

January 15, 2017
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Ephesians 1:1-2

“Ephesians: The Introduction”

Theme: “God’s eternal plan for the church in His story of redemption”

I. Greeting – 1:1-2 – “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus and *who are faithful in Christ Jesus*: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

A. The Author – v. 1

1. Paul

- **Background** (Acts 22; 23:16; Gal. 1:14; Acts 7:54-8:3; 26:10; Acts 18-20)

- **Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God** (2 Cor. 1:1; Col. 1:1; 1 Tim. 1:1; 2 Tim. 1:1; Tit. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:1)

2. God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 3:15-16)

B. The Audience

1. Saints / faithful

2. Who are at _____

C. The Advantages

1. Grace

2. Peace

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. What do you know about the background of the Apostle Paul? Before he met Jesus, what would his attitude have been toward Gentiles? How did he treat Christians? What changed after he met Jesus?
2. What is an Apostle? What was the role of an Apostle in the early church (Eph. 2:20; Acts 6)? How many were there? Why did Paul make it known that he was an Apostle in his writings?
3. How difficult would it be for a Jewish person to call a Gentile a “saint”? Of whom was that word used in the Old Testament? How is it used in modern times? How many believers in Jesus are saints?
4. What does it mean to be “faithful”? Was it easy to be a holy, faithful follower of Jesus in Ephesus (or the other cities in the area)? If not, why not? How would the Book of Ephesians help the believers live up to their position in Christ?
5. How are you currently demonstrating being set apart and faithful to Jesus:
 - At home
 - In your neighborhood
 - At school
 - At work
 - At church
6. Why does Paul so frequently wish (or pray) “grace and peace” for his readers? Don’t we already have God’s grace and peace? Why does Peter wish that his readers would have grace and peace “in the fullest measure”? (1 Pet. 1:2) How do we appropriate God’s grace and peace on a daily basis and experience it in fullest measure? How does reading and obeying the Scriptures impact our experience of God’s grace and peace?
7. Assignment: read the Book of Ephesians every day for 30 days. Write down questions from your reading and send them to Pastor Paul. He will attempt to answer them as we work our way through this magnificent portion of Scripture.