

Ephesians Student handout

BBI 2012

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Introduction:

Authorship – Paul (1:1; 3:1)

Church fathers who attributed authorship to Paul:

Irenaeus (200 AD)

Clement of Alexandria (200 AD)

Origen (250 AD)

Polycarp (125 AD)

Tertullian (200 AD)

Prison epistle (3:1, 4:1, 6:20)

Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon and Philippians.

Paul first imprisoned in AD 60-61.

Written probably as a circular letter.

Content:

Church as the body of Christ

Believer seated with Christ in heavenly places.

Two main divisions:

Eph. 1-3... Who the believer is in Christ.

Eph. 4-6... What the believer should do because we are in Christ.

Sitting

Walking

Standing

Ephesians and Colossians (linked):

Of 155 verses in Ephesians, over half are in Colossians, either verbatim or almost verbatim.

Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14

Ephesus:

Paul was here 3 years on third missionary journey.

300,000 people.

Timothy, Paul, Apostle John ministered here.

4th-largest city.

Important seaport.

Mentioned over 20x in NT.

Grandeur – Artemis (Diana)

Temple (Artemis)... 418' x 239'.

100 - 50' columns.

Fertility god.

Learning / magic arts.

Chapter 1:

Ducks and dogs.

Who we are in Christ.

Salvation (vv 1-2)

Paul / Saul

"sent one"

Never lose the sense of wonder that God chooses to use us in His service.

saints

- Angels
- Israel
- The church

- apostles through the will of God

- Belonged to Christ.
- Sent out by Christ.
- Delegated authority.

v 2... Grace, peace

Grace

peace

God – Jesus – the same.

Chapter 1, vv 3-14.

One long sentence.

Three blessings:

- Chosen by the father (v 4).
- Redeemed by the son (v 7).
- Sealed by the Holy Spirit (v 13).

v 3... Blessed

Why God is blessed.

Christ's death.

every spiritual blessing

heavenly *places*

v 4... God's choosing – "election"

Barclay:

- The fact
- The bounty
- The purpose

blameless

adoption

v 5... God chose us in Him.

vv 7-8... In Him

redemption

forgiveness of sins

sins (KJ)... trespasses (NAS).

abounded (KJ)... lavished (NAS).

wisdom and prudence

mystery (v 9)

v 10... The dimension of the mystery.

v 11... in Him.

vv 5-11... Predestination / election:

Obligations of election:

- To make election sure.
- Election should bring gratitude and humility.
- Election brings security.

v 12... **WE** - Jews

vv 13-14... **ye** – Gentiles.

Three stages of Gentile salvation:

- They heard the truth, the gospel of your salvation (v 13).
- They believed.
- They were sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Seal:

- Genuine / authentic
- Ownership

vv 15-23... Christians to be spiritually enlightened.

Two characteristics of Paul's prayer life:

- Constant
- Thanksgiving

v 17... God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory

vv 18-19... enlightened

- what is the hope of His calling
- the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
- the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward
 - power
 - working
 - mighty
 - strength

vv 20-23... Which he wrought

- Raising Christ
- Exalting Christ
- Appointing Christ head of the church.

v 22... **all *things* under his feet**

- Christ over all things for the sake of the church.
- Christ head of the church / Controls everything in all creation.

v 23... Christ fills all things.

Three possibilities:

- The church contains the fullness of Christ.
- The church contains gifts and blessings that only Christ can give.
- The church fills up Christ. As the church grows it completes Christ.

(Probably 1 + 3 is most correct)

Chapter 2:

Back from the dead.

Three verbs:

1. **made... alive** (2:5)
2. **raised... up with** (2:6)
3. **seated... with** (2:6)

Two divisions (vv 1-10):

First... vv 1-3... The old life of sin.

Second... vv 4-10... The new life in Christ.

Five characteristics of the "old life":

- Spiritual death
- the course of this world
- the prince of the power of the air
- the lusts of our flesh
- the children of wrath

Three features of life in Christ:

- God-initiated (vv 4-5)
- Resurrection life (vv 6-7)
- Given to us (vv 8-10)

Not of works, but of grace.

4 spiritual tragedies that existed before they came to Christ:

- They were without Christ
- They were aliens
- strangers
- no hope

vv 14-15... Enmity abolished:

middle wall of partition:

Temple wall between inner / outer court.
 Curtain between Holy and Most Holy Place.
 Manmade wall of legal requirements.
 Barrier between God / man.

v 15... Having abolished

vv 16-18... Reconciliation

v 1... prisoner of Christ Jesus

vv 2-3... Rhetorical statement

Household

v 4... Letter read aloud.

v 5... Mystery revealed.

v 6... Gentiles / Jews heirs together.

fellowheirs

members together

Partakers of His promise.

v 7... Paul received his office by God's grace and through His power.

v 8... **least of all saints**

v 9... **mystery** (again)

v 10... **To the intent**

v 11... God in control.

v 12... Approach to God.

v 13... **my sufferings / your glory**

v 14... **I bow my knees**

v 15... **family... father... fatherhood**

vv 16-19... Paul's requests for his people.

vv 17-18... **Christ may dwell**

rooted... grounded... all the saints

vv 20-21... A doxology of praise.