

## **The Message from Ephesians**

*by Steve Crago*

Unlike many of the other letters, Ephesians wasn't written to correct errors within the Church, so Paul had a free hand to declare the greatness of the Gospel and the worth of the one who makes the gospel great - Jesus Christ.

It has been called "Paul's third-heaven epistle" because it often takes the believer into 'the heavenly realms' revealing heavenly truth from God's perspective and even from before the foundation of the world. When the Bible speaks of heaven, it can do so in three ways.

- Heaven or the first heaven can refer to the sky and the earth's atmosphere.
- The second heaven refers to outer space, where the stars and planets are.
- The third heaven refers to God's dwelling place, which is beyond the other "heavens". Often though the third heaven is just referred to as heaven, where Jesus is. In 2 Corinthians 5:1 Paul writes "For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands". When Paul writes of the earthly tent, he is speaking of our bodies as being something temporary which will be replaced by something that is permanent.

But as much as it is going to be great to have new bodies, there is something even better. In 2 Corinthians 5:8 it says "We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord". This is the hope and blessing for everyone who is a Christian, to be with Jesus.

### **The series for August 2024:**

#### **4th August: Ephesians 1:1-14, Seated on the right foundation**

The Christian life starts not with a 'do' but with a big 'done'. This chapter 1:1-14 looks at how believers are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus!

#### **11th August: Ephesians 2:11-22, Demolishing Divisions**

In a day where division and hostility abound, the message from Ephesians 2 of how Jesus demolished divisions is needed all the more.

#### **18th August: Ephesians 3:12-21, The Apostle's Prayer.**

Do you live your Christian life with hope, boldness and confidence? This focuses on the believer's great expectations in the Lord!

#### **25th August: Ephesians 4:1-6, Walking in His footsteps**

Jesus told us to learn from Him for He is humble and gentle in spirit. How does this relate to our walk today and our unity with other believers?