

EPHESIANS 1

INTRODUCTION & IDENTITY

SOMETIMES PEOPLE DON'T LIKE TO RECALL THEIR PAST WHEN THERE IS TOO MUCH PAIN AND SHAME CONNECTED WITH THEIR MEMORIES. IN THIS MAGNIFICANT LETTER, PAUL DOES NOT HESITATE TO REMIND HIS READERS OF THEIR SPIRITUAL CONDITION BEFORE TRUSTING CHRIST. HOWEVER, LIKE ANY GOOD EVANGELIST, PAUL REMINDS THE READERS OF REDEMPTION IN CHRIST JESUS AND THE PURPOSE OF THE FATHER IN THE SALVATION OF THE SINNER. OUR IDENTITY IS IN CHRIST. WE DIED IN HIM WHEN WE SURRENDERED OUR LIFE TO HIM. WE HAVE A NEW LIFE IN THE RESURRECTED LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE HEAVENLIES AND HERE ON EARTH. WITH THAT COMES THE ETERNAL BLESSINGS, THE INHERITANCE THAT CHRIST BOUGHT WITH HIS BLOOD IS NOW OURS TO SHARE WITH OUR KING, SAVIOR, AND LORD. PAUL WROTE THIS LETTER IN ROME AS A PRISONER AWAITING TRIAL FOR TWO YEARS IN AD 60-62. THEY ALLOWED PAUL TO RENT A HOUSE UNDER 24 HOUR GUARD. DURING THIS TIME PAUL WROTE THE PRISON EPISTLES; EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, AND PHILEMON. PAUL, DESPITE HIS OWN DIFFICULTIES IN LIFE, WAS DEDICATED TO STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH. PAUL VISITED EPHESUS ON HIS SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY BUT STAYED FOR ABOUT 3 YEARS ON HIS THIRD. THIS WAS AD 53-56. THE RESULT WAS THAT ALL OF THE JEWS AND THE GREEKS IN THE PROVINCE OF ASIA HEARD THE WORD OF THE LORD. EPHESUS WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT CITY IN WESTERN ASIA MINOR (NOW WESTERN TURKEY) AND THE FOURTH LARGEST

CITY IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE, WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND INHABITANTS. IT HAD A HARBOR THAT AT THE TIME OPENED INTO THE CAYSTER RIVER, WHICH RAN INTO THE AEGEAN SEA.

SHOW MAP PIC

BECAUSE IT WAS AN INTERSECTION OF MAJOR TRADE ROUTES, EPHESUS WAS A COMMERCIAL CENTER FOR TRADE (LIKE LA OR NEW YORK) THERE WAS A PAGAN TEMPLE DEDICATED TO THE PAGAN GODDESS ARTEMIS (DIANA). WITH COLUMNS 60 FT. HIGH, THE TEMPLE WAS ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD. IT WAS NOT ONLY A RELIGIOUS CENTER BUT ALSO FUNCTIONED AS THE PRIMARY BANKING INSTITUTION. THE IMAGE OF ARTEMIS WAS ON THEIR COINS AND THERE WAS A MONTH NAMED FOR HER AS WELL AS ATHLETIC GAMES. SHE WAS THE TRUSTED GUARDIAN AND PROTECTOR OF THE CITY. NO WONDER THERE WAS ALMOST A RIOT AT THE THEATER WHEN PAUL'S PREACHING WAS CAUSING THE PEOPLE OF EPHESUS TO ABANDON THEIR IDOLS AND FOLLOW CHRIST. SEE ACTS 19.

SHOW THEATER PIC- SEATS 25,000 PEOPLE

THE BODY OF THIS LETTER DIVIDES INTO 2 MAIN SECTIONS, DOCTRINAL 1:3-3:21 AND PRACTICAL 4:1-6:20 WITH AT LEAST 3 MAIN THEMES, UNION WITH CHRIST, UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, AND HOLINESS. PLEASE, AS WE STUDY THIS LETTER,

LET IT SOAK INTO YOUR SPIRIT, ABANDON YOUR EGO AND LET THE SCRIPTURES SPEAK TO YOUR IDENTITY AND PURPOSE.

Ephesians 1:1-2 NIV

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:
2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLE/APOSTOLOS/REPRESENTATIVE, MESSENGER, OFTEN USED IN THE TECHNICAL SENSE FOR THE DIVINELY APPOINTED FOUNDERS OF THE CHURCH

PAUL DECLARES HE WAS APPOINTED DIRECTLY BY JESUS AND THE WILL OF THE FATHER NOT THE OTHER APOSTLES WHO WALKED WITH JESUS

"IN EPHESUS" WAS NOT FOUND SOME OF THE EARLY MANUSCRIPTS BUT WAS FOUND IN MANY MANUSCRIPTS SO THIS LETTER MAY HAVE BEEN WRITTEN TO CIRCULATE THE CHURCHES IN ASIA MINOR BUT, THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS IS PROBABLY THE PRIMARY RECIPIENT JUST NOT THE EXCLUSIVE LOCATION FOR THE LETTER

PAUL USES GRACE 12 TIMES AND PEACE 8 TIMES IN THIS LETTER, EVEN CLOSING THE LETTER WITH IT IN 6:23-24

GOD OUR FATHER NOT THE FATHER

Ephesians 1:3 NIV

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

BEFORE PAUL BEGINS TEACHING US THEOLOGY (THE STUDY OF NATURE OF GOD), HE BEGINS WITH DOXOLOGY (A LITURGICAL FORM OF PRAISE TO GOD). PAUL IS WRITING THIS LETTER OF DEEP THEOLOGY WITH EMPHATIC EMOTION

HAS BLESSED/EULOGEO/TO ACT KINDLY AND IMPART BENEFITS TO THE ONE BEING BLESSED

AORIST TENSE/ IT CONVEYS THAT AN EFFECTIVE, SUCCESSFUL, AND ONE TIME ACTION OCCURRED IN THE PAST WITHOUT REGARD TO ITS DURATION. ITS NOT GOD WILL GIVE, ITS GOD HAS ALREADY GIVEN THESE BLESSINGS TO US...FOREVER

THIS ALL HAPPENS IN CHRIST, WITHOUT CHRIST WE HAVE NOTHING

1 Timothy 2:5-6 NIV

⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

HE IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END, ALPHA & OMEGA

BECAUSE JESUS HAS RESSURECTED FROM THE DEAD AND ASCENDED TO THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER, WE RECEIVE EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN HIM...VICTORY OVER SIN, DEATH, AND HELL...THE ABILITY TO LOVE, FORGIVE, AND OBEY THE WORD OF GOD IN A CHRISTLIKE WAY. WHAT TRUE RICHES!

THIS IS ALL EXECUTED IN THE BELIEVER BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

FRUIT/KARPOS/PRODUCE, HARVEST, ACTIVITY

Ephesians 1:4-6 NIV

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

THE FATHER CHOSE US IN CHRIST BEFORE ANYTHING THAT WAS MADE WAS MADE TO BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLAME IN HIS PRESENCE, AN ACTIVE AND ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

PREDESTINED/PROORIZO/DECIDED BEFOREHAND

ADOPTION TO SONSHIP/HUIOTHESIA/ IN NT CULTURE A SON
RECEIVED GREATER INHERITANCE AND HONOR, BUT IN CHRIST
MEN AND WOMEN INHERIT EQUALLY
SHOW SLIDE OF GOD'S WILL

THIS IS SO ENCOURAGING!! GOD WILLED US TO BE HIS BEFORE
THE BEGINNING OF TIME, ACCORDING TO THE GOODNESS OF
HIS PLEASURE AND THE DECISION OF HIS WILL

GRACE/CHARIS/ A STATE OF KINDNESS AND FAVOR WITH
BENEFITS

WHY DID GOD DO THIS FOR US? PRAISE, WORSHIP, &
COMMUNION WITH HIS CREATION

John 17:6-26 NIV

⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they

may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³ “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in

order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

MEDITATE ON THIS, YOU ARE A LOVED FAMILY MEMBER OF GOD!! THANK YOU FATHER GOD, THANK YOU LORD JESUS, AND THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT FOR LOVING US SO FAITHFULLY ASSURING US OF ETERNAL BLISS IN YOUR PRESENCE AND GLORY

IT IS IMPORTANT TO JESUS THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE ONE, TOGETHER, IN HIM. THIS HAS BEEN HIS PLAN BEFORE HE CREATED ANYTHING

END