

**THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS  
TO THE SAINTS AND FAITHFUL IN  
CHRIST**

**EPHESIANS 1:1-2**

**JUNE 4, 2006**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***Colossians 3:14: "And over all these virtues put on love,  
which binds them all together in perfect unity."***

**INTRODUCTION**

***In following the typical Greek formula of the day, Paul begins this letter with a salutation. Included in this salutation was the sender's name, the recipients' name and a formal greeting. These two short verses provide a powerful opening to the letter that has often been referred to as the epic of the Epistles. Paul's complete focus is on Jesus Christ, whom he mentions three times in the first two verses. Jesus Christ is everything to Paul and he is exhorting all of us who have placed our faith in Jesus to rejoice in the "grace and peace" that has been extended to us.***

**UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT**

- 1. Paul is recognized by most scholars as the writer of this book. Who was Paul (also known as Saul)? (Acts 7:58-60, 8:1-3, 9:1-2). What happened to Paul (Saul) after his personal encounter with the living Christ? How was Paul's life changed forever? (Acts 9:3-31, Acts 15)***
  
- 2. Paul refers to himself as an "apostle." An apostle was "one who has been sent." Who were the apostles? (Mark 3:14; Acts 1:26, 2:43; Romans 11:13; Galatians 1:1, 11-12). What do you think Paul wanted to communicate by describing himself in this manner?***

3. *Describe what God's grace is to a believer? What is the significance of "grace" being mentioned before "peace" in Ephesians 1:2?*
4. *Paul mentions Jesus Christ three times in Ephesians 1:1-2. In verse two, what does it mean to be "in Christ." What do these verses tell you about Paul's relationship with Jesus Christ?*

#### OUR WALK WITH GOD

1. *In verse one, who does Paul say he is writing this letter to? What would it take for others to characterize you as "faithful in Christ?" What changes do you need to make in your life for this to become a reality?*
2. *As an apostle of Christ, Paul had a deep concern for these Christians whom he did not know personally. Do you have any responsibility for the spiritual integrity of other believers? In what areas do you feel qualified to help other Christian brothers and sisters? In what areas do you feel lacking, but would like to grow so you could help others?*
3. *Paul wrote this letter to the churches in this region almost 2000 years ago. What if we at RiverLakes received this letter addressed directly to us? If RiverLakes was mentioned in the salutation, how would it change the way you read the contents of this letter? Are*

***Paul's main points, truths and principles for the believer and the church still applicable for us today? Explain.***

**GOING DEEPER**

***Read Revelation 2:1-7. What further insights do you gain in regards to the church at Ephesus? Are these truths still applicable for the church as a whole today? Explain.***