



Bible Background Briefing: **Ephesians**

What is “Ephesians”

The “book” of Ephesians in the New Testament was actually written as an authoritative letter written to the church of Christ in the city of Ephesus. So highly esteemed was this letter that it circulated among sister churches in Asia Minor (now Turkey)

Who Wrote It and When?

The author of the letter self-identifies as the apostle Paul in the opening lines (Eph. 1:1) and throughout the letter (e.g. 3:1). Though no date is explicitly mentioned, scholars have dated it circa A.D. 60, since Paul refers to his imprisonment in Rome (as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, the official history of the early church).

Why Ephesus?

In the early days of the church, harbor cities like Ephesus were of great strategic importance to Christianity. Sea-faring travel was used by the Apostles to take the Good News of Jesus to people far and wide. Cities like Ephesus were centers of trade from places near and far. Not only did ships bring exotic cargo, they also brought something more important: new ideas. It is hard to imagine a time when so many people knew so little about Christ, since the Christian cross is as widely recognized around the globe today as the McDonald’s arches or the Nike “swoosh.”

What’s in it for Christians Today?

Good question! To answer, I refer to 2 Timothy 3:16-17: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Central Ephesus

