

Ephesians 1:1–2 Christ at the Cruc of Everything

Tuesday, October 29, 2024 • Ephesians 1:1–2

Questions from the Scripture text: Who wrote this letter (v1)? What is his title? Of Whom is he an apostle? How did this come about? To whom is he writing—what title does he give them? What else does he call them? In Whom are they faithful? What two-part blessing/greeting does the apostle pronounce upon them (v2)? From what two Persons does the apostle pronounce these?

What does Ephesians teach? Ephesians 1:1–2 helps us prepare to hear 2:1–5 proclaimed in the morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Ephesians, the gospel, the Bible, and the whole of reality, are all about Jesus.**

Immediately, in the opening of Ephesians, we know that this is going to be a glorious book about Jesus Christ!

This letter has been particularly precious to the church throughout the ages.

- For its unfolding of the eternally loving and powerful plan of God to save His elect. Unto His glory in Christ. (ch1)
- And for its exposition of justification by grace alone through faith alone. Only in Christ. (2:1–10)
- And for its teaching about reconciliation of believers to God and to one another. Both in Jesus. (2:11–22)
- And the gathering in of the reconciled into one church. In, and accomplished by, Jesus. (ch 3)
- And the gift to the church by the ascended Jesus of the officers of Jesus who train the members of the body of Jesus in the Word of Jesus so that they can all minister to one another. (4:1–16)
- And the transformation of believers into their new characters. Conforming them to Jesus. (4:17–5:4)
- And the great war that is waged—primarily in the ordinary spheres of life. Between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of Jesus. (5:5–6:9).
- Only by the power of Jesus and the armor of Jesus. (6:10–22).

Do you recognize the pattern? What is the theme of this wonderful book about salvation, justification, reconciliation, evangelism, the church, Christian living, and Christian warfare? That all of these things are only for Jesus's glory, only by Jesus's power, only through Jesus's method, only by faith in Jesus and fellowship with Jesus!

So, it is no surprise at all that Jesus is central to the blessing at the end of the book (6:23–24). And here in 1:1–2, even in the “customary” greeting, Paul tells us.

- That he is an apostle. “Of Jesus Christ.”
- And he is writing to those who are saints and faithful. “In Christ Jesus.”
- And greeting them with grace and peace. “From... our Lord Jesus Christ.”

He's setting us up for the entire letter. That our salvation (and his apostleship) is “by the will of God.” That our being set apart in the church and grown in godliness is “in Christ Jesus.” And that both the grace by which we wage the warfare and the peace in which we are reconciled to God as not only His allies but His children come from “God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

And of course, at the very heart of all of this. Is Jesus!

In what parts of what Ephesians teaches do you most need to grow? How does it connect to Jesus?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for choosing especially to glorify Yourself in Your Son, and in His redeeming us. Grant that we would have all that we need from You, in Him, by Your Spirit, to live as those whom You have consecrated to Yourself in Christ, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB “What Blessedness” or TPH265 “In Christ Alone”

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Ephesians chapter 1, verses 1 and 2. These are God's words. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ. By the will of God. To the Saints. Who are in Ephesus and faithful in Christ, Jesus. Grace to you and peace. From God, our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen, so far, the reading of God.

Inspired and inerrant. You get the theme of the book of Ephesians just from the greeting. In verses one and two. It is in Christ, that God has given all that he is. For all that, we need him to be. You have this? Trifecta of Jesus Christ, being the one who sent Paul.

That God's will was. To give his word and his ministry, his gospel. By his son. So his son is the sender of the Apostle. Paul Jesus is the prophet capital P. Now, And the gospel announces to us. A Holiness. And Or a Holiness through faith. In Christ Jesus, in the second place and in the third place.

That. Union with Christ, that that we have. And this Holiness that we have through Union with him. Sustained. By the Lord Jesus Christ. That in order for us to Respond. Well to the gospel to continue in faith and increase in faith. We do. So, By God's grace and peace.

Which comes to us in fatherly, love in his son. So Grace to you and peace from God, our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and indeed the whole letter. Is going to be on this. Wonderful theme. In chapter one. All about got the unfolding of. eternally. Loving and Powerful plan.

His Eternal plan. To save his elect unto his glory in Christ. And then in the first half of chapter 2, Justification by Grace alone, through faith alone in Christ Alone. In the second, half of chapter two. How Believers are reconciled not only to God, but to one another again, In Christ.

Chapter 3. The, how? Gathers the reconciled. Into one. So gathers to them, to himself, reconciling, those who have been reconciled to himself are gathered into one church. And they're being reconciled to one another. Means that they are gathered together in one Church. In and to come in Christ Jesus and accomplished by Christ, Jesus.

And then chapter four. That it is Jesus, who is the one who ascended on high and gave gifts among men for the giving of his word. For the equipping of the Saints for their work of ministry to one another. And then the end of chapter four into the beginning of chapter five, That this work that Jesus does by his word.

Transforms the character of Believers. Transforms what we are like. And in the end of chapter four, beginning of chapter five, it describes this transformation. Our being conformed to Christ or being made like him. Made like he is like Undead. And then, From.

Just after the beginning of chapter 5 to the end of the letter, About how? being made God's children in Christ like his only beloved Son. Who has shown, what the character of God is like, and Loving us and forgiving us and dying for us. that brings us into God's side and his Christ's side of this great War.

Between darkness and light. A war that takes place. especially in our marriages and our parenting, our relationships between parents and children, and how we do our work, And for which, We need to be armed with God's Own armor. In Christ. And so the whole letter, Is all about.

How God gives all that he is in Christ. For all that, we need him to be. in Christ.

I hope that helps us, see that. The greeting. Is not merely a formality. At the beginning of the letter. But as preparing us, to see that Theology of the whole letter. That Paul's apostleship is by the will of God and therefore our Salvation and his Apostolic Ministry to us.

And Existence of the book of Ephesians and gods using it to help you learn and grow. This is what God has willed. That are being set apart in the church. As Saints and growing in godliness to the Saints. Who are in Ephesus is especially In Christ, Jesus.

Faithfulness is in Christ. Jesus. And faith is in Christ Jesus. And that both the Grace by which we wage. A holy war in our lives. Grace to you. And the piece that we have. Which, Encourages us and the firms that we are on the right side of the war.

That we are allies of God, rather than now his now rather than his enemies this grace to you and peace. That comes from God the Father, especially Comes from him in and through his son. So it's from God, the Father. And the Lord. Jesus Christ. Verse 2 says, So, the heart of the letter, The heart of the Christian Life.

The heart of God's plan for glorifying himself as the savior of Sinners. Is his son? Our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise God. Let's pray.

Our Father, we thank you for Reconciling us to you in Christ. We pray that. And we may conduct ourselves as those who belong to you. And also love and be at peace with. And reconciled to one another. Since you have brought us both near through him. And we pray that you would.

Fulfill your Work in the church. Gathering in all of your Saints. When that? You. Bless, especially the Ministry of the word. Go to your churches and in our congregation. As that which Christ has produced. So that we might Minister by his grace and grow up into him. Who is the head?

Make us to be kind and tenderhearted and loving. And walking in love. Like Christ. Offered himself up to you as a sweet Aroma. That we might do the same. Grant that we would. Perceive. Darkness hates the light and that The nation's rage and Kings and peoples, do plot in vain against you and your Christ.

But make us to Rejoice to be his To be light in the world. To be his subjects who have kissed the Sun and who trust in him. And make us to arm ourselves. For all of the Practical parts of By the means of your grace. To arm ourselves with Christ himself.

So glorify your son, our Lord Jesus. In the world. In your church, especially And even more, particularly We ask in this family's life. And in each of our own hearts and lives individually. For, we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.