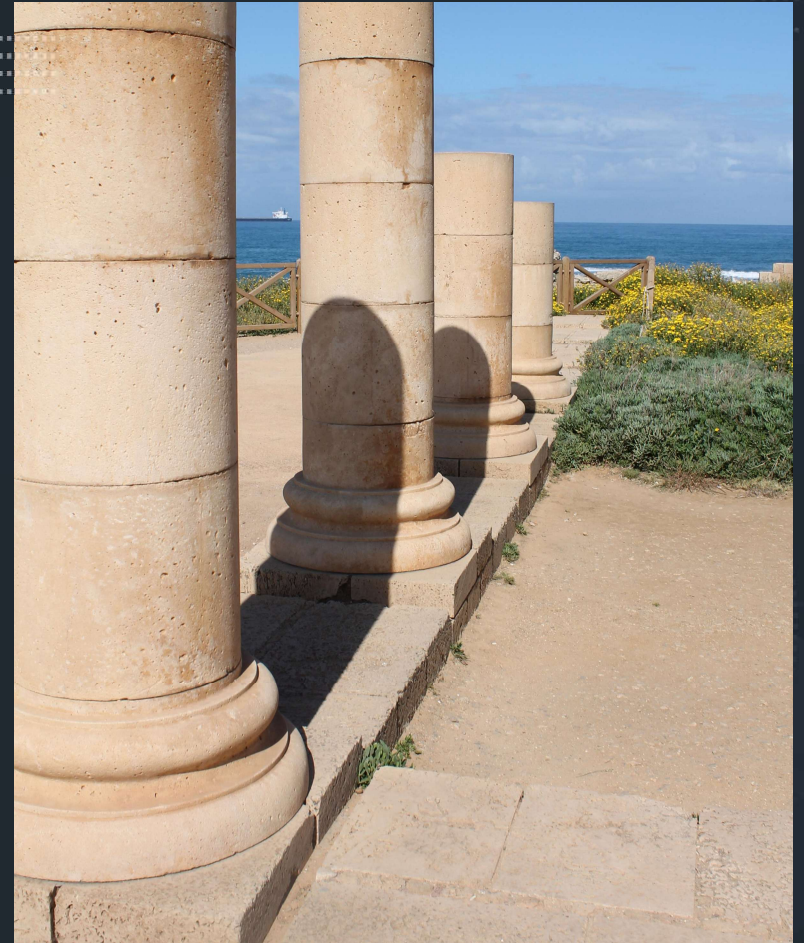


New Testament Survey

Lecture 3c

The Pauline Epistles (part 3)



Introduction:

- Today we will survey 3 of Paul's epistles:
 - Galatians
 - Ephesians
 - Philippians
- Galatians is the last of Paul's "Capital Epistles"
- Ephesians and Philippians are two of Paul's "Prison Epistles"

Galatians: Background

- A region in central Asia Minor, which Paul and Barnabas evangelized on their first missionary journey, that includes Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (Acts 13:13—14:23).
- The Galatians were known to be fickle and changeable.
- There are two theories about the destination of the letter written by Paul
 - The Northern Galatian Hypothesis
 - The Southern Galatian Hypothesis

The Northern Galatian Hypothesis

- Some scholars argue that “Galatia” did not include the southern cities of Iconium, Lystra and Derbe.
- They believe Paul evangelized Northern Galatia at some unknown time.
- In this view, Paul was writing to northern Galatian churches.



The Northern Galatian Hypothesis

- This view requires a later date of writing (AD 53)
- This view makes it difficult or impossible to harmonize the description of Paul's movements recorded in Galatians with the events recorded in Acts.
- I reject this view.



The Southern Galatian Hypothesis

- Most scholars agree that “Galatia” included the southern cities.
- The key factor distinguishing this view is its ability to harmonize Paul’s visits to Jerusalem in Acts with Paul’s statements in Galatians.



The Southern Galatian Hypothesis

- First visit to Jerusalem (Gal. 1:17-18; cp. Acts 9:26-30)
- Second visit to Jerusalem (Gal. 2:1-10; cp. Acts 11:27-30)



Galatians: Background

- Evangelization of Galatia on the first missionary journey (Acts 14)
- Return to Antioch to report (c. AD 47, Acts 14:26-28)
- False Jewish teachers (Judaizers) go out from Jerusalem
 - Some go as far as Galatia to the churches Paul had evangelized
 - Some came to Antioch and disputed with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:1, 5)
 - Paul received a report that the Galatian churches had accepted the false teachings of the Judaizers.
- Paul wrote the book of Galatians (c. AD 48) from Antioch to the southern Galatian churches. He defended the gospel of justification by faith alone.

Galatians: Background

- Soon after he wrote, the Antioch church sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to request a formal ruling by the apostles and elders concerning this question: Must Gentiles be circumcised and keep the law of Moses in order to be saved? (Acts 15:3-5)
- The result of the Jerusalem Council, c. AD 49 :
 - A complete rejection of the demand by the Judaizers that Gentiles must be circumcised and keep the law
 - An affirmation of the doctrine of justification by faith alone.
 - A letter from the apostles and elders to be distributed to the Gentile churches declaring this consensus of the church

Galatians: Background

- If Galatians had been written after the Jerusalem Council, then Paul would have included this official statement by the apostles and elders that supported his argument in Galatians for justification by faith alone. Therefore, Galatians must have been written before this public affirmation of Paul's position. (i.e., AD 48)
- Cp. Acts 15:30; 16:4

Galatians: Purposes and Themes

- Galatians is a **polemic** and **apologetic** letter written to defend and argue for a particular position.
- PURPOSE #1: Paul wrote to defend his own apostolic **office**, **authority**, and **message** against the personal attacks made against him by the Judaizing false teachers.
- PURPOSE #2: Paul wrote to defend the doctrine of justification by faith alone against the legalistic teachings of the Judaizing false teachers.

Galatians: Purposes and Themes

- KEY VERSE: Galatians 1:8

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.



Galatians: Outline

See Outline Handout



Ephesians: Background

- The City of Ephesus
 - The Chief city of the Roman Province of Asia
 - A political, commercial, and religious center
 - A seaport on the banks of the Cayster river
 - The temple of Artemis located in Ephesus was one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. (cp. Acts 19:27)
 - The amphitheater in Ephesus seated 25,000 people (cp. Acts 19:29)

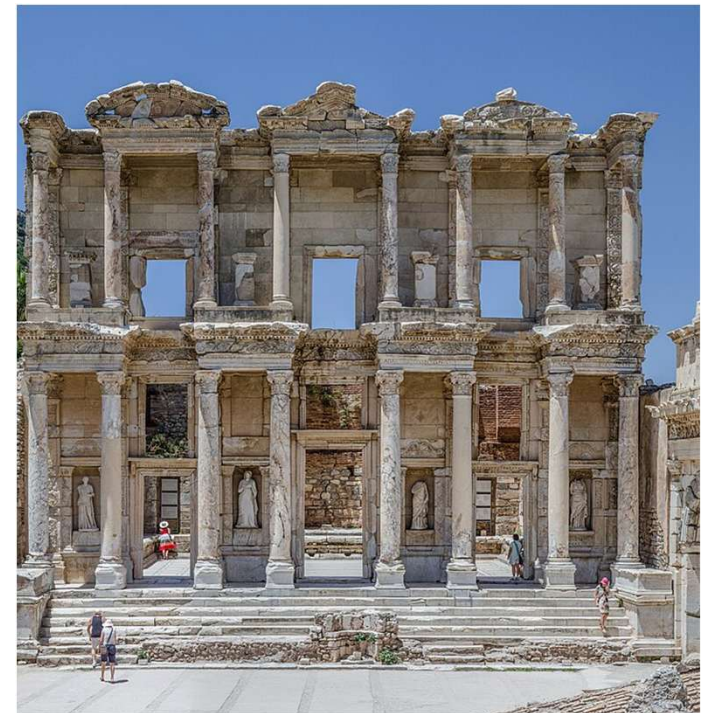


Image: *the Library of Celsus in Ephesus*

Ephesians: Background

- The Founding of the Church of Ephesus
 - Paul stopped briefly in Ephesus at the end of his second missionary journey and left Aquila and Priscilla there.
 - On his third missionary journey Paul stayed in Ephesus almost three years.
 - Paul's tenure in Ephesus ended with a riot in the amphitheater. (cp. Acts 19:23-41)
 - Paul addressed the elders of the church in Miletus on his journey to Jerusalem (Acts 20:17-38).
 - Paul was arrested and imprisoned in Jerusalem and sent to Rome to be tried by Caesar.

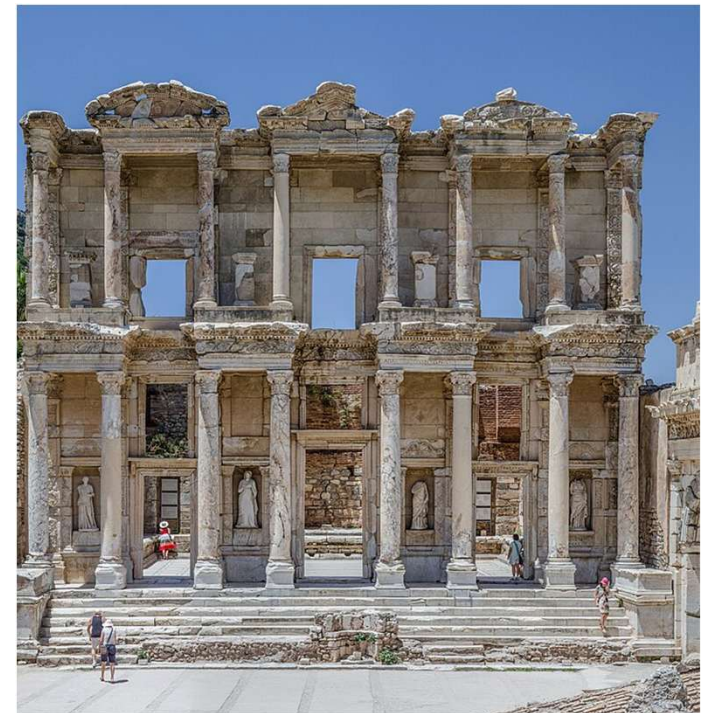


Image: *the Library of Celsus in Ephesus*

Ephesians: Background

- Location and Occasion of writing
 - Written from prison in Rome
 - C. AD 61
 - Paul frequently mentions his bonds (cp. Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:20; Php. 1:12-13; Col. 1:24; 4:18; Phm. 1)
 - Tychicus carried three letters (including Ephesians) from Paul in Rome to Asian churches and individuals
 - Ephesians (6:21)
 - Colossians (4:7)
 - Philemon (Phm 10; cp. Col. 4:9)

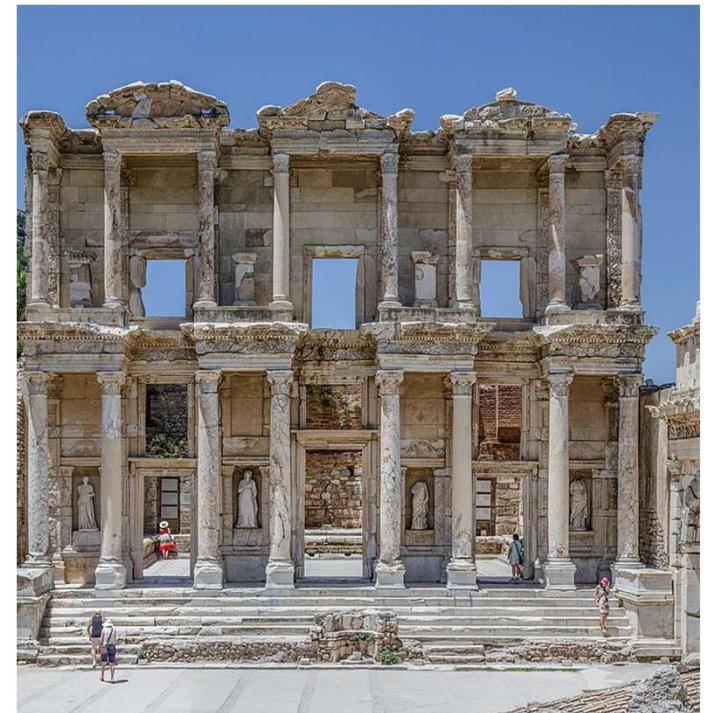


Image: *the Library of Celsus in Ephesus*

Ephesians: Special Characteristics

- Ephesians is more general than most of Paul's epistles:
 - 1:1, the phrase "in Ephesus" absent in some manuscripts
 - It contains no specific references to or greetings to or from individual believers.
 - It might be the same as "the epistle to the Laodiceans" (Col. 4:16)
- Ephesians and Colossians are sometimes referred to as the "Twin Epistles"
 - 78 of 155 verses in Ephesians are similar to content also contained in Colossians
 - Both were probably written by Paul at about the same time.

Ephesians: Purposes and Themes

- PURPOSE: To reveal the NT mystery of the church.
 - A “mystery” is not something mysterious: A biblical “mystery” is a truth that cannot be known or discovered by human wisdom or reason and that was formerly kept hidden by God, but that He has now made known by special revelation.
 - The references to the church in Ephesians are references to the “Greater Church,” which is Christ’s body (not the local church).
 - Paul describes the spiritual riches available to the Church in Christ
 - KEY PHRASE: “in Christ” 18X
 - The unity of Jew and Gentile in one body in the Church

Ephesians: Purposes and Themes

- KEY VERSE: 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

Image: *The Amphitheater at Ephesus*





Image: *Artemis of the Ephesians*

Ephesians: Divisions of the Book

- Three Key words identify the structure:
 - “sit” (1:3)
 - “walk” (4:1)
 - “stand” (6:11)

Ephesians: Divisions of the Book

1:1—3:21	4:1—6:9	6:10-24
Calling	Conduct	Conflict
Doctrine	Duty	Defense
Wealth	Walk	Warfare
Position	Practice	Power



Ephesians: Outline

1. The Wealth of the Church (1:3—3:21)
 - a. Introduction (1:1-2)
 - b. God's plan to bless the Church in Christ (1:3-14)
 - c. Paul's prayer for the understanding of believers (1:15-23)
 - d. The people who are the church (2:1-22)
 - 1) Sinners made alive (2:1-10)
 - 2) Jews and Gentiles formed into one body (2:11-22)
 - e. Paul's revelation of the mystery of the church (3:1-12)
 - f. Paul's prayer for the strengthening of believers (3:13-21)

Ephesians: Outline

2. The Walk of the Church (4:1—6:9)

- a. In unity (4:1-16)
- b. In holiness (4:17-32)
- c. In love (5:1-5)
- d. In light (5:6-14)
- e. In wisdom (5:15-21)
- f. In relations (5:22—6:9)
 - 1) Wives and Husbands (5:22-33)
 - 2) Children and Parents (6:1-4)
 - 3) Slaves and Masters (6:5-9)

Ephesians: Outline

3. The Warfare of the Church (6:10-23)
 - a. Stand against the wiles of the devil (10-12)
 - b. Stand in full armor (13-17)
 - c. Stand in prayer (18-20)
 - d. Letter Closing (21-23)

Philippians: Background

- The City of Philippi
 - A city in the province of Macedonia about 9 miles from the Aegean Sea
 - The chief city in the province (Acts 16:12)
 - A Roman colony—colonized by retired Roman soldiers. It was self-governing and free of taxation from Rome.
 - There was no Jewish synagogue in the city. The church was composed mostly of Gentile converts.



Philippians: Background

- Founding of the Church
 - Established during Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 16:11-40)
 - Lydia was the first convert, followed by the Philippian jailer and his family.
 - Luke stayed behind in Philippi after Paul departed (Acts 16:10, "we," cp. 17:1, "they")
 - Paul visited Philippi twice on his third missionary journey





Philippians: Special Characteristics

- Because Paul had a special relationship with this church, the letter is especially personal in nature.
- Paul reveals his motivation for ministry in key passages (1:21; 3:10; 3:14; etc.)
- KEY WORD: “gospel” 9X (1:5, 7, 12, 17, 27; 2:22; 4:3, 15)
- KEY WORD: “joy”, “rejoice,” etc. 23X (1:4 ff.)
- KEY WORD: “mind” (verb) 10X (2:5, ff.)

Philippians: Purposes and Themes

- PURPOSE: To explain that his imprisonment had not stopped him from conducting gospel ministry (1:12)
- PURPOSE: To encourage the Philippians concerning Epaphroditus' sickness and recovery (2:25-30)
- PURPOSE: To admonish two quarrelling sisters to get along with one another (4:2)
- PURPOSE: To thank them for their financial gift (4:10)
- THEME: Experiencing Joy Through the Mind of Christ

Philippians: Purposes and Themes

- KEY VERSE: 2:5

**Let this mind be in you
which was also in
Christ Jesus**



Philippians: Outline

1. Experiencing Joy Through Furthering the Gospel (ch. 1) [the mind of evangelism]
 1. Introduction (vv. 1-2)
 2. Paul's prayer of thanksgiving (vv. 3-11)
 3. Paul's joy in chains (vv. 12-26)
 - a. Because of the advance of the gospel (12-18a)
 - b. Because of God's glory in his chains (18b-26)
 4. Paul's call to stand firm for the gospel (vv. 27-30)



Philippians: Outline

3. Experiencing Joy Through the Pursuit of Gospel Goals (ch. 3) [the mind of priority]
 - a. The rejection of legal righteousness (vv. 1-6)
 - b. The pursuit of God's righteousness in Christ (vv. 7-11)
 - c. The pursuit of the future prize (vv. 12-16)
 - d. The pursuit of heavenly things (vv. 17-21)



Philippians: Outline

2. Experiencing Joy Through Lowly Service (ch. 2) [the mind of humility]
 - a. A call to lowly service (vv. 1-4)
 - b. The humiliation and exaltation of Christ (vv. 5-11)
 - c. The lifestyle of lowly service (vv. 12-16)
 - d. Paul's example of lowly service (vv. 17-18)
 - e. Timothy's example of lowly service (vv. 19-24)
 - f. Epaphroditus' example of lowly service (vv. 25-30)



Philippians: Outline

4. Experiencing Joy Through Dependence on God (ch. 4) [the mind of contentment]
 - a. Guard your mind (vv. 1-9)
 - b. Guard your heart (vv. 10-20)
 - c. Closing (vv. 21-22)

