	<b>4:15 - 19</b>	<b>4:20 - 24</b>	<b>4:25 - 29</b>	<b>4:30 - 5:2</b>	<b>5:3 - 7</b>	
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>5:8 - 12</b>	<b>5:13 - 17</b>	<b>5:18 - 23</b>	<b>5:24 - 29</b>	<b>5:30 - 6:2</b>	<b>6:3 - 9</b>	<b>6:10 - 24</b>	

**Sunday School: Normal Christian Living (Ephesians)**

Sundays 10:30 am to 11:20 am

**Bible Study: EPHESIANS – The THEOLOGY and PRACTICALITY of CHRISTIANITY**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7:30 pm

*Facilitator: Revd Veronica Patmore*

## The Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians

### Background

Ephesus was a principal port on the west coast of Asia Minor, situated near present day Izmir province in Turkey. It was one of the seven churches to whom Jesus addressed His letters in Revelation 2 and 3, a relevant fact for studying this epistle since it was originally circulated to approximately the same group of churches.

Although Paul had been to Ephesus earlier (Acts 18:21), he first came there to minister in the winter of A.D. 55. He ministered there for over two full years (Acts 19:8-10), developing so deep a relationship with the Ephesians that his farewell message to them is one of the Bible's most moving passages (Acts 20:17-38).

### Occasion and Date

While imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. Confined and awaiting trial (3:1; 4:1; 6:20), the apostle writes this encyclical letter – one to be read by several congregations. Ephesians is probably the same letter referred to in Colossians 4:16 as being presently at Laodicea while being circulated.

It appears that after writing Colossians, Paul was deeply stirred by an expanding revelation about the church. Now seeing the church as Christ's body and as God's instrument to confound and overthrow evil powers, he writes an elaboration of these themes.

### Purpose

Ephesians unveils the "mystery" of the church as no other epistle. God's "secret" intention is revealed:

1. To form a body to express Christ's fullness on Earth (1:15-23);
2. To do this by uniting one people – both Jew and Gentile, among whom God Himself dwells (2:11 – 3:7);
3. To equip, empower and mature this people to the end that they extend Christ's victory over evil (3:10 – 20; 6:12 – 20).

**MEMORY CHALLENGE** – to recite on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016**Ephesians 4** (NKJV)**Walk in Unity**

<sup>1</sup> I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> *There is one body and one Spirit,* just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

**Spiritual Gifts**

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

<sup>9</sup> (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; <sup>14</sup> that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, <sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

**The New Man**

<sup>17</sup> This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup> having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; <sup>19</sup> who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

<sup>20</sup> But you have not so learned Christ, <sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup> that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**Do Not Grieve the Spirit**

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbour,*” for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, <sup>27</sup> nor give place to the devil. <sup>28</sup> Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.