

Ephesians: The Gifts Given

Background

Paul wrote this epistle in Rome in 64 AD. (Eph 1:1, 3:1) (Acts 20-27) It is the second of the doctrinal books, Romans being the first (doctrinal books-I Thess was the first letter written) He visited the Ephesians on his second missionary journey (Acts 18:18-21) Aquila and Priscilla stayed there to carry on the work. Paul went back on his third missionary visit and stayed three years (Acts 19)

Ephesians was probably written while Paul was in prison in Rome It is considered one of 4 of Paul's "Prison Epistles": Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Tychicus was the bearer of this epistle, along with the epistles Colossians and Philemon.

Ephesians is primarily a book which pictures our perfect union "in Christ" and it is half doctrine, half duty: how to live and why you should live in such a fashion. Approximately 78 verses of Ephesians are found in Colossians. It is theorized that this letter could be the same as the Laodicea letter, which was never found, possibly because this letter was meant to be encyclical-one to be read by several congregations.

The Themes

- The Bride and the Groom
- The Book of Gifts
- The Warfare Book
- The Book of "Ones"-7 Ones
- The Mystery-Christ, the Head, the Church, the Body
- The Body: Jew/Gentile in union with Christ
- The Unity of the Body

The mystical Body of Christ and the spiritual union:

God's great plan to bring everything together under Christ, the head (Eph 1:10, Eph 1:22, 23) The book, like no other, covers the believers position "in Christ" and the results that should be obtained through his/her practical experience.

We,with and through the Holy Spirit, have a guarantee of His promises and have been sealed with the promise of His Spirit, the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 1:13-14) Paul does not address the controversial elements found in Colossians and Galatians (heresies, Gnosticism, Docetism, vain philosophies of man, special days, feasts, angelic worship, asceticism, etc.), but focuses primarily on doctrine.

The picture:

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The Church is the body, with Christ as the head- (Eph 1:22, 23; Eph 2:15,16)

The Church a building, with Christ, the cornerstone (Eph 2:20-22)

The Church like a wife, with Christ as the Husband (Eph 5:21-33)

The Body Eph 4:14

- God nourishes and cherishes His own Body
- Marriage-like Christ and the church,
- Like husbands are to cherish their wives

Ephesus

Located near the Aegean Sea in modern day Turkey

1 mile inland from the eastern portion of the Aegean Sea

The chief port and capital of the province of Asia

A great theater-50,000 people (where the riot of Acts 19 took

place

Home of one of the seven wonders of the world, Temple of Artemis or also called Temple Diana-(just a few remnants of the foundation still standing -

Diana: the mother goddess of the earth, love and fertility

One of the 7 churches mentioned in Revelation (Rev 2 and 3)

The city was full of sexual immorality

Open 1:18

Paul's prayer for the saints: for understanding, the hope of His calling and the riches of the glory of His inheritance.

Gift of God to Himself-His bride-the Church

Close 2:8

Gift of God to you by His Grace-the gift of salvation through faith

God's gift back to Himself-the Church

Gifts

1. Church: Gift-You've been **chosen** (Eph 1: 4) HE CHOSE US
(Ro 11:16, John 15:16, I Peter 2:9)

Chosen: The Jewish nation (God's Chosen) rejected Jesus. Through their rejection, the gentile nation was grafted in, therefore:

For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too. Ro 11:16

"You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. John 15:16

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But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; I Pe 2:9

2. Church: Gift- We have been **predestined** us to **adoption as sons** (Eph 1:5)
(Gal 4:5-7, Ro 9:8,)

To redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Gal 4:5-7

This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. Ro 9:8

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, John1:12

3. Church: Gift- We have been redeemed through the Blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses Eph 1:7 (Matt 26:28, Col 1:14, Rom 3:24)

for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. Matt 26:28

being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; Ro 3:24

4. Church: Gift- To know the mystery of His Will (Eph 1: 9) (Eph 3:1-12, Matt 11:25, I Cor 2:9-10)

At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Matt 11:25

but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him."

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. I Cor 2:9-10

5. Church: Gift-Obtained an inheritance (Eph 1:11) I Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. I Pe 1:3-5

6. Church: Gift- Sealed with Him with the Holy Spirit of promise (Eph 1:13)
(Eph 4:30, 2 Cor 2:1, Jn 3:5, Tit 3:5)

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Eph 4:30

who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge. II Cor 2:1

*Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit** he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Jn 3:5*

*He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and **renewing by the Holy Spirit**, Tit 3:5 (NASB)*

Key: Enlightened

Church-fellow heirs, fellow members, fellow partakers

7. Church: Gift We were dead in our trespasses but now made us alive together with Christ, and **raised us up with him** (Eph 2:5-6)(Col 2:12)

*having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also **raised up with Him** through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. Col 2:12 (NASB)*

8. Church: Gift -**Seated us** with Him in heavenly places (Eph 2:6) Col 3:1
*Therefore if **you have been raised up with Christ**, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Col 3:1 (NASB)*

9. Church: **Gift of God to you -Himself** (Eph 2:8)
He is peace, who made both groups into one (Eph 2:14) (Heb 8:10)
*This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. **I will be their God**, and they will be my people. Heb 8:10 (NASB)*

10. Church: Gift- **Access in one Spirit**, to Father (Eph 2:18) (I Cor 12:13)
*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink **into one Spirit**. 1 Corinthians 12:13*

11. Church-Gift The **ministry call**, a gift of God's grace (Eph 3:7-8) (Acts 9:15)
*But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is **my chosen instrument** to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. Acts 9:15*

12. Church: Gift-**Spiritual gifts given** to men for equipping and maturing the saints (Eph 4:8)

Why are they given?

1. To equip the Body
2. To give direction
3. To give comfort
4. To meet the needs of the Body

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Seven motivational gifts: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, organizing, or mercy (I Cor 12:4)

Five Ministry gifts: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers (Eph 4:11-13)

Nine Manifestation gifts: word of wisdom, word of Knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, discerning of spirits, divers tongues, and interpretation of tongues (I Cor. 12:7-11)

13. God's gift to Himself - the church in all its glory. (Eph 5:27)

Benefits

Being strengthened with power through His Spirit

Chapter 1: Adopted by Grace

1. To whom is Apostle Paul writing this letter? Vs.1-3
2. How did Paul write this letter? vs 1
3. We have been blessed by whom and with what? Vs 3
4. Believers are chosen when and by whom? Vs 4
5. Believers are predestined to adoption as sons through whom and why? Vs 5
6. How was His grace given to us? vs 6
7. Believers are redeemed, or bought back from the penalty of sin through the Blood of Jesus thus receiving what? Vs 7
8. We have been given the mystery of His will and have obtained an inheritance? What does this mean? Vs. 9-11
9. We have been predestined according to His purpose. What is the true and proper fountain of man's salvation? Vs 11
10. What does these gifts of adoption, redemption, predestination, inheritance, and the mystery of His will give us personally? Vs 12
11. Believers are sealed with _____? vs 13
12. We have been given a pledge of our _____. vs 14
13. Paul gave thanks for the Ephesians because he heard of their _____ and _____ for all the saints. vs 15

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14. What 4 things did Paul pray? vs 19-20
15. Where is Christ seated vs 20
16. All things are put into subjection to whom? Vs. 22
17. What position did God place Jesus in and over what? vs 22

Key Points

- Spiritual blessings
- To know the hope of His calling
- To know the riches of the glory of His inheritance
- To know the greatness of His power towards us (His Saints)
- To know our inheritance
- To know our eternal security

Key Words

- Chosen
- Predestined
- Redemption
- Adoption
- Forgiveness (of our trespasses)
- Sealed in Him
- Pledge of our inheritance

Grace: mentioned 12 times with in this Epistle alone

1:2, 1:6-7, 2:5-8, 3:2, 3:7-8, 4:7, 4:29, 6:24

Grace is unmerited favor, it is undeserved blessing, it is a free gift

- It comes from the Greek word charis (khar-ee) Strong's #5485
- From the root word chara meaning joy, and chairō "to rejoice"
- Charis--- grace causes rejoicing!!!
- it includes the favor of God, salvation, forgiveness, mercy

Where do we find the grace of God?

1. We are saved by grace.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Romans 5:8

2. We are kept by grace.

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Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2

3. We abound (flourish) in grace.

God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. II Corinthians 9:8

4. We are refined with grace.

I will bring the one-third through the fire, I will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them, I will say This is My people; and each one will say, "The Lord is my God." Is

Application

God raised Christ from the dead, seated him at His right hand in heavenly places, far above all rule, and authority and power, and dominion and above every name that is names, not only in this time but time to come. God put all things under His foot and gave Him as head over all things to the Church, which is His Body. We are to live as in Christ Jesus, ruling and reigning, victorious over temporal things, situations and the evil we encounter. We are not to be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Chapter 2: Alive in Christ

1. Before Christ, what was the condition or state of the unbeliever? Vs 1-3
2. What did the believer live in before conversion? Vs 3
3. The believer is raised up with Christ. Where is he seated? vs 6
4. Salvation is a gift. By what and through what? vs 8
5. Believers are Gods workmanship created for what purpose? What did the believer live in before conversion?
6. For the unbeliever without God, separation means "No hope". Why? vs 12-13
7. What is the barrier or dividing wall that was broken down? Vs 14
8. How can the believer have access to God? Vs 19
9. Who makes up the foundation the building that Paul describes as the household of God?
10. What is the purpose of this household? Vs 22

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Key Points

1. Once we were children of wrath, being controlled by the prince of the air, in our lusts and passions, seeking after pleasing the flesh.
2. Now we are citizens of God's household.
3. Grace is a gift given, not by our own efforts, but through the sacrificial Blood of Christ Jesus.

Key Words

Dead in our transgressions
Prince of the air
Seated with Christ
Gift of Grace
His workmanship
Separated, children of wrath
Peace
God's household

Application

Once separated, now brought together as a household of God, we are to experience the peace we have found, now that we have made peace with God, one with God, and are one in spirit, unified with the household of saints.

Christ:

Christ, our peace (Eph 2:15)
Christ, our cornerstone (Eph 2:20)
Our citizenship and members of the household of God (Eph 2:19)
Our foundation: God's household, built on apostles and prophets with Christ as our cornerstone (Eph2: 20)

Chapter 3 Steward ship of Grace

1. What does it mean to be a "prisoner of Christ Jesus?"
Vs 1
2. Believers know what by what? Vs. 3-4
3. What lesson is Paul teaching when he uses the phrases fellow heirs, fellow members, fellow partakers in Christ Jesus?
Vs 6-7
4. Why do we as believers share the truth of the Gospel?
Vs. 10
5. What benefits do believers receive as they understand these truths?
Vs 16

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6. Paul prayed that the believer be strengthened, that they know or comprehend, that they are filled up? Why?
Vs 20

Key Points

We are all stewards of God's grace and have been given the mystery of Christ in order that the manifold wisdom of God be made know through the church to rulers and authorities in heavenly places.

Key Words

Stewardship of God's grace
Mystery of Christ
Fellow heirs, fellow partakers
Manifold wisdom of God
Rooted and grounded in Love

Application

Share the Gospel. We are all part of God's family, called to take the truth and share it. Grow in the understanding of the wisdom of God and the power He imparts to the Church.

The Church: Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets Christ Jesus,

Paul was given -Stewardship

1. Stewardship of God's grace
2. Revelation- there was made known to me the mystery
3. Gift grace of God
4. Preach
5. Manifold wisdom of God

My song, my ministry: For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family and on earth derives its name, (3:14)

Chapter 4: Practical Life Application

1. How should the believer walk?
Vs 1-2
2. Paul makes it very clear that there should be no divisions in the Church? Why?
VS 4-6
3. Why did God give gifts to the Church according to Paul?
Vs. 8
4. Name the offices given to the Church.
Vs 11
5. Why were these offices given and who gave them?

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Vs 12-13

6. How does the old man differ from the new man?
Vs 17-23
7. Can the believer experience anger and if so, what should he do with it?
Vs 26
8. Stealing has no place in the life of the believer, and neither does unwholesome talk. What does such activities do to the Holy Spirit?
Vs 30

Key Points

As part of the Body of Christ, we are to walk worthy of our calling, in unity, in patience, in love and humility, growing in maturity, so that we are equipped to do the work of service for the building up of the church.

Key Words

Walk worthy

One Body

Taking Captivity Captive

5 fold Office: Apostles, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher

Equipping and maturing

Old and New Self

Application

Spiritual Gifts given:

Some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers

- a. For the equipping of the saints
- b. For the work of service
- c. To the building up of the body of Christ
- d. Unity of the faith
- e. And of the knowledge of the Son of God
- f. To a mature man
- g. To the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ

Church given grace, which was given according to the measure of Christ's gift (4:7)

- Grace to save
- Grace to restore
- Gifts given to take captive captivity

How we are live:

Walk worthy

Humility

Gentleness

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With patience

Showing forbearance to one another in Love

Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

How did we used to walk:

As gentiles walk- in the futility of their mind

Darkened in their understanding

Excluded from the life of God

In ignorance and hardness of hearts

Callous-given over to sensuality

Practicing every kind of impurity

In greediness

Now we are to walk:

1. Laying aside old self-corrupted with the lusts of deceit
2. Renewed in the spirit of your mind
3. Put on new self, in the likeness of God
4. Created in righteousness and holiness of truth
5. Lay aside falsehood, speak truth
6. Be angry but do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger
7. Do not give the devil opportunity
8. Steal no more
9. Let no unwholesome talk come from your mouth
10. Edification to give grace to your hearer
11. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit
12. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger clamor slander be put away and all malice
13. Be kind to one another tender-hearted
14. Forgiving each other as God has forgiven you
15. Do not let immorality, impurity, freed be named among u=you
16. No filthiness and silly talk or coarse jesting
17. No immoral or impure person or covetous man who is an idolater has an inheritance in the kingdom of God
18. Wrath of God comes to the disobedient therefore let no one deceive you with empty words
19. Walk as children of the light
20. Fruits of light-consists of goodness, righteousness, and truth
21. Learn what is pleasing to God
22. Do not participate in unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead expose them
23. Walk not as unwise men, but as wise making the most of the time-the days are evil
24. Do not get drunk with wine
25. Be filled with the Spirit
26. Singing hymns, songs, and scripture

The Body

- God nourishes and cherishes His own Body
- Marriage -like Christ and the church
- Like husbands are to cherish their wives

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- Like a building, with Christ the cornerstone

Unity under God

Church given grace, which was given according to the measure of Christ's gift (4:7)

- Grace to save
- Grace to restore
- Gifts given to take captive captivity

Gifts given to take captive:

Some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers

- a. For the equipping of the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ
- b. Until will all attain the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God
- d. To the mature man
- e. To the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ

Chapter 5: Imitate God

1. What should the believer walk in?
Vs 2
2. Believers must flee from what?
Vs 3
3. According to Paul, who will not receive an inheritance in the kingdom of God? Vs 5
4. The wrath of God falls on those who are sons of what?
Vs 6
5. The unbeliever is in darkness and the believer is in what?
Vs 8
6. Believers are not to participate in the unfruitful deeds of what?
Vs.11
7. Believers should be careful how they walk thus walking as what?
Vs 15
8. Believers should be filled with what?
Vs 18
9. For the believer, the husband is the head of the wife. Christ is the head of the Church. How should husbands treat their wives?
Vs 25. Vs 28-29

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10. Paul speaks of this mystery. What mystery is he speaking about?

Vs 33

Key Points

We are to be imitators of God, making the most of our time, walking wisely as children of the light and exposing the darkness. We are to honor God through our relationships. Marriage is a reflection of Christ's relationship with the church.

Key Words

Imitators

Deceived

Children of Light

Fruitful deeds of darkness

Filled with the Spirit

Love and respect

Application

Live, walk and serve all to the honor of God, being an imitator of God as beloved children, doing what you see the Father doing. Walk in the love of Christ, respecting and loving one another.

The Church:

The Body -One 4:4

a. The two shall become one flesh 5:31-32

b. Husband and wife, Christ and the Church 5:25

c. Jew and Gentile-one body

God's present to Himself the Church in all its glory

Eph 5:27

Christ, the mystery of the Church

- Christ the Head, died for her
- Christ loved her
- Christ gave himself to her
- Christ saved her
- Christ washed her
- Christ cleanses her

Greatest gift given: Two become one
Husband is head of the wife, like Christ is head of the Church
Wives are commanded to respect their husbands
Husbands are commanded to love their wives. Eph 5:30-31

Gift given -Our armor

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Gift given- Christ and His life

Gift given-Gift of salvation

Gifts given- Offices, to take captive captivity

Chapter 6:

The family both naturally and spiritually

Relational

1. Children should obey their parents? Why?
Vs 3
2. Fathers should not do what?
Vs 4
3. For the believer, our service is to God; it is not unto man. Therefore, how should we approach our service?
Vs 7
4. God does not show partiality. True or false?
Vs 9
5. Believers do not fight with men. Who is our battle with?
Vs 10
6. What is the full armor of God?
Vs 13-18
7. What does this armor allow us to do?
Vs 13
8. How do you resist the devil?
Vs 16
9. Prayer, petition, and in perseverance, we are to actively be alert to the evil one. Why?

Key Points

We are commanded to love, honor and respect our family, as well as those we work with and for. We are also instructed to put on our spiritual armor so that we may be strong and ready to fight spiritual forces.

Key Words

Obey

Provoke

Slaves of Christ

Full Armor

Struggle

Stand firm

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The mystery of the Gospel
Ambassador in Chains

Armed, and not defenseless

- a. Called to resist the devil
- b. Called to stand firm and not be moved
- c. Called to maturity
- d. Called to be properly dressed
- e. Called to be fully clothed in armor-Eph 6:11 Application

We are to do the will of God from the heart. We are to stand firm and fight the good fight of faith. We are to treat our family, employers and employees justly and with honor. In this, we honor God.

This Body is in a battle, not with flesh and blood but with powers principalities, spiritual wickedness in high places. We are to be properly dressed.

The Headship of Christ:

(Col and Eph: 78 similar verses)

1. All principality Eph 1:21; Col 2:10
2. All power Eph 1:21; Col 2:10
3. All might Eph1: 21
4. Dominion Eph1: 21; Col 1:16-18
5. Every name Eph1: 21; Phil 2:9; Heb 1:4
6. This world Eph 1:21
7. The world to come Eph 1:21
8. All things Eph 1:21; Heb 2:8-9
9. The Church Eph 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23-31 Col 1:18, 24; 2:19
10. Every man I Cor 11:3
11. Of the corner Mt 21:42, Lk 20:17, Acts 4:11, I Peter 2:7
12. The people Is 55:4
13. Over all -Rom 9:5; Col 3:11
14. His own House-Heb 3:6

Warfare: The Church is armed, not left defenseless

Paul while in prison, possibly looking over at the Roman guards:

Defensive, offensive

Whole armor

Loins girt with the Truth (stand on truth)
Breastplate of righteousness (heart purity and righteous)
Feet shod with preparation of the gospel of peace (share the truth)
Shield of faith to quench fiery darts of the wicked (protected by & thru faith)
Helmet of salvation (your mind, knowing your destiny)
Sword of the Spirit-which IS the word of God (DEFEND)

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Gods Gift to Himself: The Church 5:27

In Him

Ephesians 1:4

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Ephesians 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Ephesians 1:9

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

Ephesians 1:10

with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

Ephesians 1:13

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 3:12

in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

Ephesians 4:21

if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

How are men saved?

Confess with mouth, believe in your heart

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, [b]resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, [c]resulting in salvation. Ro 10:9-10 (NASB)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9 (NASB)

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. I Cor 6:11 (NASB)

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NASB)

Letter to Ephesians Rev 2

Message to Ephesus found in Rev 2 - written 40 years after the church was founded

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2 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks [a]among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

2 ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the [d]deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. 6 Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’ Rev 2: 1-7 (NASB)