

God's Glorious Grace

Ephesians 1:1-2

Grace to You

Ephesians!

- **An exclamation point! Lofty & Grand...**
 - The ‘Queen of the Epistles’ and the ‘Grand Canyon of the Bible’
 - Yet at the same time very relevant, clear and practical:

It tells us who we are, how we came to be as we are, what we shall be, and what we must do now in light of that.

- **The main theme:**
 - *The inexhaustible fullness of the spiritual riches of **God’s Glorious Grace***

Ephesians!

- **The goal: that we know and experience the full extent of our spiritual riches in Christ!**

**Avoid the Hetty Green life:
*America's Greatest Miser***

**She possessed fabulous wealth,
but chose to live her life as though
she were a penniless pauper....**

Ephesians teaches us to know
and experience our inexhaustible
spiritual resources in Christ: i.e.
God's Glorious Grace!



Ephesus: the city & the church

- A large, prosperous, diverse and influential city of note



Ephesus: the city & the church

- **A large, prosperous, diverse and influential city of note**
- **A familiar New Testament church of note**
 - People from there were at Pentecost (A.D. 33)
 - Paul preached gospel and ministered in Ephesus and region for 3-4 years (A.D. 51-56)
 - Paul wrote to Ephesus from Rome (A.D. 62/63)
 - I Timothy deals with problems there (A.D. 64)
 - John wrote letters & gospel from there (A.D. 90)
 - Revelation's warning to the church (A.D. 95)

Ephesians 1:1-2 (Grace to You)

From: an apostle by the will of God

- ***Apostle*: appointed to speak authoritatively for God and act on God's behalf, laying the church's foundation.**
 - See Eph 2:19-22 and I Cor 2:7,13

Ephesians 1:1-2 (Grace to You)

From: an apostle by the will of God

- ***Apostle*: appointed to speak authoritatively for God and act on God's behalf, laying the church's foundation.**
- ***by the will of God***
 - **Conscious of and comfortable with who he is: delivered from self, given a position in Christ, entrusted with authority and purpose.**
 - **He did not volunteer or apply for the job: he was drafted (chosen & commissioned)!**
See Acts 9 and I Tim 1:13,14

Ephesians 1:1-2 (Grace to You)

From: an apostle by the will of God

- ***Apostle*: appointed to speak authoritatively for God and act on God's behalf, laying the church's foundation.**
- ***by the will of God***
- **Application: we must understand the Bible as an authoritative word from God to us!**
 - We may not adapt it to the changing times and shifting values of our day
 - We may not dismiss it: *Well, that's just that old gray-haired guy's opinion – he has his and I have mine...*

Ephesians 1:1-2 (Grace to You)

From: an apostle by the will of God

To: the Christians in Eph and in Christ

- Note how they are described: the *saints* who are *in Ephesus* and *believers in Christ Jesus*...
- Who we are
 - **Saints** = all true Christians, those being transformed by God's glorious grace.
 - **Believers** = all who truly believe the gospel of Christ
- Where we are
 - **in Ephesus** = an earthly address, our physical home
 - **in Christ** = a heavenly address, our spiritual home

Ephesians: to the churches of Asia Minor



Ephesians 1:1-2 (Grace to You)

From: an apostle by the will of God

To: the Christians in Eph and in Christ

- Note how they are described: the *saints* who are *in Ephesus* and *believers in Christ Jesus*...
- **Who we are**
 - **Saints** = all true Christians, those being transformed by God's glorious grace.
 - **Believers** = all who truly believe the gospel of Christ
- **Where we are**
 - **in Ephesus** = an earthly address, our physical home
 - **in Christ** = a heavenly address, our spiritual home

Ephesians 1:1-2 (Grace to You)

From: an apostle by the will of God

To: the Christians in Eph and in Christ

- **Application: as Christians we live in two different worlds at the same time – we lead a double life!**

Many of our spiritual troubles arise from our failure to remember that we are citizens of two kingdoms. We tend either to pursue Christ and withdraw from the world, or to become preoccupied with the world and forget we are also in Christ.

Ephesians 1:1-2 (Grace to You)

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

There is no need to live like Hetty Green – missing the benefit of the inexhaustible spiritual riches in Christ. He offers to each of us:

God's Glorious Grace

