Introduction to Ephesians
Ephesians 1:1-2

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

II The Recipients
A. The saints in Ephesus
   Saint = "One who has been ___ _____"
B. The ______ in Christ Jesus
   1. They_______ in Him for salvation - Eph 1:13
   2. They were___________ in the truth - Rev 2:1-3, 6
      a. However, they left their first _____ - 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 _____ in spite of ________"
2. **Peace** = "To be free from _____" - 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 __________ 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 __________ 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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