

INTRODUCTION TO EPHESIANS

This letter was written by Paul (1:1). In all likelihood he wrote it during his two-year imprisonment in Rome (about A.D. 60). Tychicus was the messenger who carried this letter to its destination (6:21).

A careful reading of Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon seems to indicate that these letters were written at about the same time and place. Although Paul also served a prison term in Caesarea, it seems more reasonable that his references in these letters are to his Roman imprisonment, where he was at liberty to preach the Gospel (Acts 28). ¹

This epistle may have been a circular letter intended for a number of Churches. In some of the old manuscripts the word "at Ephesus" are missing. Furthermore, there are no personal greetings, no references to specific problems or situations in a local church, and the teaching seems to be from a broad perspective. Although the church at Ephesus, where Paul ministered for over two years, was surely included. ¹

In this epistle the word "church" means the "church universal." Paul speaks of the church as being established by God in His eternal purpose through redemption in Christ. The conduct of the believer stands in contrast to his former way of life ---referring to his spiritual life as "in the heavenly sphere," through the power of the Holy Spirit (1:3,

20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12). ¹

1. The Amplified Bible, p. 1372.