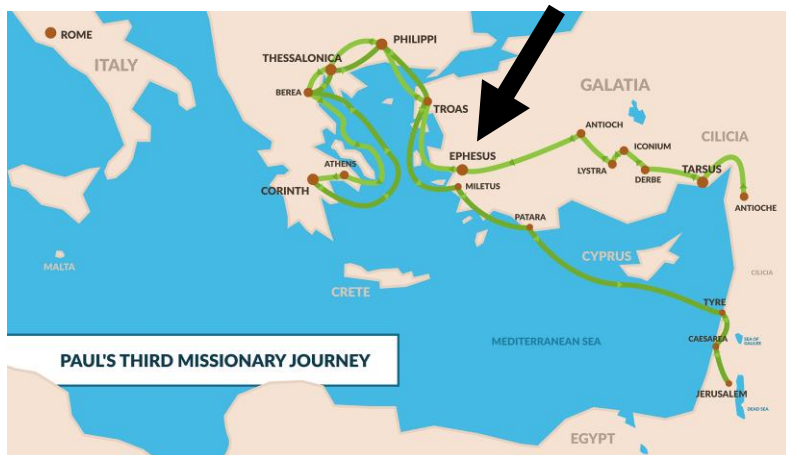


"Ephesus is a great city hub of the trade routes of the world, full of culture and money and temples and politics and soldiers and merchants and slaves. And power...social, civic, religious, and spiritual power." – N.T. Wright

### Ephesus

- Population = approx. 300,000
- Hub of financial, political, and spiritual power
- Home of the Temple of Artemis  
(425 ft. long, 220 ft. wide, 60 ft. tall, w/127 marble pillars)



Acts 28:30-31 – he wrote the “prison epistles” (Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians)  
 30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Ephesians 1:3-5

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will

➤ **God the Father** – blessed, chosen, adopted

“...to accept at the depth of our being that we are chosen by God is the antidote for our insecurity, our neurotic fears, our striving to be accepted, and our self-deprecation.”

– Stuart Briscoe

We live FROM blessing not FOR blessing.

We live FROM acceptance not FOR acceptance.

We live FROM grace not FOR grace.

FROM not FOR.



*Ephesians 3:7-10*

*7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.*

- **God the Son** – redeemed, forgiven, revealed

redeemed = apolutrósis = a release effected by payment of ransom, deliverance

Bring your sin to Jesus and let him lift that from your life and bring his healing grace to you.

*Ephesians 3:13-14*

*13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.*

- **God, the Holy Spirit** – sealed, guaranteed

Distinguishing mark on a Christian's life is Christ in you, Christ through you, Christ for you.

God has paid mightily that we might become His children, and He's going to protect His investment by guaranteeing that what He's begun He will finish.