



The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

Bible Course

Acts to Revelation

Lesson 31

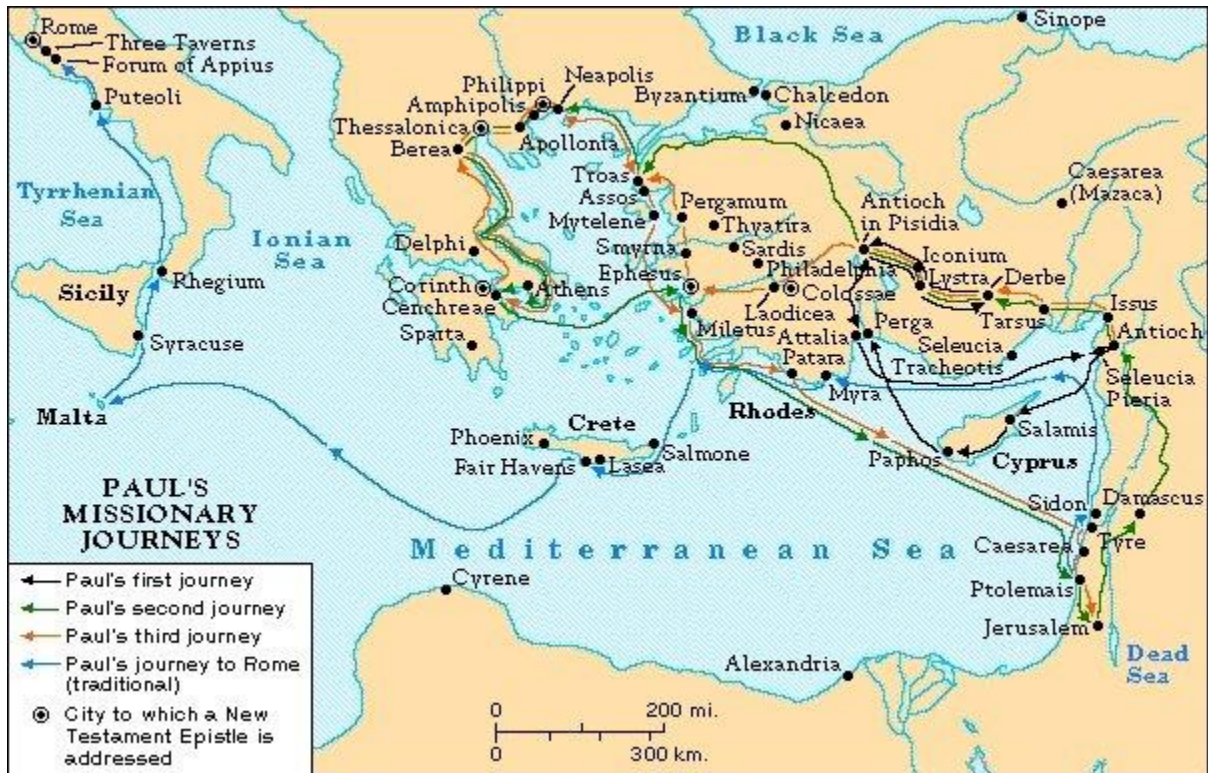
Name: _____

Ephesians

Ephesians is one of the “prison epistles” of Paul, which include Ephesians, Colossians, and Philippians, and was written approximately 61 A.D. Ephesus was a large city in the Roman Empire, second only to Rome. It was a commercial as well as a religious center. In Ephesus was a magnificent temple to Diana, considered to be one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world. Paul lived in Ephesus for 3 years on his 3rd missionary journey. Paul said that he “fought with beasts at Ephesus, which probably refers to the uproar that his preaching created, when the silversmiths began to riot over their decrease in income. This letter to the Ephesians was probably meant for the church in Ephesus, as well as churches in the surrounding area. The main theme of this letter is that the Church is God’s masterpiece, better than any temple made with hands. The unity of both Jew and Gentile believers is also emphasized. Ephesians is divided into 2 main parts. The first part deals with the heavenly calling and benefits for believers, and the second stresses the earthly conduct of believers.

1. Ephesus was the center of Asia. Paul was forbidden by the _____ preach the word in Asia (Acts 16:6) during his second missionary journey. He was called by a vision to Macedonia and led by the Spirit into Europe as far as Corinth. Then he returned by way of Ephesus. He did not stay long, but said farewell since he was going to Jerusalem for the feast, but “I will _____ again unto you, if God will (Acts 18:21).
2. On Paul’s third missionary journey he returned to Ephesus and stayed for _____ years, which was longer than he stayed in any other place.
3. What things happened during Paul’s stay in Ephesus?

4. Five years later, when Paul was imprisoned in Rome, he had an opportunity to write a letter to _____ which are at Ephesus (may also have been a “circular” letter) and to the _____ in Christ Jesus (1:1).
5. When was Ephesians written? _____
6. Circle Ephesus on the Map below.



7. What is the main theme of Ephesians?

8. How is Ephesians divided?
 a. Chapters 1-3: _____
 Chapters 4-6: _____

Read Ephesians 1

The first three chapters address the heavenly calling of the church of Christ. First Paul talks about how the church as the body of Christ comes into being.

9. Prior to any knowledge of God, “according as he hath _____ us in him before the _____ of the _____ ...having _____ us unto the _____ of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will (v. 4-5).

10. This passage (v. 4,5) speaks of election – being chosen by the Father. Explain election:

Christ does not save everyone. This is not a popular belief because so many believe that they do at least some good and in the end, God will save everyone. In actuality, most people will likely be in hell. Some common beliefs are:

1. Unlimited Universal Redemption: eventually all will be saved, there is no everlasting hell, not even for devils (UCA from 1803 believe this and in 1961 merged to the American Unitarian Universalist).
2. Limited Universal Redemption (Arminianism): Jesus dies for all, but it is up to you to accept or not. Jesus didn't make sure for anyone, but made it possible for all. This was a key point of contention at the Synod of Dort in 1618. Biblically, Jesus made salvation sure for His people (Romans 9).
3. Hypothetical Universalism: Christ's death was infinite in value, but election makes sure only certain would believe. (There is no hypothetical dying of Christ. He knew exactly who He died for.)
4. Personal or Definite or Limited Atonement: Christ's satisfaction was of infinite value, but the intended object of this gift is the elect.

11. The church comes into being by being chosen by the Father and purchased by Christ. Find and write a verse that that describes the purchase by Christ.

12. The church is chosen by the Father, purchased by Christ, and _____ by the _____. “in whom also after that ye believed, ye were _____ with that holy _____ of _____ (v. 13).

13. What theme does Paul emphasize in verses 15-23?

Read Ephesians 2

After reading how the church came into being in chapter two, Paul explains how the church is a temple or building of God. Some worldviews feel that man is basically OK with maybe a few flaws. In this chapter, read the biblical worldview of man before and after salvation.

14. Describe the people that have become a part of this body of Christ [vs. 1-10]. Who were they in the past, and who are they now?

a. Past: ...”who were _____ in _____ and _____ ...ye walked according to the course of this _____, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of _____ ...fulfilling the _____ of the _____ and of the _____; and were by nature the children of _____ (v. 1-3). In this passage, God describe man as willfully disobedient, enslaved to the world and the devil. Most people think that the future will be OK, but God abhors sin and we must realize that God’s wrath is just (we deserve it), determined (unavoidable, just restrained), present (like a storm brewing), and coming (in dreadful fury) unless we are rescued by grace.

b. Now: “ _____ (what an amazing phrase!) who is _____ in _____, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were _____ in _____ hath quickened us together with Christ (by _____ ye are _____)” (v.4-5).

15. The Church is the temple of God. How is this temple built? What is the method [vs. 11-22]? _____

Evaluator: _____

Meditation: “Grace”

Chosen not for good in me,
Wakened up from wrath to flee,
Hidden in the Saviour’s side,
By the Spirit sanctified,
Teach me, Lord, on earth to show,
By my love, how much I owe.

Taken from: “Gems of Robert Murray McCheyne”