

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: October 31, 2021

Series: Identity: Life in Christ (Ephesians)

Lesson Title: "Chosen and Grateful"

## EPHESIANS' SETTING and PURPOSE

1. Paul's history with Ephesus
  - A. On his second missionary journey.
  - B. On his third missionary journey.
  - C. Paul's brief meeting with the Ephesian elders at Miletus.
  - D. Paul wrote Ephesians while under house arrest in Rome.
2. Ephesus' \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Asia: the richest and most peaceful province of the Empire.
  - B. Athenians founded Ephesus as a port city on a plain near the mouth of the Cayster River.
  - C. Worship of the goddess Diana permeated the life of the city.
  - D. Silversmiths found a lucrative trade in making and selling miniature silver images of Diana.
  - E. The city's theater, then the largest in the world, boasted a seating capacity of 25,000. See 19:23-41.
  - F. The Ephesians built a magnificent temple to her c. 700 BC. It was destroyed & rebuilt twice, the last ver. being the most magnificent. One of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World."
  - G. Invading Goths destroyed the 3rd temple to Diana in AD 262.
3. Paul's emphasis on life "in Christ".
  - A. Chapters 1-3: Doctrinal  
The doctrinal basis for believers' unity "in Christ".  
The new \_\_\_\_\_ which God has given us in Christ (1:3-2:10)  
The new \_\_\_\_\_ which God created thru Christ (2:11-3:21)

## B. Chapters 4-6: Practical

What life in Christ looks like personally as well as interpersonally in the church, workplace, and home.

The new \_\_\_\_\_ which God expects of his new society, especially \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (4:1-5:21).

The new \_\_\_\_\_ into which God has brought us—*harmony* in the home and *hostility* to the devil (5:21-6:24).

### PAUL'S PERSONAL GREETING (1:1, 2)

1. He recognized his \_\_\_\_\_ as God's will for his life.
2. He recognized his \_\_\_\_\_ as God's will for his life. See also Eph. 3:1; 4:1; Philemon 1, 9; and 2 Tim. 1:8
3. "To the saints in Ephesus".  
NIV Text. Note: "Some early manuscripts do not have "in Ephesus". The book may have been intended as a circular letter to sev. churches, including the one in Ephesus.
4. "To the faithful (believers who are) in Christ Jesus".  
The adj. *pistos* can have either an active meaning (trusting; having faith; cp. Gal. 6:10) or a passive meaning (trustworthy; being faithful).
5. "Grace" was a common greeting among Greeks; "Peace" was a common greeting among Jews. Paul combined the words to show early on that both saved Gentiles and saved Jews were one "in Christ".

### INTRODUCTION TO LIFE IN CHRIST (1:3-14)

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

1. In Greek these twelve verses constitute a single complex sentence.
2. The whole paragraph is a doxology, or "eulogy" for that is the wd. Paul uses: *εὐλογέω eulogéō*. He begins by blessing God for blessing us with every inconceivable blessing.
3. He makes (vs. 3) a deliberate reference to the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Note the origin, the sphere, and the nature of the "blessing".
4. Some have detected in the whole passage (vss. 3-14) a trinitarian structure: Father (vss. 4-6); Son (vss. 7-12); & Spirit (vss. 13-14).
5. Paul adds to his adj. "spiritual" the clause "in the heavenlies".