

INTRODUCTION TO PAUL'S *EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS*
(Ephesians 1:1)

I. A Little BACKGROUND

A. Written by PAUL

B. Written in A.D. 60-61

1. THIRTEEN years after Paul's FIRST visit on second mission trip (Acts 18:18-28)
 - a. Accompanied by PRISCILLA and AQUILLA
 - b. Lasted only THREE MONTHS
2. EIGHT years after Paul's SECOND visit on third mission trip (Acts 19:1-41)
 - a. Lasted THREE YEARS
 - b. Ended in RIOT caused by Demetrius the silversmith
3. THREE to FIVE years after his meeting with the elders in Miletus (Acts 20:18-35)
4. During Paul's FIRST imprisonment, while under house arrest in a place he had rented, awaiting trial before NERO

C. Addressed to BELIEVERS "at EPHESUS"

1. Destination MISSING from many EARLY MSS

2. Delivered by Tychicus, who also carried the Epistle to the COLOSSIANS (Eph. 6:21-22; Col. 4:7; cf. 2 Tim. 4:12)
3. Destination IDENTIFIED from mid-FOURTH century

II. A Brief OVERVIEW

A. Emphasizes our SPIRITUAL RICHES in Christ

1. They are UNLIMITED (1:3; 3:8)
2. They are UNENDING (1:4-5; 3:20-21)
3. They are UNDESERVED (1:6; 2:8-10)

B. Teaches much about the CHURCH

1. The church as a MYSTERY (3:3-5)
2. The church as the BODY of CHRIST (1:23; 5:30)

C. Instructs believers in our CHRISTIAN WALK

1. Chapters 1 through 3 contain DOCTRINAL instruction on our POSITION in Christ
2. Chapters 4 through 6 make PRACTICAL applications to our RESPONSIBILITIES in Christ