

## *Sermon Notes*

### *Themes from Ephesians*

“Introduction & the Call to Become Saintly”

Ephesians 1:1-2

#### I. Background

##### A. Introduction of the Writing

1. Ephesians 1:1-2
2. What scholars have said about this epistle.

##### B. The church at Ephesus.

1. Who was the letter intended for?
  - a. Textual Problems
2. A “Circular Letter”
3. Paul’s missionary journey to Ephesus.
  - a. Acts 19:9-10
  - b. Ephesians 3:1, 6:20 (Prison Epistle)
    1. Probably same imprisonment referred to in Colossians 4 and recorded in Acts 28.
4. The city of Ephesus.
  - a. Large
  - b. Prosperous
  - c. Pagan
  - d. Temple of Diana
5. Leadership of the Church

#### II. Exposition

##### A. Verse One

1. “Paul an Apostle”
  - a. The letter comes with the authority of Christ.
2. “Saints”

a. True believers

b. Nonsensical to the natural man – I Corinthians 2:14.

1. Ephesians 2:1 – to do good works.

##### 3. “Faithful”

a. The true test of a saint. Note James 1:22-25; Psalm 1.

b. Faith’s three elements

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

c. Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 81.

**Q.81:** Are all true believers assured all the time that they are saved and are in a state of grace?

**A:** Since the assurance of grace and salvation is not essential to faith, true believers may have to wait a long time for it, and once they have it, their assurance may be weakened and interrupted from being afflicted by all kinds of *psychological problems* (distempers, original edition), from sinning, from being tempted, and from losing the sense of God’s favor. However, the Spirit of God keeps believers from complete despair by never allowing them to be without some inner sense of his presence and support.

**Scripture Ref:** Eph. 1:13; Isa. 50:10; Ps. 88; Sg. 5:2-3,6; Ps. 51:8,12; 31:22; 22:1; 77:1-12; 30:6-7; 1 John 3:9; Job 13:15; Ps. 73:13-15,23; Isa. 54:7-11.

##### B. Verse Two.

1. “Grace and Peace”
2. Should mark our comings and goings.

#### III. Points of Reflection.

- A. Paul noted that he was an apostle by the will of God. We too are Christians by the will of God.
- B. We are all saints, people set apart for God, by God.
- C. We all feel from time to time discouraged and perhaps like giving up, but faithfulness means keeping on.
- D. Ephesus and the surrounding region was a place much like the circumstances we live in today.