

- Ephesus was the largest city of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) and was situated approx. 3 miles from the Aegean Sea- it sat near the Cayster River (population of over 300,000)
 - it had an amphitheater that sat 25,000 people
 - *Ephesus was the location of the Temple of Artemis (Greek) or Diana (Roman)
 - (this was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world)
 - Artemis was the twin sister of Apollo and the goddess of hunting, the moon, fertility, and childbirth
 - many young virgins were used as priestesses and even used as temple prostitutes before Roman times (the Romans abolished this practice)
 - *Paul stopped here briefly on his 2nd mission journey and leaves Priscilla and Aquila there (Acts.18:18-19)
 - (this is where Priscilla and Aquila teach Apollos correctly)
 - Paul comes back about 2 years later and stays here for 3 years (Acts 20:31)
 - (during his stay in Ephesus, he writes I Corinthians- I Cor.16:8)
 - later on, he meets up with the elders of Ephesus in Miletus on his return to Jerusalem to let them know that he won't see them again
 - *Ephesians is one of four prison epistles (Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon are the other three)
 - (it was written between 60-62AD and delivered by Tychicus along with the letter to the Colossians- Col.4:7-8)
- Vs.1- "apostle" - the official title used of the 12 plus Paul
 - (these men were eyewitnesses of the resurrected Jesus and selected by God to lay the foundation of the church- Christ, of course, being the Chief Cornerstone)
- "saints" - (hagios) one who lives a sanctified and holy life by the empowering of the Holy Spirit
- "faithful" - (pistos) one who trusts in God's promises and lives obediently to Him
 - *Paul adds this on as this letter was probably encyclical (to be circulated and read throughout Asia)
- Vs.2- "grace and peace" - a common greeting in the early church that Paul used in all his letters
 - *grace is the Divine, unmerited favor of God while peace is not necessarily the absence of strife, but the blessing of tranquility in them
 - "the Father and the Lord Jesus" - grace and peace are bestowed upon us through the work of Christ
- Vs.3- "Blessed" - (eulogetus) this word is where we derive the word "eulogy" from and it means to be praised or commended
- "spiritual blessings" - Paul is implying eternal blessings here rather than temporal or material
 - Truth- the eternal blessings bless the spirit of man and not the flesh
 - *these blessings are forgiveness of sins, adoption into God's family, and sealed by the Holy Spirit
- Vs.4- to understand this, one must realize that God is eternal (He knows past, present, and future)
 - Truth- God has foreknowledge (Romans 8:29, I Peter 1:2)
- "chosen" - the same root word in Greek is used for "elect"
 - *to be chosen is based on one's response to the invitation of the Lord
 - (if one rejects the call, they were "chosen" but not a part of "the chosen" according to God's foreknowledge)
 - *this is how the Bible can stay uncontradicted with John 3:16 and Rom.10:13
 - Truth- another way of looking at it- in Is.42:1, the Messiah is called the "elect" and I Pet.2:6 says again that Jesus is "elect" (the name "Christ" (christos) literally means "anointed" or "chosen")
 - *we are "chosen" because we are in Christ- II Cor.5:17
- "holy and without blame" - this is a consecrated life
 - (God saves us so we can escape His Holy Wrath and have eternal peace)
 - *He does command us to be obedient to Him as we belong to Him
- Vs.5- "predestinate" - (proorizo) to predetermine or foreordain (it goes along with having foreknowledge)
 - Truth- God knows who will be saved but also knows that love is not forced
 - *God wants us to love Him and any true love is voluntary and is shown through obedience
- "adoption" - meaning to be brought into a family from another (our old family was leading us to destruction)
- "by Jesus Christ" - by means of Calvary / "to Himself" - that He might get the glory for His work of redemption
- "good pleasure of His Will" - since God has foreknowledge, this was His plan all along