

# Paul's Epistles – Ephesians 1-4

The New Testament \* Week 24 \*

Opening and closing collect: The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day #3, BCP 213

If you have questions from past weeks or your reading, email them to

TomRutherford@ChurchOfTheMessiah.com

I. Paul's not mad at the folks in Ephesus

II. Ephesians 1:2-3 – God's blessed us with HOW MANY spiritual blessings?

III. Ephesians 1:4-12 – Paul tells us why we exist.

A. Verses 4-6 –

B. Verses 7-10 – Note the verb!

C. Verses 11-12 – As his “Chosen/elect” we are “predestined” to “BE for the praise of his glory.”

1. We are only creatures in the universe who can choose to praise ...or not.
2. Everything else – animate and inanimate –
3. Anytime you ask yourself, “Why am I here?”

D. Verses 13-14 – We were adopted and included in Christ when we believed, and ...

1. “Marked with seal.” **You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever**” (BCP 308).
2. Given Holy Spirit as “**deposit**”

IV. Ephesians 1:15-23 – is a Great prayer to pray for people you love:

What makes you a saint?

Roman Catholicism says it takes 5 steps:

1. Dead for at least 5 years. Local bishop...
2. “Congregation for the Cause of Saints” evaluates the evidence.
3. If approved, Pope declares the person “Venerable.”
4. If responsible for a posthumous miracle – or martyred – the next step is “Beatification.”
5. If second posthumous miracle, they're canonized (made) a Saint.

V. Ephesians 2:1-10 – What Jesus did and does.

A. Verses 1-3 –

B. Verses 4-7 – BUT... Note the tense of the verbs: past tense!

C. Verse 8-9 – The Key of the Protestant Reformation – indeed to all Christianity:

**<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.**

D. Verse 10 – **For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

VI. Ephesians 3:16-19 is ANOTHER great prayer to pray for folks you love:

VII. Ephesians 4:4-16 – Paul writes more about how we are the Body of Christ

A. Verses 4-6 –

B. Verses 7 –

C. Verse 8-10 –

D. Verses 11-13 –

Our Leaders are gifts from God, with different roles:

1. Apostles –

2. Prophets – 1 Corinthians 14:3

3. Evangelists –

4. Pastors and teachers –

5. “To equip...” note where the comma is.

6. Only as God’s people live into their roles as servants...

E. Verse 14 –No longer babies, but mature. How do we get there?

F. Verse 15 – TRUTH in LOVE. Takes both.

G. Verse 16 -- The body works ONLY as each part does its part.

NEXT WEEK: Andrew Lazo, an internationally known author about C.S. Lewis is going to teach Diving Deeper in the Parish Hall. His topic: “Who is C.S. Lewis? And Why Does He Matter?”

**Preparation for next week: Read Mark**