Introduction to Ephesians  
Ephesians 1:1-2

Introduction
I The Author
A. Paul's history
   a. At Stephen's stoning - Acts 7:54-8:1
2. Proclaimer of Christ - 1 Cor 1:23; 2:2; Gal 6:14
B. Paul's calling and authority
1. Apostle of Christ Jesus
   Apostle = "One specially commissioned by Christ"
2. By the will of God
   a. Not of man's choosing - Gal 1:1
   b. But by the grace of God - Eph 3:8; 1 Cor 15:9-10; Gal 1:13-16; 1 Tim 1:12-16
C. Paul's mission
1. Apostle to the Gentiles - Eph 3:8; Acts 9:15
D. Paul's condition
1. Awaiting trial in Rome - Eph 3:1; 4:1; 6:20
2. Chained, yet FREE - Eph 3:1; 4:1; 6:10

II The Recipients
A. The saints in Ephesus
   Saint = "One who has been set apart"
B. The faithful in Christ Jesus
   1. They trusted in Him for salvation - Eph 1:13
   2. They were trustworthy in the truth - Rev 2:1-3, 6
      a. However, they left their first love - Rev 2:4-5
C. The friendship between Paul and the Ephesians
   1. First, for a short stay - Acts 18:19-21
   2. Then for over two years - Acts 19:1-10
   3. He met with the elders at Miletus - Acts 20:17-38

III The Greeting
A. The blessings of:
   1. Grace = "God's divine favor in spite of demerit"
   2. Peace = "To be free from war" - Rom 5:8-10
B. The source of these blessings
   1. God the Father
   2. The Lord Jesus Christ

IV The Outline of Ephesians
A. Our rich relationship with God (chapters 1-3)
   1. Our spiritual possessions in Christ (1:4-23)
      a. First prayer: For enlightenment (1:15-23)
   2. Our spiritual position in Christ (2:1-22)
      a. Second prayer: For enablement (3:1-21)
B. Our reasonable response to God (chapters 4-6)
   1. Walk in unity (4:1-16)
   2. Walk in purity (4:17-5:17)
   3. Walk in harmony (5:18-6:9)
   4. Walk in victory (6:10-24)

PERSONAL APPLICATION
Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. What were you like before you came to Christ? What are you like now? Where have you seen the biggest transformation?
2. How did Paul respond when suffering in prison? What was his focus, objective, passion? What can you learn from his example?
3. Read Rev 2:1-6. God considered the Ephesian church faithful in Christ except in one major area -- they had lost their first love. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your spiritual love life with Jesus? What needs to happen to raise that number?
4. Explain in your own words the meaning of "Grace" and "Peace" and how the two are interrelated in the Christian life.
5. Take a moment to thank God for His indescribable gift in Christ and for the peace that you have as a result of the grace of God in your life.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE
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