

THE ETERNALLY PURPOSED CHURCH
(EPHESIANS)

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. The Book Of *Ephesians* (Another Of Paul's Prison Letters) Sets Forth *The Church As The Predetermined Body Of Christ*.

1. The church's *origin*. (1:3-14)
2. The church's *glory*. (1:15-23)
3. The church's *nature*. (2:1-10)
4. The church's *development*. (2:11-22)
5. The church's *purpose*. (3:1-13)
6. The church's *allness*. (3:14-21)
7. The church's *position*. (4:1 - 6:20)

NOTE: Read the six chapters of the book at one sitting.

B. The Church Is, As Is Its Head, The Result Of *The Eternal Purpose Of God*. (3:1-11)

II. AIM.

- A. To Learn The Overall Scope And Analysis Of The Book Of *Ephesians*: To Understand The Teaching Concerning *The Eternally Purposed Church*.
- B. To Appreciate The Value Of Being A Member Of *The Body Of Jesus, The Church Of Christ*.

III. OUTLINE.

A. THE ANALYSIS OF THE WRITING.

1. The date of the writing: 62 A.D.
2. The occasion of the writing was not to answer a specific problem (as *Colossians*) of a local congregation, but to present the great truths con-

cerning the church in every age and in every place.

3. *The Purpose of the writing is to present and preserve the purposes of God from eternity to eternity. (See Lesson 51, "The Redeemed: Purposed and Promised," The Eternal Purpose and Plan of God, pp. 192-194.)*

NOTE: See chart (Supplement) - "The Church: The Redeemed In Purpose and Promise."

4. *The theme of the writing: "The church the fullness of Him that filleth all and in all." (1:23)*
5. *The outline of the writing.*

I. Introduction. (1:1-2)

II. The Purpose Of God. (1:3-23)

III. The Predicament Of Man. (2:1-22)

IV. The Position Of The Church. (3:1-21)

V. The Posture Of The Christian. (4:1 - 6:9)

VI. The Power Of The Christian. (6:10-20)

VII. Conclusion. (6:21-24)

B. THE APPLICATION OF THE WRITING.

1. *The body of Christ is the product of Divine wisdom: God purposed the church. (3:8-11)*

>The church is neither man-made nor man-thought!

2. *The body of Christ is redeemed by the blood of Jesus: Christ purchased the church. (1:7 cf. Acts 20:28 and 1 Pet. 1:18-19)*

>The church is purchased not by "buying power of men" but by the blood of Christ!

3. *The body of Christ is the habitation of the Holy Spirit: The Spirit's presence abides in the church. (2:22 cf. 1 Cor. 3:16-17)*

>The church is the Spirit's sanctuary!

4. *The body of Christ is complete in its government: The means of governing is perfect in the church. (4:11-16 cf. 1 Cor. 12:28 and Rom. 12:3-8)*

>So structured and governed that it builds itself up in love!

5. *The body of Christ is owned and controlled by its head, Jesus Christ: The Lord to control the church. (1:22-23 cf. Col. 1:18 and Titus 2:13-14)*

>So close to Him that it is called His body!

6. *The body of Christ is the place of all spiritual blessings: True spirituality is found in the church. (1:3; 3:21; 5:23)*

>True, lasting blessedness is not the carnal, but the spiritual!

7. *The body of Christ is eternal in its nature: The everlastingness of God is realized in the church. (3:20-21 cf. Heb. 12:22-28)*

>No foe is great enough to destroy Christ's church!

IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. *The Importance Of The God-Purposed Church (Saved) Is Inseparably Linked To The Importance Of The God-Purposed Christ (Savior). (3:20-21)*

1. *He left Heaven for this purpose. (John 1:14 cf. Phil. 2:1-11)*
2. *He lived upon earth for this end. (Matt. 16:16-18)*
3. *He died for His church. (Acts 20:28)*
4. *He intercedes for His church. (Heb. 7:25)*
5. *His joy is made full in His church. (Eph. 1:23 cf. Heb. 12:2)*
6. *His prized possession is His church. (1 Cor. 6:19-20 cf. Rev. 5:9-10)*

7. He is returning to receive His church. (1 Cor. 15:23-24 cf. 1 Thess. 4:13-18)
 8. He will spend eternity with His eternally purposed church. (Eph. 5:27; 3:20-21)
- B. The Church Of Christ's Choice Is The Eternally Purposed Church Of His Father.
1. The duty of all who love God is to abolish and abandon everything but His one body, which is His church, and commit ourselves "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
(Eph. 4:1-6)
 2. What is your attitude and action towards the church which meant and means so much to God in Christ Jesus?
 - a. What place in your life? (Matt. 6:33 cf. Eph. 4:24)
 - b. What place in your labor? (1 Cor. 15:58 cf. Eph. 4:12ff)

THE CHURCH: The Redeemed In Purpose And Promise

MADE KNOWN THROUGH THE CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE ETERNAL PURPOSE (Eph. 3:10-11)

E
T
E
R
N
I
T
Y

E
T
E
R
N
I
T
Y

Purposed
(The Church)
Eph. 1:3-11
Eph. 3:9-11

Promised and Prophesied

Gen. 3:15	2 Sam. 7:11-16
Gen. 12:1-3	Isa. 2:2-4
Gen. 18:18	Dan. 2:44
Gen. 22:17-18	Dan. 7:9-18

I N
CHRIST JESUS

God's Heritage

Eph. 3:20-21

Presented: THE CHURCH

Fulness of Christ
(Eph. 1:22-23)
Alive with Christ
(Eph. 2:1-5)
Body of Reconciled
(Eph. 2:12-18)
Temple of God
(Eph. 2:19-22)
Glory of God
(Eph. 1:14; 3:20-21)

"Fellow-partakers of THE PROMISE" (Eph. 3:6)