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| |  | | --- | | SUMMARY: The letter to the church in Ephesus was written to a church that knew Paul better than most. In Acts 19, we read about just how involved Paul was in their establishment. Over his three years there, the church not only grew, the whole region of Asia heard about the word of the Lord (19:10).  Roughly five years after his departure he wrote to them, encouraging *the faithful saints in Christ Jesus* (1:1b) to remember all they had seen and heard.  Jumping forward to chapter three, we get a little more insight into Paul’s ministry. He is currently a prisoner (3:1,13), most likely in Rome. Despite his distance and suffering, he wants them to remember the message that he preached, the great mystery made known to him by God himself.  This mystery we see was not something revealed to past generations, it is something only the spirit of God has made known, through his apostles and prophets (3:5). But what is this mystery?  It is that through Jesus Christ, the promises of God are not only welcomed into the family of God, they are co-heirs, they are equals. This revelation was revolutionary and it was why the church in Ephesus existed. Paul wanted this church to know just how precious this message was, it was the revealed wisdom of God.  He closes this section by praying for them, asking God for strength through the spirit and that they may be established in love. Through this love, he asks that they may be able to grasp the fullest extent of God’s love and also the love of Christ, the love that brought all things into existence. |  Ephesians 1:1-2, 3:1-21, 6:21-24 |  | |  | | --- | | Paul & The CHurch in Ephesus  1. What do we know about the city and church of Ephesus from Acts 19? 2. In what ways might the context of Ephesus mirror our own? 3. Why do you think Paul wrote this letter? 4. What was the mystery of Christ and why did so many Jewish people struggle to believe it? 5. How was this mystery revealed to Paul? 6. Why does Paul make so clear how little he thinks of himself? (See 3:8) 7. How does the church make known the manifold wisdom of God? (See 3:10) 8. Why do you think the heavenly rulers and authorities and powers might need to know this? 9. Why is truly praying for someone one of the best ways to express your love and care for them? 10. What does Paul want for them in v.16-19 11. Why does understanding the love of Christ lead us to the fullest knowledge of God possible? (See 3:19) 12. How does 3:20-21 summarise how we should approach and understand God and our purpose in life? | |