Called to Serve
Ephesians 1:1-2

Introduction

Ephesians has been called:

- “The Switzerland of the New Testament.”
- “The crown and climax of Pauline theology.”
- “The queen of the epistles.”
- “The greatest, maturist and for our time, the most relevant of all Paul’s writings.”

“The whole letter is a magnificent combination of Christian doctrine and duty, Christian faith and life, what God has done through Jesus Christ and what we must do in consequence.” John Stott

Ephesus was the leading city in the province of Asia (western Turkey).

- It was the hub of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation.
- Its harbor emptied into the Aegean Sea via the Cayster River.
- The theater could seat 25,000 people.
- The Temple of Artemis was three times the size of the Parthenon and was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
- Here Paul would teach for two years and the impact of the Christians was so great that all who lived in the province of Asia heard the gospel. Acts 19:10

If we are to be a church that will make a difference for Christ in our community, three things need to happen.

I. We need to know our calling. Verse 1

“I am an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God.”

An apostle is a messenger.

Paul was called by God to bring the gospel to the Gentiles.

“God set me apart from birth.” Galatians 1:15

God has a purpose and plan for each of us.

How would you fill in the blank?

I am a ______________ of Christ Jesus by the will of God.

Do you consider your work as sacred – holy to the Lord?
II. We need to know our position. Verse 1b

This is a letter written to all of us.

We are called saints.

In the Bible every Christian is a saint.

The word saint means “set apart or holy to the Lord.”

Saints are those who:

- Have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Keep the faith. They follow Christ.
- Are “in Christ.” Our union with Christ is the most important thing about us.

Are you a person that the light of Christ shines through?

III. We need to remember that all we have comes from God through Jesus Christ. Verse 2

Grace and Peace

- Grace was a typical Greek greeting and Paul expands on it. This is God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense.
- Peace was a typical Jewish greeting. Shalom – peace, well-being, blessing and wholeness. It too comes from God through Jesus Christ.

The scope of God’s blessings is staggering – from eternity past to eternity future.

This letter will take us from the throne room of heaven to the battlefield on earth.

Sit – Walk – Stand

- We are seated in the heavenly realms with Christ.
- We are to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord in this life.
- We are to stand against the attacks of the enemy, clothed with the armor of God.

We have everything we need to live for Christ.

The key is our union with Christ.

Conclusion

If we are to be a church that makes a difference for Christ in our community, we need to:

- Know our calling.
- Know our position – in Christ.
- Rely upon his grace and power.