

## "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

## EPHESIANS 1

### ***Ephesians 1***

In the next few books coming our way in the **365 Bible Reading Plan**, we will cover every chapter of the book. They are shorter books, and the content is so important and relevant to our present time and culture that I chose to include each chapter in our reading plan.

The Book of Ephesians is part of what is called the "Prison Letters" and was written from Rome in approximately 60 A.D. Ephesus was the capital of the Roman province of Asia Minor. You will see it on your maps in what is modern-day Turkey. Turkey is part of the continent of Asia, where there is only a river dividing two continents, the Bosphorus River.

Ephesus was a major center of the ancient cult of Diana, the Greek goddess of fertility. Her statues depict her with rows of breasts. The great temple of Diana was there, and the gospel preaching of Paul was so blessed and effective that the trade guild of silversmiths came together to do away with Paul because no one was buying their silver idols any longer. You can read about the church, its founding, and some of the events that took place there in the Book of Acts, chapters 18-20. The church had several illustrious pastors in the first

fifty years of its existence, the Apostle Paul, Timothy, Apollos, and the Apostle John. Tradition tells us that after the exile of John, Onesimus, the run-a-way slave of Colosse (see the Book of Philemon), was pastor of the church.

The Letter contains teachings on the major doctrines of the Christian faith, major teachings on the "Mystery of Jew and Gentile in one body, the church," and how these teachings are to affect our lives in daily, godly living. This letter stresses the major teaching of *union with Christ Jesus*, that we are united with Him now and that the Spirit of God who lives in each and every believer is the deposit, or down payment, of what we could never imagine that He has prepared for those of us who love Him. Paul speaks to attitudes and actions that should result from our union with Christ. Paul sets in motion in 5:15 a detail of the Spirit-filled life and its results. The most comprehensive in the New Testament. After v.18 and the command to be filled/controlled by the Holy Spirit, he takes the remainder of the book to show that there is no area in our lives that does not affect us.



ON THE WAY

### ***Prayer and Action Steps***

*Lord, please help me to understand who I am in You and to live in the fullness of Your Spirit each moment of each day. Amen*