

EPHESIANS: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL AND PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

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Abstract

The church at Ephesus was not unlike so many of our churches today. The culture of the post-Christian era propagates a humanism and ethic that is counter to the Christian faith. Yet so many people today are so influenced by such a culture that they see no need for Christ and His teachings. Paul recognized the difficulty that the Gentiles of Ephesus experienced in attempting to correlate the Christian faith with the influences of their day. And, while there were few, if any, pressing issues with the church at Ephesus, nevertheless, wealth, position, sophistication, and the beginning of the Gnostic effect had taken their toll. Paul's concern, then for the moment was that the people of God, in that place, would recognize the value of the faith and acknowledge that God's will is revealed in Jesus Christ and through His bride, the church. Once he has established a foundation of faith and church unity, he offers holy advice on how to live out the faith practically in everyday, first-century life.