OET Open English Translation

Open English Translation of the Bible

Paulos's letter to the believers in

Efesos

Introduction

The author

This *Letter to the believers in Efesos* was written by Paulos from prison in Romai.

This letter

This letter wasn't just written for the assembly of believers there in Efesos, but also for other assemblies of believers.

Paulos's main theme is about God's plan that 'at the right time he will gather everything, whether in heaven or here on earth, for the messiah' (1:10).

In the first part of letter, he wrote about unity. Paulos carefully explained about how God the father chooses his people, about forgiving and saving them from their sins through his son, Yeshua the messiah.

In the second part of letter, Paulos urges the reader that the believers need to be united in the messiah by means of their unity with each other.

Paulos uses many allegories about the unity of people with God via the messiah: the believers are the body of the messiah, he is the head; it's like a house, with the messiah as the foundation stone; the believers are also like a bride with the messiah as the groom.

It's also explained here about the correct behaviour for couples, of parents and children, and for slaves and masters. Then in concluding his letter, it's explained about the armour that's given to believers for them to use to stand against Satan's attacks.

It should be noted here that this letter, like most of the scriptures, was dictated to a scribe (See 2 Thess 3:17), so it was an oral letter, quite different from our modern letters which we edit with word-processing software, adding a word back in a previous sentence, combining two short sentences, or breaking an over-long sentence. Oral letters tend to contain a lot of *run-on sentences* where the thoughts keep flowing without a break, thus 1:3-14 is considered by most Greek experts to be one long sentence (like this one is 😀), however for us as readers, a sentence with some two hundred words is very difficult for us to absorb, hence this *Readers' Version* breaks that single Greek sentence into a number of smaller sentences, in fact, this kind of adjustment is regularly done throughout the Bible by all major English translations in order to make them easier for us to read, but the disadvantage is that we can sometimes lose whatever the connection was between the consecutive thoughts. The *OET* tries to be more transparent about such adjustments by placing the *Literal Version* right

beside this text so that the serious student can compare the two.

Main components of Paulos's letter

Introduction *1:1-2*
Spiritual blessings from the messiah *1:3–3:21*
Proper behaviour for believers *4:1–6:20*
Closing *6:21-24*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

1:1 This letter is from Paulos, a missionary **of Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah** by the will **of God**.

To the godly people there in Efesos[1] who are faithful to **Yeshua the messiah**.

2 May our father **God** and our **master Yeshua the messiah** give grace and peace to you all.

Spiritual blessings

3 We praise **God**, the father of our **master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah**.[2] He is the **one** who's blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places—blessings that come from **the messiah**. 4 He chose us to follow him even before the creation of the world, so that we could become pure and blameless in front of him. Because of his love 5 he decided in advance to adopt us as his children through **Yeshua the messiah**. His decision gave him great pleasure 6 and now he's praised for the greatness of his grace which favoured us, as the one he loved 7 redeemed us by means of his blood and forgave our sins.[3] It was from the riches of his grace 8 that was poured onto us that we gain wisdom and understanding 9 as he revealed the mystery of his will to us according to his great pleasure as he himself planned. 10 He planned for the orchestration of the times, and at the right time he will gather everything, whether in heaven or here on earth, for **the messiah** 11 and we also have been assigned an inheritance in him. This was also predetermined according to God's plan and the decisions of his will 12 so that we, the ones who first put our trust in the **messiah**, would praise his greatness. 13 And you people also, after hearing the message of truth, the good message about being saved, were confirmed by receiving the **spirit** of pure promise after you believed. 14 This spirit is the deposit on our inheritance until we procure the freedom which has been bought for us, leading us to praise God's greatness.

Paulos's prayer for them

15 Because of that, and because I heard about your faith in the **master Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) and your acceptance of all the pure believers, 16 I don't stop giving thanks for all of you, mentioning you in my prayers, 17 asking the **God** of our **master Yeshua the messiah** to give you spiritual wisdom and to reveal the knowledge about him. 18 I ask that your inner thoughts will be enlightened so that you'll all know the expectation of what he's calling you to—the riches of the greatness of his inheritance for the believers 19 and the exceeding greatness of his power to help us who believe, according to the working of the power of his strength. 20 He worked this power in the **messiah** when he brought him back to life and seated him in the place of honour in heavenly places[4]— 21 giving him authority over every law and government, and over every powerful group and organisation, and over every earthly title, not only in the present age but also in the age to come. 22 Everything in existence will be under his authority[5] and God set him in charge of all matters concerning the assembly, 23 which is his body—the completeness of the messiah who completes everything.

God's mercy, grace, and plans for us

2:1 You all were dead due to your disobedience and the path of sinning[6] 2 that you once walked along when you followed the trends of this world which in turn come from the ruler of the invisible powers—he's the spirit that works in the children of disobedience. 3 In the past, we also lived like them inside our fleshly lusts and

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1 **RV 1:1 · Cross-ref.** Acts 18:19-21; 19:1.

2 **RV 1:3 · Note** Verses 3-14 seem to be just one long, rambling sentence in the Greek, and it's not totally clear what each part means, or how they all connect logically together in sequence. We have split it into smaller sentence chunks to try to help our readers extract some meaning out of it.

3 **RV 1:7 · Cross-ref.** Col 1:14.

4 **RV 1:20 · Cross-ref.** Psa 110:1.

5 **RV 1:22 · Cross-ref.** Psa 8:6.

6 **RV 2:1-5 · Cross-ref.** Col 2:13.

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then living out those desires and fantasies, and so we were children deserving strong anger just like everyone else.

4 But **God** was generous with his mercy because of the great love that he loved us with, 5 so although we were dead as a result of our disobedience, he make us alive along with the **messiah**. Yes, we have been saved by God's grace. 6 And God lifted us up and sat us together with **Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah** in the heavenly domains 7 so that for the ages to come, he could display the overflowing riches of his grace through his kindness to us via **Yeshua the messiah**. 8 It's God's grace that allows you all to be saved through faith. That grace doesn't come from you, but rather it's a gift from **God**— 9 it doesn't originate from your actions so no one can brag about it. 10 We are **God's** workmanship and he's created us to do good things by following **Yeshua** the **messiah**. **God** has already planned these things for us to do.

Yehudim and non-Jews can be united

11 Because of that, don't forget that you all were once fleshly unbelievers (nicknamed 'the uncircumcised ones' by circumcised Yehudim (Jews) who mark the bodies of their males with human hands). 12 At that time you were separated from the citizens of Yisrael (Israel) and were strangers to the agreements involving God's promise. You didn't have any future hope as you lived in the world without knowing God.

13 But now thanks to **Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah**, you all who were once far from God have become close by means of the **messiah's** blood. 14 He is the source of peace between Yehudim and non-Jews, having broken the dividing wall that fenced them apart and making the two into one. He took the hostility onto himself, 15 having declared the old commands to be now void so that Yehudim and non-Jews can now be peaceably united.[7] 16 By his death on the pole, any hostility is destroyed and both groups now become just one body in **God's** sight.[8] 17 When the messiah came, he announced the good message: peace to you all who were far from God, and peace also to the ones who were near,[9] 18 so now both groups have access to the father by means of one **spirit** through the work of the messiah.

19 As a result, you all are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens of the believers and part **of God's** household 20 which has been founded on the teaching of the missionaries and prophets. The cornerstone of this building is **Yeshua** the **messiah**. 21 He joins the entire building together, growing us all into a dedicated temple for **Yahweh**. 22 You all are being built together by following him, becoming a place for **God's spirit** to live in.

Paulos's assignment to non-Jews

3:1 That's the reason that I, Paulos, am a prisoner due to my serving **Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the **messiah** for you non-Jews. 2 Certainly you have heard that **God** assigned me the task of passing on **God's** grace to you. 3 He revealed his incredible plan as I wrote briefly previously 4 and which you are all able to read to understand my insight into the incredible plan about the **messiah**.[10] 5 This plan wasn't explained to humans in previous generations but now God's **spirit** has revealed it to his worthy missionaries and prophets. 6 Now non-Jews can have the same inheritance and become members of the same body and can share in the same promise that was the positive message of **Yeshua** the **messiah**.

7 I have become a servant of that message as a result of the gift of **God's** grace that was given to me by means of the working of his power. 8 Although I was the least of the ones dedicated to this message, I was given the grace to preach this positive message to the non-Jews, to tell

7 RV 2:15 · Cross-ref. Col 2:14.

8 RV 2:16 · Cross-ref. Col 1:20.

9 RV 2:17 · Cross-ref. Isa 57:19.

10 RV 3:4-6 · Cross-ref. Col 1:26-27.

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them about the endless riches of the **messiah**
9 and to enlighten everyone about the assignment of **God's** incredible plan. **God**, the one who created everything, hid this plan away over the ages 10 so that the wide-ranging wisdom **of God** could be revealed now through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms. 11 God did this according to his plan for the ages which he established in our **master Yeshua** the **messiah**. 12 It's through our faith in Yeshua that we can have boldness and confident access to God. 13 Because of that, I'm asking you not to become discouraged over my current difficulties as I serve you all, in fact you are honoured by them.

Paulos prays for those in Efesos

14 That's why I'm kneeling to ask the father
15 (the one that every father in the heavens and on earth is named after) 16 that he would cause you to be strengthened inside your minds by the power of his **spirit** and from the riches of his greatness. 17 Through your faith, **the messiah** can live in your hearts so that love will become your root and foundation 18 so that just like the dedicated ones, you all will also be strong enough to understand the width and length and height and depth of 19 the **messiah's** love, and to know that having this love exceeds having knowledge so that you all can be filled with **God's** completeness.

20–21 Now we offer praise to God in the church and for all the generations to come and to **Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah**—God who, through the power that works in us, is able to do far more than we can ask for or even understand. May it be so.

Many parts and gifts but one body

4:1 Because of that, I, a prisoner for **Yahweh**, am urging you all to walk worthily of the calling to which you were called 2 with all humility, gentleness, and patience, putting up with one another because of your love for them,[11] 3 being serious about keeping the unity of God's **spirit** in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one **spirit**, just as you all were called to one hope when you were called. 5 There's one **master**, one system of faith, one immersion, 6 one **God** and father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

7 Yet each one of us has been given a measure of grace as a gift from the **messiah**, 8 just as it was written,

"When he ascended to heaven,
he eliminated captivity
and gave gifts to people."[12]

9 Of course, he couldn't ascend if he hadn't first descended down to earth. 10 So the one who descended is the very one who also ascended above all the heavens so that he could fill all locations. 11 Then he gave some as missionaries, some as prophets, some as announcers of the good message, some as pastors and teachers 12 so as to complete the dedicated ones for the work of service—for building the body of the **messiah** 13 until we can reach the unity of our faith and of our knowledge about **God's** son—becoming mature people measured against the stature of the fullness of the **messiah**. 14 Then we'll no longer be like children in our faith, tossed around by waves and being blown by every wind of teaching used to trick us or by crafty people who scheme how to deceive us. 15 Instead, by lovingly speaking the truth, we will grow up into every aspect of him—the **messiah** who is the head 16 that integrates the entire body together and holds it together by every one of its joints. When each component does its work, the body grows and builds itself up with love.[13]

Proper behaviour for godly people

17 So I'll say this with **Yahweh's** direction: you all are no longer to walk like unbelieving pagans who trust in their own futile thinking.
18 Their minds have been darkened because their ignorance has drawn them away from the life **of God** due to the hardening of their hearts.

11 **RV 4:2 · Cross-ref.** Col 3:12-13.

12 **RV 4:8 · Cross-ref.** Psa 68:18.

13 **RV 4:16 · Cross-ref.** Col 2:19.

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19 They stopped caring about what's right and
wrong, and then greedily indulged themselves
in their own impure lusts.
20 But you all didn't learn that about the **mes-**
siah. 21 If you had heard him and listened to his
teaching, you would have heard the truth from
Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus): 22 that you reject
the former conduct of the old corrupted you,
those seductive desires,[14] 23 and allow the spirit
driving your thoughts to be renewed 24 and so
to remodel yourself[15] as a godly person[16] cre-
ated to obey **God** and follow the pure truth.
25 So steer clear of lies—always speak the
truth to those around you[17] because we are
members of each other. 26 Even when you're
angry, don't sin,[18] and don't carry your anger
through to the next day— 27 don't let the devil
get his foot in. 28 If you've been stealing, then
stop it. Instead you should be a hard worker,
doing good things with your hands, so that
you'll earn enough to be able to help those who
are in need. 29 Don't let any bad talk come out
of your mouths, but rather words that are help-
ful to encourage others and to show grace to
them. 30 And don't sadden **God's** holy **spirit**,
because he is the one who recorded your names
for the day when the price will be paid to buy
you all back. 31 So get rid of all bitterness, and
rage and severe anger, uproars and slander, and
any kind of malice. 32 Instead, be kind to each
other, tender-hearted, forgiving each other just
like **God** forgave you all through the work of
the messiah.[19]

Living in God's light

5:1 So imitate **God** like
valued children would imitate their father
2 and immerse yourselves in love just as the
messiah loves you all and allowed himself to
suffer for us as an offering and sacrifice which
is like a pleasant fragrance to **God**.[20]
3 It's fitting for dedicated believers to not
even entertain thoughts of sexual immorality
or impurity or greed. 4 Nor is dirty or foolish
talk or crude joking fitting, but rather thankful-
ness. 5 You should realise that **anyone** who is
sexually immoral or impure or is a covetous or
idolatrous person won't have an inheritance in
the kingdom of the **messiah** and **of God**.
6 Don't let anyone seduce you with empty
talk, because this is exactly what will induce
God's strong anger on those who are disobedi-
ent. 7 So don't get caught up with them 8 be-
cause you yourselves were once in the darkness
but now that you are in **Yahweh's** light, you
should behave like children of light. 9 The re-
sults of this light should be goodness and doing
what is right and being honest 10 as you aim to
please **Yahweh**. 11 Don't join in with the works
of darkness which don't lead to positive results,
but instead you all should expose them 12 be-
cause the things that unbelievers do in secret
are disgraceful to even talk about. 13 But every-
thing will eventually have the light shone on it
and all these things will then be exposed.
14 That's why it says:

You who are asleep get up,
You who are dead come back to life,
The **messiah** will shine his light on you.

15 Because of that, take great care in exactly
how you're living. Don't live like fools, but like
wise people, 16 making good use of your time,[21]
because there's lot of evil these days. 17 So
don't be foolish, but rather strive to discover
what **Yahweh** wants for you.
18 And don't get drunk on alcohol because
that's excessive. Instead, be filled with God's
spirit, 19 sharing scriptures with each other

14 **RV 4:22 · Cross-ref.** Col 3:9.
15 **RV 4:24 · Cross-ref.** Col 3:10.
16 **RV 4:24 · Cross-ref.** Gen 1:26.
17 **RV 4:25 · Cross-ref.** Zech 8:16.
18 **RV 4:26 · Cross-ref.** Psa 4:4 (LXX).
19 **RV 4:32 · Cross-ref.** Col 3:13.
20 **RV 5:2 · Cross-ref.** Exo 29:18; Psa 40:6.
21 **RV 5:16 · Cross-ref.** Col 4:5.

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and singing hymns and songs to praise **Yahweh**,[22] 20 always expressing thanks for everything **to** our father **God** in the authority and name of our **master Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah**. 21 And show your honour **of the messiah** by placing yourselves under each other's authority.

Married couples

22 Wives should place themselves under their own husbands,[23] just like they're under the **master**, 23 because the husband is the leader of the wife just like the **messiah is** the head and saviour of his body, the church. 24 Wives should place themselves under their husbands in everything just like the church should place itself under **the messiah**.

25 You husbands must love your wives,[24] just like the **messiah** loved the church and gave himself completely for it, 26 so that he could separate the church from the world and wash it clean with the water of the good message 27 in order to present the splendid church to himself—without any stains or wrinkles or anything like that—just pure and unblemished. 28 So husbands should love their wives just like their own bodies—anyone who loves his wife is loving himself. 29 No one hates their own body, but they feed and look after it, just like the **messiah** does for the church 30 and we are parts of his body. 31 That's the reason why a man leaves his father and mother and becomes joined with his wife and the two of them become one unit.[25] 32 This is an amazing mystery but I'm talking about **the messiah** and the church. 33 But it applies to you all: each one of you should love your wife like yourself and the wife should respect her husband.

Parents and children

6:1 It's right for children following **Yahweh** to obey your parents.[26] 2 Honour your father and mother (that's the first command that's followed by a promise) 3 so that things will go well for you and you'll have a long life on the earth.[27]

4 Fathers, don't provoke your children to anger,[28] but bring them up caringly and teach them disciplines and instructions from **Yahweh**.

Slaves and masters

5 Slaves, submit to your human masters with respect and fear, being sincere in your hearts as if serving the **messiah**.[29] 6 Don't just please them when they're watching, but work as slaves **of the messiah**, genuinely wanting to obey **God** 7 by serving with good will. When you serve as if serving the **master** and not people, 8 whether you're a slave or free, it's him who will reward you.

9 **Masters**, do the same towards your slaves.[30] You know that both the slaves and you have the same **master** in the heavens, so don't threaten them because our master has no favourites.[31]

Wear God's armour

10 Concluding then, be enabled by **Yahweh** and from the power which comes from his strength. 11 Wear **God's** complete armour because it will enable you to stand up against the devil's schemes. 12 Our struggle isn't against people, but against rulers, authorities, the powers of this world's darkness, and the spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places. 13 Because of that, make use of every piece of **God's** armour so that you'll be able to resist those powers in the evil day and having done everything, to remain standing.

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22 **RV 5:19-20 · Cross-ref.** Col 3:16-17.

23 **RV 5:22 · Cross-ref.** Col 3:18; 1Pe 3:1.

24 **RV 5:25 · Cross-ref.** Col 3:19; 1Pe 3:7.

25 **RV 5:31 · Cross-ref.** Gen 2:24.

26 **RV 6:1 · Cross-ref.** Col 3:20.

27 **RV 6:2-3 · Cross-ref.** Exo 20:12; Deu 5:16.

28 **RV 6:4 · Cross-ref.** Col 3:21.

29 **RV 6:5-8 · Cross-ref.** Col 3:22-25.

30 **RV 6:9 · Cross-ref.** Col 4:1.

31 **RV 6:9 · Cross-ref.** Deu 10:17; Col 3:25.

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14 So then, stand with the belt of truth around
your waist,[32] wearing the breastplate of righ-
teousness,[33] 15 and ready your feet with the
good message of peace.[34] 16 Whatever arises,
hold up the shield of faith which you all will be
able to use to extinguish all the fiery arrows of
the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation[35]
and the sword of **God's spirit** which is the mes-
sage from **God**.

Praying for fellow believers

18 Make your requests
as you pray in **the spirit**
at every occasion and similarly staying alert
and persevering as you make requests on be-
half of all the dedicated believers 19 and also
ask on my behalf for God to give me words to
say as I open my mouth to boldly teach the
good message about God's incredible plan
20 that's led me as a missionary to now be in
prison. Ask that I would speak boldly as I
should.

Update

21 Now Tukikos,[36] a
dear brother and faithful servant of **Yahweh**,
will let you know about me and how I'm doing.
22 I've sent him to you for that reason—so that
you all will know about us here and that he
would comfort your hearts.

Blessings

23 Peace, love, and faith
to the brothers and sisters from **God** the father
and from **Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the mes-
siah**. 24 Grace to all who love our **master
Yeshua the messiah**, with a love that won't de-
cay.

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32 RV 6:14 · Cross-ref. Isa 11:5.
33 RV 6:14 · Cross-ref. Isa 59:17.
34 RV 6:15 · Cross-ref. Isa 52:7.
35 RV 6:17 · Cross-ref. Isa 59:17.
36 RV 6:21 · Cross-ref. Acts 20:4; 2Tim 4:12.