**Book of Ephesians – Chapter One**

**Background**

* Ephesus was the capital of the Proconsular Asia: Second only to Rome.
* Was Colonized mostly from Athens.
* Culturally sophisticated and cosmopolitan – artists, musicians, entertainment, sports, etc.
* Pythagoras (father of mathematics, geometry, and music) was said to have been from there.
* Philosophical schools of Zeno, and others were located there.
* Temple to Diana (Artemis) was the central identifier of the city – four times larger than the Parthenon. 127 columns that were 56 feet high.
* The theater was the largest in the Hellenic world – seating 50,000 people.
* Center of evangelism in early church.
* Visited by Paul twice and he stayed there the longest time of all the churches he planted.
* John the Apostle retired there and took care of Mary (mother of Jesus).
* Timothy was probably the bishop.

**Paul’s Letter to Ephesus**.

* Written from his imprisonment in Rome (two years in house arrest).
* Paul also wrote:
  + Colossians
  + Philippians
  + Philemon
* Colossians and Ephesians are remarkably similar in structure.

**Jesus’ Letter to Ephesus – Revelation 2:1-7**

**Outline of the Letter to Ephesus**

* Chapters 1-3 are Doctrine – What Christ did for us and who we are “in Christ”. (27x in book).
* Chapter 4-6 are Duty – how we are to live in response to Christ.

VS 1-2

* Written by Paul, an Apostle
* To the saints in Ephesus and to all the faithful in Christ Jesus – circular epistle to be shared.
* Grace always precedes peace.

**VS 3-14 – one continuous sentence**

* Blessed us with every spiritual gift in heavenly places “in Christ.”
* Chosen before the foundation of the world.
* That we should be holy and blameless before Him.
* Divine election
  + John 15:16 – you did not choose me, but I chose you.
  + Luke 19:10 – I came to seek and save the lost.
  + John 3:16 – the offer is open to all – whosoever believes…
  + 2 Peter 3:9 – God is not willing that any should perish.
  + Deut 7:6-7 – God choose the Hebrew people sovereignly.
* Corporate Election – the nation of Israel.
* Individual Election – 1 Peter 1:2, according to the foreknowledge of God.
* Predestined for Adaption as sons/daughters.
* In Christ we have:
  + Redemption through His blood.
  + The forgiveness of sins.’
  + According to the riches of His grace.
  + Galatians 3:13 – redeemed from the curse of the law.
  + Heb 9:22 – no forgiveness without the shedding of blood.
* Made know to us the Mystery of His Will:
  + Mystery of the kingdom of heaven – Matt 13
  + Mystery of iniquity – 2 Thes 2:7
  + Mystery of Babylon – Revelation 17 and 18
  + Mystery of the Church as one body – Ephesians 3:1-12
  + Mystery of the Bride of Christ – Ephesians 5:23-32
  + Mystery of the Godliness – 1 Tim 3:16
  + Mystery of the Rapture – 1 Cor 15:51-52
  + Mystery of the partial blindness upon Israel – Rom 11:12
* Gathering all things in Christ – in heaven and on earth.
* Dispensations
  + Innocence: Eden Ended in the fall
  + Ignorance: No Law Ended with the Flood and Babel destroyed
  + The Law: Moses Ended with Babylonian Captivity/John the Baptist.
  + Grace: Church Ends with the Day of the Lord
  + Judgment: Jesus Comes When the Antichrist is destroyed – Millennium
  + Millennium: Destruction of Satan, Great White Throne
  + Eternal Kingdom: Never Ends
* Our Inheritance – a down payment, protected and preserved and waiting for us in heaven.
* We trusted, we heard the word of truth, we believed, and we were sealed by the HS.

VS 15-23 – Prayer for our Spiritual Growth.

* The spirit of wisdom, revelation, and knowledge.
* The eyes of our understanding enlightened that we might know.
  + The hope of his calling
  + The riches of his glory
  + His inheritance
  + His exceeding power
  + Power in raising Jesus from the dead.
  + Seating Jesus at the right hand of God.
  + Above all rule and authority and power and dominion
  + Putting all things in subjection to His feet.
  + Gave Jesus as head above all things to the Church – his Body.