



I AM

CROSSROADS



**EPHESIANS STUDY GUIDE
WEEK TWO**

6. Is there something you need to start doing or stop doing because of what you have studied?

DAY 6

(see scripture passage from Day 5)

1. What do we both have through Christ?

2. What can Gentiles now become because of what Christ has done?
(19)

3. Upon what are we being built?

4. What kind of building are we? For what purpose? (vs 21-22)

5. What truth have you learned that is most meaningful to you?

This devotional is designed to be a resource for you to use as we go through the book of Ephesians during the “I AM CROSSROADS” series. Each week we will provide an in-depth study of the Scripture we discussed on Sunday morning. Each day is designed to take about ten minutes to help you think through and explore how you can apply the scripture to your life.

{Below is some background information to help you understand the purpose and role of the book Ephesians}

BACKGROUND ON EPHESIANS

AUTHORSHIP

Paul was born in Tarsus into Roman citizenship (Acts 22:28) and later educated under the illustrious rabbi, *“Saint Paul Writing His Epistles”* by Valentin de Boulogne (ca. 16th century) Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). Zealous for the Law, Paul became the chief persecutor of the early church until his conversion when Jesus Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). Immediately, Paul began to proclaim Jesus as Savior, eventually focusing several missionary journeys to the Gentiles throughout Asia Minor. During his journeys, he traveled to Ephesus and ministered there for almost three years (Acts 20:31). After Paul departed from Ephesus, he left Timothy behind to combat false teaching (1 Timothy 1:3). At some later point, Paul wrote this letter while in prison either in Caesarea or Rome as one of his many “Prison Epistles” in A.D. 60-62.

BACKGROUND

Once you have completed the introductory questions on the previous page, read this background article on the book of Ephesians (portions compiled from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* and *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*). Despite recent debate that the book was written by someone who did not use his own name but instead claimed to be Paul, there is no strong reason to reject Pauline authorship of the book.

RECEIPTS

Ephesus was a leading city on the west coast of Asia Minor. It essentially linked the western and eastern portions of the Roman Empire on the main highway and even possessed the most favorable seaport in the province of Asia. Due to its location within the Empire, Ephesus exerted great influence culturally, economically, and religiously. With a population over 300,000 people, Ephesus contained a theatre that seated an estimated 25,000 people. It became the center for worship of the goddess Artemis (Diana in Roman mythology), which often included temple prostitution. Her temple ranked as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and became not just a center for worship but also the primary banking institution for all of Asia Minor. As a result, Paul's apostolic ministry that turned people to Christ and away from Artemis represented a significant financial threat to temple-related businesses like that of the silversmith, Demetrius (Acts 19:23-41). Ephesus also became a center of occult practice as many used magic, witchcraft, and sorcery to manipulate hostile spiritual powers to their advantage (Acts 19:11-20).

1. Read Ephesians 2:11-22 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.
2. What was the gentile's condition outside of Christ (v11-12)?
3. What four things describe our position before we became a Christian according to verse 12?
4. What has Christ done through His blood? (13)
5. How has Jesus become "our peace" through His death on the cross? (14-17)

DAY 5

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—

12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,

16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

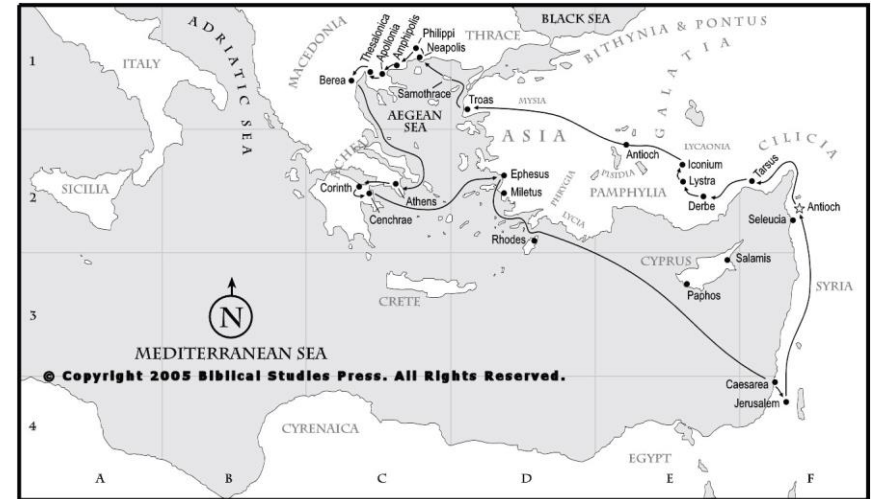
18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.



The Mediterranean region as Paul traveled to Ephesians for first time.

PURPOSE

Paul’s letter to the Ephesian believers does not seem concerned with any particular heresies as we see in Galatians and Colossians, nor with any particular occurrences of immorality as in 1 Corinthians. Rather, Paul’s purposes are to declare the glory of God and the extravagant riches given to the Church. Paul focuses on the call, identity, and conduct of the Church, the body of Christ, throughout this rich epistle.

DAY 1

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

“seated us with Him” (See also 1:20.)

3. How does 2:10 relate to 2:8-9? In other words, how do good works relate to our salvation (See also Titus 2:11-14.)?

DAY 4

(see scripture passage from Day 1)

1. Define the following key words in this passage:

“grace” (See Romans 5:15-17.)

“works” (See Romans 4:1-5 and Titus 3:5.)

“saved” (See 1 Timothy 1:15-16.)

“faith” (See Ephesians 1:13.)

2. God’s salvation of us is described with three main verbs in verses 4-6. For each one, define exactly what Paul means. See Romans 6:1-14 for help in defining these terms.

“made us alive together with Christ”

“raised us up with Him”

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage?

2. What has God done for us, according to verse 1?

3. What was our condition outside of Christ (1-3)

4. What motivated God to save us (4)

DAY 2

(see scripture passage from Day 1)

1. What does Paul mean by “dead” in 2:1 (See Genesis 2:16-17; Isaiah 59:2; Romans 5:12-21; 7:8; Ephesians 4:16; 1 Timothy 5:6.)?

2. Who is the prince of the power of the air (See 6:11-12.)? What power and authority does he have now (See 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 4:4; 5:19.)?

3. What is “wrath” and what does it mean to be “by nature children of wrath” in 2:3?

4. Based on your answers to the above questions, describe a person’s condition without Christ. Do non-Christians realize their condition? Why or why not?

DAY 3

(see scripture passage from Day 1)

1. What did God do, even though we were dead in trespasses? How? (v5)

2. What is our position, according to verse 6?

3. How do we become a Christian, according to verse 8?

4. Why is our relationship to God not based on good works, according to verse 9?

5. What are we now in Christ Jesus? For what purpose? (v10)

