

EPHESIANS

PART 1

MAIN IDEA - ONE: Through Christ, God has broken down the walls between people and is uniting them into ONE. (2:14-16).

THEME- Apocalypse NOW.

- The Greek word “apocalypse” does NOT mean the end of the world;
- “Apocalypse” literally means “uncovering”; metaphorically means “revealing” or “insight”;
- To Paul, the most important apocalypse in his time is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. (See 3:3.)
- The implications of that apocalypse mean that Jews and non-Jews—and every other category of divided peoples—are now ONE in Jesus. (See 2:14-17 & 3:6)
- When divided people live as ONE united people in Christ, that proves to the dark spiritual powers that they have LOST and ARE LOSING. (See 3:10)
- Paul prays that the Ephesians would receive from God insight into all these things. (See 1:17-18).

Ephesians is about the implications NOW—in everyday life—of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, an insight—apocalypse—that Paul received on the road to Damascus. Apocalypse NOW.

“Ephesians is a community’s guide to comprehending and responding to the apocalypse of the crucified and risen king of the cosmos.” —Tim Mackie

STRUCTURE:

Ephesians 1-3 is about COMPREHENDING the apocalypse of Jesus, namely that in Christ God is reconciling all things and has brought together into ONE both Jewish and non-Jewish believers.

Ephesians 4-6 is about RESPONDING to that apocalypse—how to live every day in light of that news about Jesus.