

Ephesians 1:1-2 | Introducing Ephesians

Study Questions from 12.01.2015 sermon

Read

- i. Read Ephesians 1:1—6 and Acts 19:23—28.

Discuss

- ii. What sort of city was Ephesus and what would you have noticed if you had visited it when Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians?

It is likely that Paul begins his letter with a 'berakhah', a Jewish formula of celebration and praise to God. He celebrates three things:

- iii. Ephesians 1:1a *"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God..."*

Paul is celebrating what God had done in his life.

- What had God done?
- How & why should we celebrate what God has done in our lives?

- iv. Ephesians 1:1b *"To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus..."*

Paul is celebrating God's people.

Discuss how the following phrases are significant to us:

- *"God's holy people in Ephesus"* (hint: the bride v the goddess)
- *"In Ephesus"* and *"In Christ Jesus"* (hint: privilege of being in Ephesus v privilege of being in Christ)
- *"In Ephesus, the faithful"* (hint: how to be faithful to God whilst living in pagan Ephesus)

- v. Ephesians 1:2 *"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."* **Paul is celebrating God.**

How does God's grace link to peace? Share how God's grace has brought peace into your life

Pray

Spend some time praying about what you've discussed and pray for one another.