

Introduction to Ephesians

Ephesians 1:1-2

Introduction

I The Author

- A. Paul's history
 - 1. Persecutor of the church - Acts 9:1-2
 - a. At Stephen's stoning - Acts 7:54-8:1
 - b. Pursuer of the believers - Acts 9:1-2
 - 2. Proclaimer of Christ - 1 Cor 1:23; 2:2; Gal 6:14
 - a. Damascus road conversion - Acts 9:1-19
- 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 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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