

Ephesians: From Death to Life
Let's Change the World
Ephesians 1:1-2

We are wired to be difference makers. No matter where we are in life, we all want to be effective. Remember back in high school or college and your teachers all talked about potential? They told us if we would just focus on our education, then we could be anything we wanted to be and do anything we wanted to do. They told us we could change the world. Then we graduated.

1. Paul's life reminds us that God can radically change anyone.
2. Paul's letter reminds us that we should be students of Scripture.
3. Paul's labor reminds us that the spiritual life is a struggle.

Grace and peace come from "God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." What a magnificent picture of the Father is in this letter. It also has a majestic picture of the Lord Jesus as the cosmic King of all. Jesus fills the mind of Paul. At the end of the letter, Paul prays again for peace and grace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus for all who have undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ. My prayer is that Ephesians will help us embrace an undying love for Christ and give us an effective faith that will make a difference in our city.

Reflection

Why do you think it is important to study the book of Ephesians? How might the nature of Paul's calling on the road to Damascus (Acts 9) and his experiences in Ephesus (Acts 19) affect the way we listen to his words in this book? In preparation for next week, read Acts 19 and think about the challenges to the gospel that were present in that city. How do those challenges relate to our ministry in our culture? How are grace and peace related and why are they central in the Christian message? What does it mean to be "in Christ," and what does it look like it in everyday life?