

**Ephesians: God's Charter to the Church**

*"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."*

□ Ephesians is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

□ Union with Christ is union with the \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*1 Corinthians 12:12 - For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

□ Main Themes of Ephesians:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

*2 Corinthians 8:23 And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.*

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

□ An apostle would come as an \_\_\_\_\_ of the King, bearing His \_\_\_\_\_ and message about how that victory changes your relationship to the new \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the land.

*1 Cor. 12:28 - And God has appointed in the church first apostles, then prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.*

□ Together with the prophets of old, the apostles form the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.

*Ephesians 2:19-20 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*

*1 Corinthians 15:8-10 - "Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in*

***to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus...***

□ Ephesus was also the home of the goddess \_\_\_\_\_, called Diana by the Romans. Her temple was \_\_\_\_\_x the size of the Parthenon in Athens and was lauded as one of the seven \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.

□ The first time we are introduced to Ephesus in Scripture is in Acts 18. Toward the end of his \_\_\_\_\_ missionary journey, Paul visited Ephesus with Priscilla and Aquila, whom he met during his stay at Corinth. It was during this time that \_\_\_\_\_ came to Ephesus and ministered there alongside Priscilla and Aquila. Paul returned to Ephesus on his third missionary journey, probably around 52AD and stayed there for nearly \_\_\_\_ years, ministering to the saints.

□ Paul wrote this epistle to the Ephesians roughly 5-7 years later while imprisoned in \_\_\_\_\_, along with Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians, which are commonly called the \_\_\_\_\_ epistles.

□ The word saints simply means "\_\_\_\_\_". In Scripture, to be holy is to be \_\_\_\_\_ by God for his holy and good purposes.

*Colossians 1:13 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.*

□ People and place are always connected in Scripture and Paul wants these Christians to know, not just \_\_\_\_\_ they are, but \_\_\_\_\_ they are.

*Exodus 28:36-38 - You shall make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, 'Holy to the LORD.' And you shall fasten it on the turban by a cord of **blue**. It shall be on the front of the turban. It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall bear any guilt from the holy things that the people of Israel consecrate as their holy gifts. It shall regularly be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.*

*Hebrews 8:5 - They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."*

□The reality that was to come, who is the true \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, is \_\_\_\_\_ himself.

*Hebrews 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

□Jesus passed through the \_\_\_\_\_ into the holy places as a man in order to bring us there with Him.

*Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers, since **we** have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

*Colossians 3:1 - If then **you have been raised with Christ**, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

□The outworking of our being set apart as saints is our \_\_\_\_\_ to the calling that God has placed upon us. God makes us something new- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and then calls us to be faithful to what He has already made us.

□Ephesians is divided nicely in \_\_\_\_\_ with the first 3 chapters explaining what God has done \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us in Christ, and the second 3 chapters are exhortations to be \_\_\_\_\_ to our calling.

□Our \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, through the bond of the Holy Spirit, is everything. It's undergirds Paul's entire argument, not just in Ephesians, but in every epistle he writes. The glorious story and reality of the Lord Jesus becomes \_\_\_\_\_ story and reality. When believers come into union with Christ, they are \_\_\_\_\_ with all the benefits that Christ possessed at his resurrection and ascension. This is the full gospel, full stop.

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

□Paul's blessing to the church begins where all blessing begins: \_\_\_\_\_. Grace is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God towards his people. Grace is the unmerited favor to the ungodly, the enemy, and the dead. It is his willingness to love the \_\_\_\_\_ and to give Himself to them fully, which He has done in giving us His Son.

□Peace speaks of the social \_\_\_\_\_ of the community marked by \_\_\_\_\_. Peace is the shalom that pastor Alan preached about several weeks ago- "the \_\_\_\_\_ life".

*Ephesians 6:15 – "...and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the **gospel of peace**."*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

*The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be **gracious** to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you **peace**.*