

January 6/7, 2001

**The Truth About Our Life in Christ**  
*A Study in the Book of Ephesians*  
**From Sinners to Saints**  
**Ephesians 1:1-2**

## Opening Discussion

1. Think back over the past year and rate your commitment to the study of God's Word. (Use a 1-10 scale with 1 being no commitment and 10 being high commitment.)
2. Why is it that we so easily get distracted or sidetracked from the study of God's Word, when we know it is so important?
3. When was the last time you really got serious about memorizing God's Word? Why is that?

## Bible Study

Here are some comments others have made concerning the Epistle to the Ephesians:

- It was John Calvin's favorite letter.
- Armitage Robinson called it the "crown of St. Paul's writings."
- William Barclay quotes Samuel Taylor Coleridge's assessment of it as "the divinist composition of man" and adds his own opinion that it is "the queen of the epistles."
- "It is the crown and climax of Paul's theology."
- It is "the consummate and most comprehensive statement, which even the New Testament contains, of the meaning of Christian religion. It is certainly the final statement of Paul's theology."

**Needless to say, this Epistle is packed with life-changing truth concerning what is true of us because we are "In Christ."**

1. Read Ephesians 1:1-2. What details do we learn from these two introductory verses?
2. To better understand the background of this Epistle read Acts 18-20. List everything you can learn about Ephesus from these verses. I suggest you do a section at a time using the following divisions.

18:18-21

18:24-28

19:1-7

19:8-17

19:18-20

19:21-41

20:17-27

20:28-38

(over)

3. What was Paul's, Aquila and Priscilla's, and Apollos' strategy for church planting and changing the culture of Ephesus?

What do we learn from this for church ministry today?

What do we learn from this for changing our culture today?

4. Read Revelation 2:1-7. This was written years later by John concerning the church in Ephesus. What had happened to the church over the years?

Why do you think this happened?

How can we prevent our church from going down that same path?

## **Application**

1. Go back to the Opening Discussion question #1. How did you rate yourself for the past year and where would you like to be at the end of this coming year?
2. As a group, commit yourselves to reading the Epistle to the Ephesians through once each week through this study.
3. Discuss whether or not your group is willing to take on the challenge of memorizing the book of Ephesians in this coming year. How might you work that into your weekly study?
4. Close with a time of prayer asking God to reveal Himself and His truth through our diligent study of Ephesians in the upcoming months.