

Life in the Beloved:

A Fresh Look at

Relationships in the

book of Ephesians



Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Introduction

- **Prison epistle, A.D. 60 Paul's imprisonment during Rome**
- **Location: across Aegean Sea, straight east of Athens**



Introduction

- Paul first visited, 2nd missionary trip
(**Acts 18:19-21**)
- 3rd missionary trip, stayed there
over 2 years (Acts 19:1-10, 22)



Introduction to Epistolary Literature

- Salutation/Greetings (**1:1-2**)
- Praise/Thanksgiving (**1:3-23**)
- Main Body (**2:1-6:18**)
- Benediction (**6:19-24**)



Megathemes- Relationships



- **God's purposeOur purpose is His**
- **Christ the center....“in Him”**
- **Living Church.....Body of Christ**
- **New family.....One new man**
- **Christian conduct....New life of love**

Two-fold Division

- **1:1-3:21** Life Together in Christ
- **4:1-6:24** Living a Life of Unity



Ephesians 1:1-14

Big ideas=relationships

- Paul as an apostle
- Phrase “in Christ”—1:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 (twice)—Crucial for Paul’s thought!
- Spiritual blessings
- Love
- Adopted as sons
- Purpose of his will
- In the “heavenly realms”
- What God did for us first...next slide

What God did for us

First...

- Blessed us (**1:3**)
- Chose us (**1:4**)
- He destined us (**1:5**)
- He graced/bestowed us (**1:6**)
- He lavished on us (**1:8**)
- He made known to us (**1:9**)
- He set forth (**1:9**)
- Chosen & predestined (**1:11**)
- You were marked (**1:13**)

What have we learned about Relationships?

- **Apostle, saints, faith in Christ=identity**
- **Immersed in spiritual blessings=image of this!**
- **Initiated love looks for love in response**
- **Adopted as his sons=familial imagery**
- **“In Christ”=all encompassing relationship**

What have we learned about Relationships?



- **Grace, redemption, forgiveness=redefines our relationship with God, self & others!**
- **Freely given & lavished**
- **God's possession**
- **Sealed with the promised Spirit**