

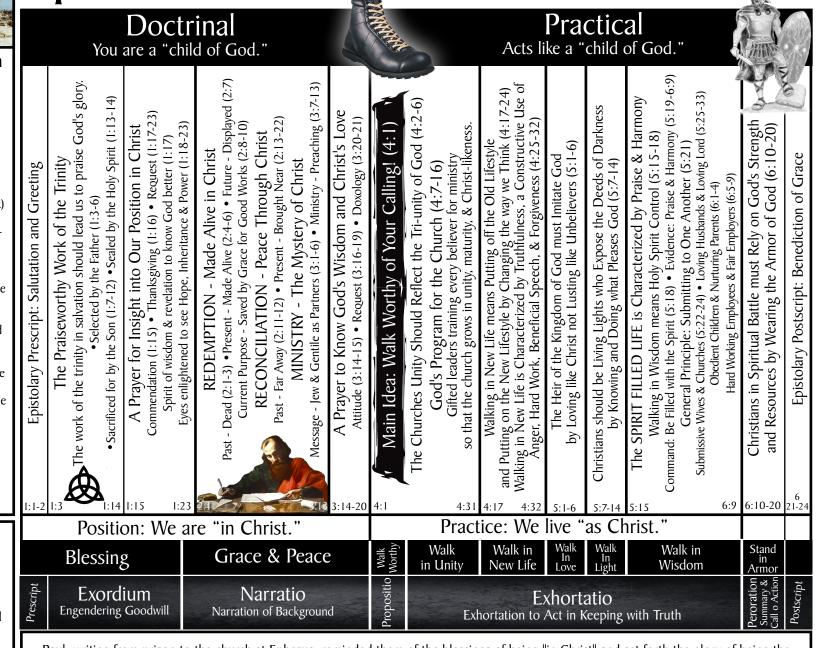
## Paul's Connection with the Epheshian Church

- I. Ephesus was an important commercial center in the Roman Province of Asia and served as it's capital. It was at the intersection of several major trade routes.
- 2. Ephesus was famous for it's temple honoring Artemis (Greek) or Diana (Roman), perhaps a magical fertility goddess protecting woman. The temple was considered one of the seven ancient wonders of the world.
- 3. Paul visited Ephesus briefly at the end of his 2nd missionary journey, establishing the church, leaving Priscilla & Aquilla behind to care for the church (Acts 18:18-21).
- 4. On his 3rd missionary journey he spent three years at Ephesus (Acts 1911-20) during which time the church became a center of outreach for all of Asia.
- On his way to Jerusalem he stopped and met with the elders from Ephesus and gave them an emotional farewell challenge (Acts20:17-38).

## **Ephesians Insights**

- I. Ephesians seems to have become a circular letter shared between many churches.
- 2. It is the least colored by local issues of all of Paul's letters and thus is easy to apply.
- 3. Paul's enthusiasm is seen in eight long sentences in the letter (1:3-15, 15-23; 2:1-7; 3:2-13, 13-19; 4:1-6, 11-16; 6:14-20).

Ephesians: Being the Body-Practice Your Position



Paul, writing from prison to the church at Ephesus, reminded them of the blessings of being "in Christ" and set forth the glory of being the church, challenging them to live in a manner worthy of their calling as the Church, in order to enthusiastically call the church to experience all that God had for them, both in this life and in the life to come, by walking as Christ (Practice) just as they are in Christ (Position).

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