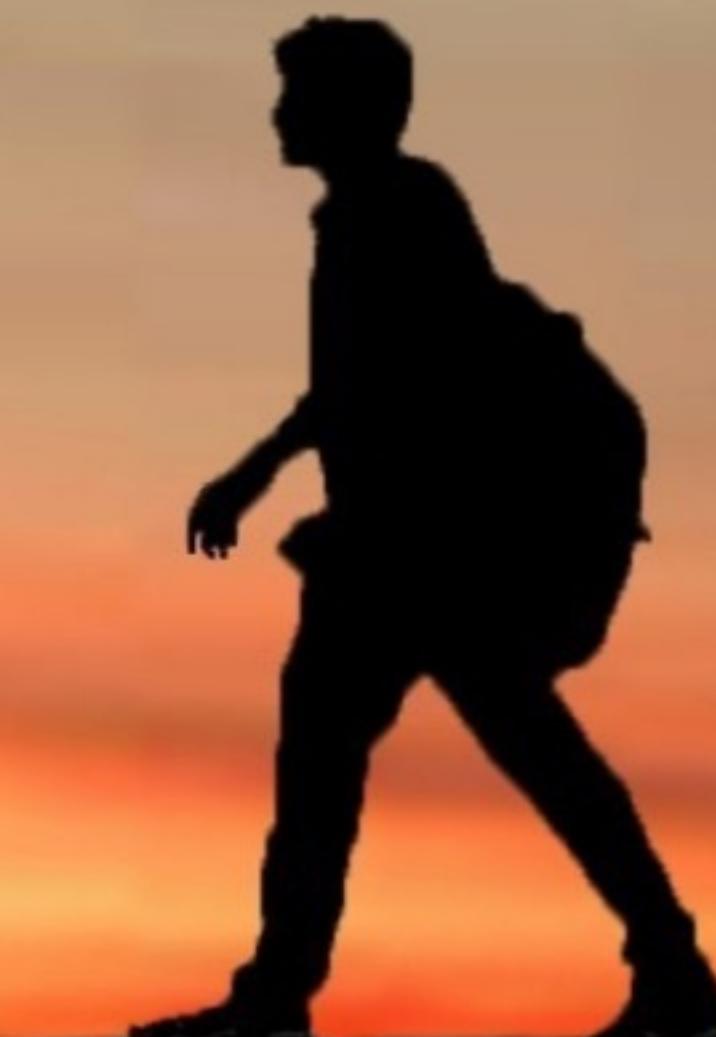


WHY EPHESIANS?

EPHESIANS 1:1-2



WHY EPHESIANS?

1. Ephesians deepens our understanding of the gospel.
2. Ephesians magnifies the importance of the church.
3. Ephesians may be the “most contemporary” epistle in the New Testament.
4. Ephesians provides grace-filled encouragement.
5. Ephesians offers some practical answers to basic questions about the Christian life.

THE AUTHOR

EPHESIANS 1:1A

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

Paul's life reminds us that God can change anyone.

apostle - apostolos
“one who is sent” or a “commissioned messenger”

God's will is presented not as a hidden mystery reserved for a few, but as a revealed, purposeful plan rooted in His love and carried out through Christ.

THE RECIPIENTS

EPHESIANS 1:1B

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

The Size of Ephesus

Modern-day western Turkey

4th or 5th largest city in the world

Massive amphitheater for 25,000 people

Junction of 4 major roads in Asia Minor

THE RECIPIENTS

EPHESIANS 1:1B

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

The Spiritual Warfare in Ephesus

Greek notion of true enlightenment

Home to a cult dedicated to Caesar Augustus

Headquarters for the cult of the Roman goddess Diana

ACTS 19:8-10

And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

As we live authentically and love others well, God uses ordinary moments to accomplish His extraordinary purposes.

ACTS 19:11-20

And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.” Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

ACTS 19:11-20

And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

ACTS 19:25-27

“Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is powerful enough to break through these forces and bring people to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

THE GREETING

EPHESIANS 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. It was a theological greeting, not a formality.
2. Grace comes first, peace follows.
3. It was a blend of Jewish and Greek thought.
4. It showed the source of grace and peace.
5. It was a pastoral assurance to the church.

THE MESSAGE

1. Our Position — Who We Are in Christ

- We now have new life in Christ.
- We now have a new community in Christ.

2. Our Practice — How We Are to Live in Christ

- We must now pursue unity and purity in Christ.
- We must now pursue submissiveness and stability in Christ.

TAKEAWAYS

- 1. God's will, revealed through Paul's transformed life and calling, shows that by grace alone God redeems the most unlikely people, and fulfills His eternal, loving plan through Christ rather than human merit.**
- 2. When God opens a door for effective ministry, it is often marked by both great opportunity and great opposition.**
- 3. Everything in the Christian life flows from God's unearned grace and results in a restored, secure relationship with Him, not from human effort, but from what is already given in Christ.**
- 4. Our identity and purpose as Christians are found entirely in Christ, shaping both who we are and how we live.**

WHY EPHESIANS?

EPHESIANS 1:1-2

