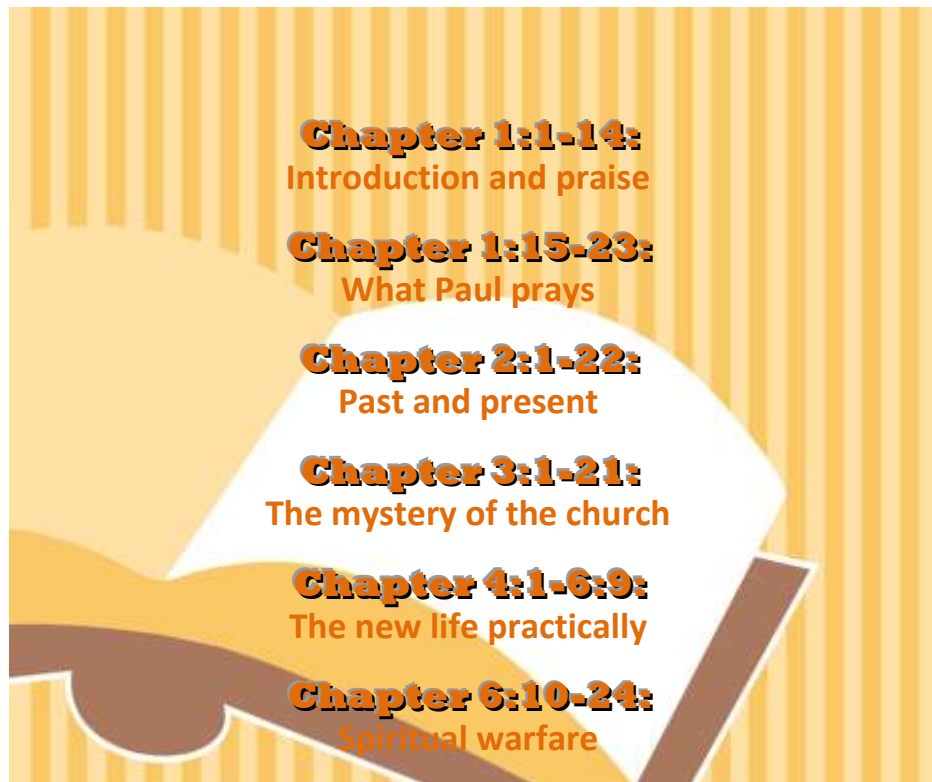


Ephesians

"For by grace you have been saved through faith." Ephesians 2:8



How it started: The letter to the Ephesians was written during the first imprisonment of the apostle Paul in Rome, ten years after the start of the church in Ephesus.

Paul visited Ephesus on his second missionary journey (Acts 18:19-21).

During his third missionary journey he stayed in Ephesus for three years and taught the Christians there in the school of Tyrannus (Acts 19:1-20:1). Paul therefore knew many Christians in Ephesus personally.

Tychicus, a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus, delivered the letter to the Ephesians (6:21-22) and informed the recipients of Paul's circumstances.

What it is all about: The letter to the Ephesians reminds us that, before the foundation of the world, God had already had plans of blessing beyond imagination for the believers. The reason for this was not the need of the lost sinner, but God's sovereign will before time. All this has its foundation in the work and person of the Lord Jesus.

God's plans also had in view the founding of the Christian church. It consists of all those who believe in His son Jesus Christ, no matter whether previously they had been Jews or heathens (chapters 1-3). The letter to the Ephesians further explains that a believer, having such an outstanding position of blessing, should glorify God in his day to day life – i.e. live a life consistent with the position (chapters 4-6).

How about today? This book of the Bible shows you how immeasurably rich you are as a Christian. Through faith, you have been brought into a position of which unbelievers have just no idea. No one in this world can offer you anything that's comparable. The knowledge of this helps you to bear spite and mocking. – Don't let anyone rob you of the joy of the Lord Jesus and His unsearchable riches!

The letter to the Ephesians helps you, in view of the many temptations of the world, to recognize what is of real value. It helps you to live to God's glory – and this will always be in sharp contrast to your unbelieving surroundings.