

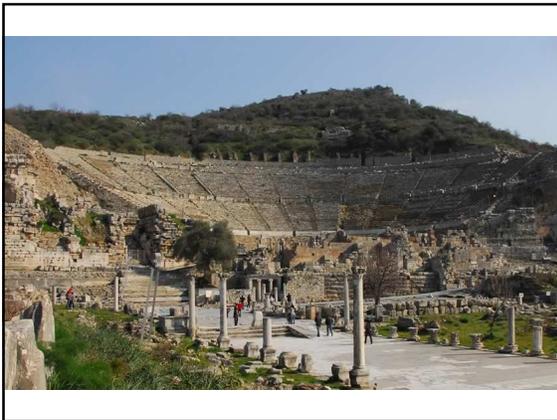
Christian Hope

Ephesians 1:11 – 2:13

I. The Reality of Hopelessness

II. The Search for Hope

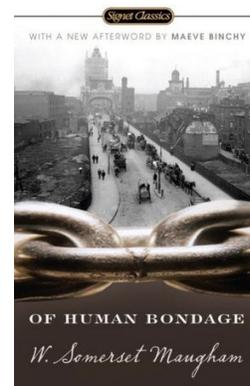
III. God's Promise of Hope



I. The Reality of Hopelessness

“...remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”
(Ephesians 2:12)

Hope = a life-shaping certainty about the future



“Whoever was still alive had reason for hope. Health, family, happiness, professional abilities, fortune, position in society—all these were things that could be achieved again or restored.”

(Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*)

“Of the prisoners, only a few kept their full inner liberty.”

(Viktor Frankl)

III. God's Promise of Hope

“...when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him...” (Ephesians 1:13)

“...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe”

(Ephesians 1:17-19)

A. The Hope

“that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you”

“For consider your calling brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.”
(1 Corinthians 1:26-27)

B. The Riches

“that you may know...what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints”

C. The Power

“that you may know...what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe”

“...according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places”