

Paul's Letter to the

Ephesians



God's Plan, Our Place

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A Little More Background

- While you are reading:
 - No personal greetings, rare for Paul
 - Colossians, much is similar, Circular letters
- Two Great Themes:
 1. To reveal God's purpose for the universe -
In Christ, worked out in 'the Church'
 2. To encourage the Church to ???

Apostle...

- An apostle by God's will
 - Even after all he had done, God used Paul
 - John 15:16; Acts 26:16; 1Tim 1:12,13
- Hard for Paul...
- Does God have a “will” for your life?
- Grace, peace...

A Greeting: God's Call

- To the saints (*haigos*) – holy ones
- To the faithful (*pistos*) believing, trust
- In Christ – 88x NT
 - All that we have/are is connected to HIM
 - What does this relationship involve?

The Long... 'till vs. 12/14!

- God and Jesus Christ
- “in Christ-in the Beloved-in Him-in whom,”
- “to the praise of His Glory” (6,12,14)
 - This is the song of the universe!
 - “Blessed be...”

A focal point...

- God's blessings (Note: "every")
 - The are SPIRITUAL and therefore ETERNAL
 - In the 'heavenlies' *epouranios* (5 of 20x)
 - 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12 – only in Ephesians
 - Where is this....what changes?
 - In Christ – only in HIM
 - Where do we look? Are we looking?

Father's choosing

- *eklegomai* – pick out, choose among many
- “throwing down”, as of seed
 - Jn 17:24; 1Pet 1:20; Mt 25:34; Lk 11:50
- What was God's choosing? US!!! ‘to be’
 - holy – *hagios* – 2Co 7:1; Eph 4:24 #1
 - blameless – *amomos*; no blemish or fault #2
- This is a call to be like HIM