



Ephesians: ***Let's Study Ephesians!***

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Text: Ephesians 1:1-2

Main Point: We should study Ephesians to see the panoramic view of the wondrous and glorious work of God Jesus Christ our Lord.

Key Ideas:

1. The author is the Apostle Paul.
 - Formerly a persecutor, now through the will of God a messenger commissioned by the risen Christ to preach the gospel to the non-Jewish world.
2. The recipients are called saints.
 - Not because they have attained a superior spiritual status, but because they have been brought near through the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - Christians are believers who are "in Christ", vitally and eternally connected to him.
3. The blessing of grace and peace.
 - God *our* Father and the Lord Jesus Christ as the source of grace and peace for each believer.

Application Questions

1. We began the message by quoting Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, who drew our attention to Paul's intent for writing Ephesians when he said, "*Paul's great concern here is to give the Ephesians a panoramic view of this wondrous and glorious work of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.*" Scanning through the first three chapters, what is this glorious work?
2. On the road to Damascus, Jesus asks Saul, "Why are you persecuting me?" and in so doing shows his close identification with the church. Now in the letter to the Ephesians, Paul reveals the centrality of the church in God's eternal plan. How should God's passion for the church influence the passions and priorities of our lives? What are you most passionate about? In what ways is God calling you to a greater passion and priority for the local church?
3. Paul refers to his recipients as "the saints in Christ Jesus". What does he mean and why should this identity greatly encourage and comfort us?
4. How can you make the most of our study of Ephesians? Which suggestions for making the most of this series will you apply this week?