

Ephesians: Unsearchable riches of Christ

Study 1: To the saints in Christ Jesus

READ Ephesians 1-6, Acts 19, Rev 2:1-7 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

This begins our study through Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In this new study we will take hold of "the unsearchable riches" (Eph 3:8) we have in Christ and see how this new life in Him produces a new relationship with God and others. We will explore the core gospel truths and see how vitally important they are to believers in framing, directing, and empowering us to live the Christian life, especially in our relationships within the body of Christ, the family, and marriage. In the standard Greco-Roman form of letter writing Paul begins by naming himself as the sender of the letter, indicates the recipients of the letter, and then extends a greeting.

Main lesson: Paul wants us to know who we are now in Christ and how we might live in this new identity

Questions:

1. A. Paul's ministry in the city of Ephesus was very successful. From the account in Acts 19, how would you describe the political, social, and religious culture?

B. How were the challenges faced by the Ephesian church similar to what we face today?
2. Read Ephesians and state in broad terms the themes presented, and issues addressed. It is most likely Ephesians was a circular letter for various churches, and not just those in Ephesus. Why might Paul have written this letter?

3. From Paul's opening statement (v. 1a), what are the two sources of authority Paul presents? How should we view the authority of Ephesians and what difference does this make as we read it?
4. What is an apostle and are there apostles today? Why or why not?
5. In what ways does Paul characterize the Ephesian church (v. 1b) and how might this be different to the way people describe the church today?
6. What does it mean to be a "saint" and how might someone become a saint (support by scripture)? How has the concept of "saint" been falsely taught?
7. What does it mean to be "in Christ"? How might we live out this truth today?
8. What two things has God given to His people (v. 2) and what do they mean?
9. Read Revelation 2:1-7. Why did Jesus warn the church at Ephesus? How would you describe your love for Jesus? Will you pray for this to increase in this study?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God our Father and the Lord Jesus who is the source of all grace and peace

Thank: the Lord for making us saints and bringing us into the blessings in Christ

Pray: that you would grow in your love for Jesus as you begin to study Ephesians