

## **Ephesians: God's Plan and Our Response**

### **Introduction**

The Letter to the Ephesians is like both a telescope and a microscope. In fact, Ephesians alternately uses both. With a telescope, Ephesians masterfully looks at the broad sweep of what God has been doing through eternity to now and what God's purpose is for the rest of eternity. With a microscope, Ephesians helps us see our place in all that is happening.

Have you ever wanted to know what life is all about? Almost everyone has. Ephesians helps us find the answers. Have you ever wanted to know what your place in life is? Ephesians helps with those answers, too. Have you ever wanted to know how you fit in God's purpose? Maybe that's the same question as the previous two. Whatever the case, though, Paul in Ephesians helps to find the answers to that one, too.

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians comes to us addressed to the church at Ephesus. Ephesus was a leading city in the Roman province of Asia Minor, which geographically is part of modern-day Turkey. Many Bible students, however, consider Ephesians to have been intended for every church, not just the church at Ephesus specifically.

Thus, the message of Ephesians is for us, too. It helps us to lift our vision to see what God is doing through all of eternity, to find our place in what God is doing, and to recognize that God is doing something majestic in which he has invited us to participate. The book also brings us quite down to earth with guidance about how we are to live the Christian life in all of our circumstances and relationships.

**Unit One, "God's Intention for Us,"** consists of three sessions. These sessions deal with the picture Paul paints of God's purpose in all of history and eternity. The Scripture passages studied are from Ephesians 1-3.

Session 1 What God Is Doing	Ephesians 1:1-14
Session 2 Saved to New Life!	Ephesians 2:1-16
Session 3 What God Wants for You	Ephesians 3:14-21

**Unit Two, "Living Out God's Intention,"** considers the practical application to life of God's far-reaching purpose. This unit's Scripture passages are from Ephesians 4-6.

Session 4 How to Find Your Place	Ephesians 4:1-16
Session 5 How to Walk the Walk and Talk the Talk	Ephesians 4:17-5:11
Session 6 How to Be Christian in Family Life	Ephesians 5:21-6:4
Session 7 How to Be Christian When It's Not Easy	Ephesians 6:10-24