

To God's Holy People in Ephesus

1st in the "Ephesians" Series

Ephesians 1:1-2

January 18, 2026

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage, we are introduced to the Letter of Ephesians and the opening "greeting" of the book.

1) The Letter of Ephesians: A Brief Introduction

a) Author

b) Situation

c) Content

- Chapters 1-3: BEING

*The new life God has given us in Christ (1:3-2:10)
*The new society God has created through Christ (2:11-3:21)

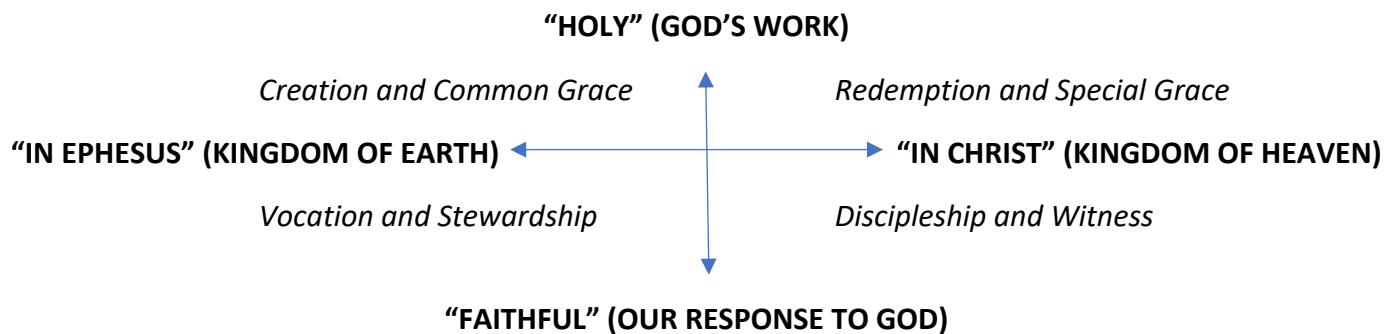
- Chapters 4-6: DOING

*The new standards God expects of his people (4:1-5:20)
*The new relationships God establishes for his people (5:21-6:24)

2) Ephesians will help us consider the two tensions we experience in our Christian life (v. 1).

a) A Christian has both a gift from God and a responsibility to God.

b) A Christian is a citizen in both an earthly kingdom and in God's Kingdom.



Response

Lord, minister to us through Ephesians, which you wrote for Asia Minor and also for the Stateline Area.

Sunday Text Questions

Ephesians 1:1-2

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues that need clarification together.

- 1) What exposure have you had with the Book of Ephesians? What are you looking forward to (or dreading) in this sermon series?

- 2) Why would Paul root his position as “an apostle of Jesus Christ” with the explanatory phrase, “by the will of God,” and what does that mean (v. 1)?

- 3) Paul uses two terms to identify Christians, one which emphasizes God’s gift of salvation (“holy”) and one which emphasizes our responsibility to God (“faithful”). How do you hold in tension that your salvation is a gift and yet you have a responsibility to respond to and obey God?

- 4) Paul also uses two terms to identify the citizenship of Christians, one which emphasizes their natural residence (“in Ephesus) and one that emphasizes their supernatural residence (“in Christ Jesus”). How can Christians exist in two kingdoms at the same time – an earthly kingdom (like America) and the Kingdom of God?

- 5) Related to question four, how might the fact that Christians must co-exist in two kingdoms simultaneously address all the talk in this cultural moment about “Christian nationalism?”

- 6) As we begin a new sermon series, how might you prepare in advance to engage with and respond to the message of Ephesians?

- 7) In what other ways, if any, did this passage speak into your life to teach, rebuke, correct, or train you in righteousness (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)?

Further study this week: Read all of Ephesians this week to prepare for this new sermon series: chapter 1 (Mon); chapters 2-3 (Tues); chapter 4 (Wed); chapter 5 (Thurs); chapter 6 (Fri).