

Ephesians

Recipients

- Whom does Eph 1:1 indicate as the intended readers of the Letter to the Ephesians? How do you resolve the textual issue in 1:1? Is "in Ephesus" original or a later addition by the scribes?
 - Circular letter theory?

Authorship

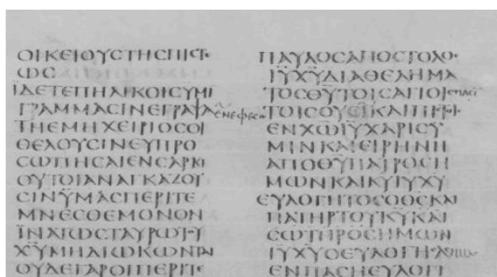
- For or against Paul?
 - Impersonal in nature despite spending 3 years in Ephesus
 - Similarity with Colossians – literary dependency?
 - Theological content – especially soteriology, ecclesiology, eschatology, trinity → theological content a later development?

‘ΠΡΟΣ ΕΦΕΣΙΟΥΣ’

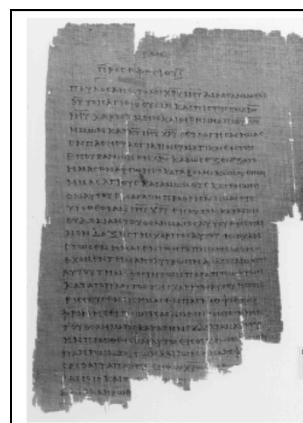
1 Παῦλος ἀπόστολος ἡχιστον Ἰησοῦν δύα θελήματος
θεοῦ τοῖς ἄγιοις Γεωτὶς οὐδὲν εἰνέσθαι· καὶ πι-
στοῖς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, τὸ χάρις ὑμῶν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπό-
θεοῦ πατρὸς ἡμῶν καὶ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Scriptio (cf. vs 1): 'ad Laodiæcenses Mcion. T.'

P46, dated
180-200CE,
earliest Pauline
corpus (incl
Hebrews, excl
Pastoral Epistles);
Uni of Michigan



Codex Sinaiticus - 4th century; earliest complete New Testament. British Library



Recipients

- What does Eph 2:1-2, 11-13; 3:1; 4:17-24; 5:8 indicate about the ethnicity of the intended readers of the Letter to the Ephesians? In other words, were the intended readers Jews or gentiles?
- Life setting of the recipients?

Paul's Ministry in Ephesus

- What do Eph 1:15-16; 2:1-2; 4:20-24; 5:8; 6:19-20 indicate about the relationship of the author to the intended readers?
- From what Luke records in Acts 18:18-22; 19:1-20:1; 20:15-21:1, describe the history of Paul's relationship with the church in Ephesus
- How do you reconcile 1) and 2) above?

Relationship with Colossians

- Many close parallels

Ephesians

- **Date & Place**
 - Early 60s, Roman imprisonment (3:1; 4:1; 6:20); cf Acts 28)
 - Tychicus (6:21-22; cf. Col 4:7-9)

Ephesians

- **Occasion, Purpose and Theme**
 - Chapters 1-3 – indicatives
 - Chapters 4-6 - imperatives

Historical Setting

- City of Ephesus
- Religious cult
- Paul's ministry in Ephesus – see Acts 19

Specific Characteristics

- General letter compared to other Pauline corpus
- Close similarities with Colossians (see above)
- Long sentences:
 - 1:3-14
 - 1:15-23
 - 2:1-7
 - 3:2-13
 - 3:13-19
 - 4:1-6
 - 4:11-16
 - 6:14-20

Specific Characteristics

- Emphasis on the saving drama of God
- Double extended Prayers of thanksgiving (1:15-23; 3:14-21)
- Divine mystery
- Christ's exaltation
- Unity in the body
- The church as the body of Christ – developed ecclesiology
- The "household code" (5:22-6:9)

Household Codes (5:22-6:9)

Verse	Addressee	Imperative	Amplification	Motivation
5:22-24	Wives	Submit to husbands	As to the lord	Husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church
5:25-33	Husbands	Love wives	As their own body	Christ gave himself for the church
6:1-3	Children	Obey parents	In the lord	Command to honor parents and promise of a long life
6:4	Fathers	Do not provoke the children	But nurture	In the discipline and admonition of the Lord
6:5-8	Slaves	Obey masters	As to Christ	Lord will reward
6:9	Masters	Do not threaten slaves	God is both Lord of master and slave	No favouritism with God

Specific Characteristics

- The imagery of spiritual warfare (6:10-20)