

## **Connected for Confidence**

Paul Knows Who God is and Who He is

### **Connecting with God Series (CWG) - Part 1**

Jan 10-11, 2020

Ephesians 1:1-2

#### **Introduction**

- **Ephesians Taught 2x's - 1998** Before Yearly Themes (just after I arrived in October of 1997) & **2008** (May-June) **The Year of World Impact** - it's been **11 ½ years** since I last taught it all the way through.
- **The Role of Confidence and Boldness in the Life of a Christian**
  - **My focus on Christian Identity** - it's the whole thing. Who He is and who He says we are.
    - Until we know Grace, we will continue to perform religiously for God's love and approval.
    - Until we know abundant love, we will be stingy with our love toward others.
    - Until we know forgiveness, our enemies will hold power over our hearts.
    - Until we know that we are children of God we will continue to model ourselves after society.
    - Until we know that we are abundantly blessed, we will continue to struggle with generosity.
    - Until we know our authority and power in Christ we will still live in fear and reaction.
    - Until we know our Kingdom purpose we will continually chase after things that don't matter to give us meaning.
  - **We get that identity from Connection to God**

### **CONNECTION with God Brings CONFIDENCE**

#### **Lesson**

- **Setting the Tone for Ephesians**
  - **Pictures of Ephesus today:**
    - 1. Bigger map including Turkey**
      - **Pause to comment** - For those who struggle with geography - laser pointer, brief explanation.
      - **The area of Greece and Turkey is very important in the Bible**, it's the majority of Paul's ministry (11 of the 13 letters/books Paul wrote are to one of the two, almost 85%).
        - **Turkey is very important in the Bible** -

- **Paul was born in Turkey** (Tarsus).
- **Asia = Turkey** - When Paul talks about ASIA, he means Turkey. Turkey is today known as Asia Minor.
- **7 Revelation Churches** - All 7 churches of Revelation (Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, Smyrna and Ephesus) are in Turkey.
- **Galatia is in Turkey** - The Galatian region (Galatians book) is in Revelation.
- **6 of the 13 books Paul wrote in the NT concerned Turkey** - Galatians, Ephesians, 2 to Timothy; Colossians/Philemon; (Greece = 5 (2 Corinthian books, Philippians; 2 to Thessalonians); Rome got 1; Crete got one (Titus))
- **John the Revelator and Mary Jesus' mom lived there** - most accounts suggest that John moved there prior to exile at Patmos and took Mary with him, setting her up (she was handed over to his care at the foot of the cross).

## 2. Ancient map of Turkey and Greece

- **Pause to Comment** - My trip there in 2002 - they don't like each other. Bridge of continents

## 3. Ephesus Library (of Celsus)

- **Pause to Comment** - One of my favorite sites in Turkey - this is still standing (rebuilt from original material). Front of library originally built in 125 ad (after Paul). Once held 12,000 scrolls.
- **Greatest city of Asia Minor in Paul's time** (historian Strabo said that by 27 BC, when Ephesus was made the capital of Western Asia instead of Pergamum, it was 'second only to Rome' in the Empire. It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in Asia Minor)
- **Temple of Diana/Artemis = one of the 7 wonders of the world here.** Pliny tells us that it took 120 years to build.

## 4. Ephesus Hadrian

- As you can see there's a lot there still...(click through this and next one 5 seconds visual of each.)

## 5. Ephesus Road

- **Click through this** - 5 seconds

## 6. Harbor Road Ephesus

- **Pause to comment** - Paul would have sailed up to the port here at the end of this road which is all silted up now. There are footprints etched into the pavement leading from the dock area to the brothel. No comment on navy men.

## 7. Ephesus Arena

- [click through this](#) and next one 5 seconds visual of each.
  - Could hold 25,000 spectators. Possibly the largest in the ancient world.

## 8. Ephesus Theater

- [click through this](#) after 5 seconds

## 9. Ephesus Terrace Houses

- **Pause to briefly Comment** – the most recent area of digging is the upper income homes being unearthed with mosaic floors. Beautiful.

## 10. Baptismal in Ephesus

- **Pause to Comment** – notice this baptismal and how shallow it is. You walk down one side up to your knees/thighs, get water poured over and out the other side. Not immersion, although that's what we practice here at BW.
  - **Didache Teaching on Baptism** – The Teaching of the 12 Apostles or aka The Teaching of the Lord to the Gentiles – found in 1873 in Constantinople/Istanbul Turkey – either 30 years after Jesus' death to 70 years after, it's the era of the Apostles while they were living. *“But concerning baptism, thus shall ye baptize. Having first recited all these things, baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in living water [running water: river, ocean, stream, spring, lake with outlets, etc.]. But if thou hast not living water, then baptize in other water [pond, lake w/out outlets, container, reservoir, pool, spa, etc.]; And if thou art not able in cold [running water], then in warm [standing water]. But if thou hast neither, then pour water on the head thrice in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. But before the baptism let him that baptizeth and him that is baptized fast, and any other also who are able; And thou shalt order him that is baptized to fast a day or two before.”* Didache 7:1-4 (c. 60-100 AD)

## 11. Ephesus Virgin Mary House

- **Click through this and next as I comment on the house** – Tradition (4<sup>th</sup> century Epiphanius of Salamis said it first) says that this is where John the Apostle set up Mary in her own home for the latter days of her life (same historian said she finally died in Jerusalem). Unknown how legit that is, but it's treated holy.

## 12. House of the Virgin Mary better

- **All done with slides...**
  - **What genre is the Book of Ephesians?** – Pastoral Letter

- **Stylistic Anomalies** -
  - The first through third chapters are one long prayer.
  - Verses 3-14 are all one sentence in Greek
- **Who wrote it** - Paul the Apostle
- **When? - AD 60-63.**
  - It was written at the same time as Philippians, Philemon and Colossians and taken out by four different men to the different churches.
    - **Colossians is so similar** that 1/3 of the content is the same and ¼ of the actual wording is verbatim.
- **Where From? - Roman Prison**
  - **Where Written From?** - Since Paul was in the Roman prison at the time you can assume that he had plenty of time to say what he needed to say and how he said it.
- **To whom - To Gentile Believers in the Lycus Valley**
  - **This seems to be a general letter.** It would have been likely brought to Ephesus and copies brought to Hierapolis and Laodicea with 3 other letters (see above), likely by Tychicus. There are ancient versions of this book (manuscripts) that call it Paul's letter to the Laodiceans, which is another city nearby (Marcion's *apostolikon*). It's possible that Ephesus was the biggest church so they got the letter first or that they got to keep the letter.
- **What's the context? - The situation into which it's being written - Theology, Identity & Unity** - Lays out a theology and identity of the Christian believer and then calls for unity of the Body of Christ.
- **Let's Get This Party Started**
  - **Paul Writes a Letter to the Ephesian Believers**
    - **Whole Passage for Today:** *Ephesians 1:1-2 - "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*
    - **Breaking It Down**
      - **Who Paul Thinks He Is**
        - *Ephesians 1:1a - "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,..."*
        - **Saul** - Paul used to be Saul, never forget that. His past factors significantly into his present.
          - **Born c. AD 10**
          - **Religious Training: Jew of Jews** - Paul was orthodox Jewish and through his lifetime and studies he only become more

and more entrenched. He described himself as a Pharisee (expert in the Law and firm adherent).

- **Normal ancient Jewish experience:**
  - The Talmud suggests the following:
    - Introduction at age 4 to concepts
    - Bible study starts at age 5
    - Study of Mishna at 10
    - Bar Mitzvah at 12 "son of the law" responsible for sin.
    - Fulfillment of commandments at 13
    - Study Talmud at 15
    - Married and on your own at 18. - Paul of course was single. Why? We don't know. Either widowed early, his wife divorced him, or he was so strict religiously, that he chose singleness in devotion to God.
- **From Tarsus** - capital of the Roman Province of Cilicia (Asia Minor/Turkey). Intensely Hellenistic/Greek influenced city of the Roman Empire. Paul would have seen his city fully embrace the ways of the Greek including the sports, which as a good Jew he would likely avoid (many done in the nude and lots of parties attached).
- **Secular Schooling** - Tarsus had an amazing university that rivaled the one in Athens. As Saul grew he learned under a famous scholar, Gamaliel. Saul was taught in Aramaic and Hebrew but spoke in Hellenistic Greek.
- **Roman Citizen** - Due to the fact that Tarsus was under roman rule it gave Saul Roman Imperial citizenship at birth.
- **Family Business (goat hair tent making)** - As he grew he was apprenticed into the family trade which specialized in the manufacture of a tough goat hair fabric used to make tents.
- **An Apostle of Christ Jesus**
  - **He was converted** - on the Road to Damascus. He came to Jerusalem shortly after Christ was crucified. He persecuted the church aggressively. Jesus Christ personally interacted with him and called him into service (blindness and that whole story followed), likely c. AD 32 (depending on Christ's birth and crucifixion timeframes).
  - **Immediate Re-Rack** - right after getting saved, he went to Arabia for 3 years to unlearn and re-learn so many things about the world that he knew (cf. Gal 1). It was probably around this time that Saul changed his name to Paul.

- **Initial Rejection by the Church** - ultimately (some say 17 years later) Paul tried to connect with the Apostles in Jerusalem claiming to be legitimate (c. AD48). But they reject him until Barnabas vouches for him.
- **Antioch Homebase** - Barnabas and Paul connected significantly and set up a home base of Christian operations in Antioch. It was here that the term 'Christians' was used for the first time.
- **Missionary** -
  - **Nabatean Route Influence?** - some speculate that Paul may have worked for Nabateans during his 3 years in Arabia, who were nomadic traders. The reason is that their ancient routes were almost identical to Paul's missionary journey routes. Although those just could have been the most normal routes.
- **How did He become an Apostle? - he never walked with Jesus. He wasn't one of the 12.**
  - *Apostolos* is the Greek verb to send out (*apostellein*) in delegated power.
  - An official apostle is someone who has been personally called by the Risen, Resurrected Jesus Christ. That happened to Paul on the Road to Damascus.
- **By the will of God**
  - It wasn't his idea -
  - The Authority comes from on high -
  - The glory goes to God -
  - Identity firmly wrapped - He belonged to Christ. His life was not his own.
- **Who Paul Thinks The Ephesians Are**
  - *Ephesians 1:1b - "...To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:"*
    - **Not really to the Ephesians, but the general region** - most documented evidence suggests that 'this line of 'the saint who are in Ephesus' was added later and not in the original manuscript. Does it change things? A little bit but not much. It was likely, 'to the saints, to the faithful...'
    - **Paul knew Ephesians but doesn't name them** - Paul spent a good amount of time with the Ephesians but no names are

mentioned for some reason. That suggests a general letter to the area.

- **Nevertheless, it got to them. Paul's recorded interaction with Ephesians** - Paul had a decent amount of interaction with the Ephesians, and certainly his ministry did. There is no indicator that he planted this church originally. We do know that he spent a lot of time there after it was started and sent Timothy to minister to it for some time as well.
  - **Initial Contact (P&A left there to live)** - Acts 18 records that as Paul traveled with Priscilla and Aquila, they came to Ephesus where he left them there and continued on planning to come back.
    - **Apollos, Priscilla & Aquila minister there** - Apollos was a newly Christian Jew who was a brilliant orator/debater. He was teaching in the synagogues the basics of the gospel and P&A took him under his wing and disciplined him.
  - **Acts 19** records parts of a **3-year ministry** that Paul did in Ephesus (Acts 20:31) (c. AD 52). So, he was quite close to them.
    - **Baptism Issues** - Paul asked 12 disciples there and asked them about whether they had received the Holy Spirit or not. They didn't know there was one. They only were baptized into John's baptism (repentance and prep). So he baptized them in the name of Jesus (identify and acceptance and reflection) assuming in water, and at the same time Paul laid hands on them and prayed and the Holy Spirit came upon them (who then spoke in tongues and prophesied)
    - **Reasoning in the school of Tyrannus** - 2-year ministry to the Jews (3 mths in synagogue) and Greeks.
      - **Lots of Jewish opposition** (cf. Acts 20:18-21)
        - **Beasts of Ephesus? Real or Religious?** - 1 Co 15:32 - "What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus?" The context suggests that he speaking of human opposition, not actual animal attack. If you combine that with a cross reference in 2 Cor 1:8, it gets clearer that it was religious opposition.

- **Strongly Anti-Gentile Jews** - At the temple where the Jews worshipped, called the Hadrian's Temple, there was an inscription that if any gentiles were to enter they are to die.
- **Crazy Miracles** - handkerchiefs & aprons of his carried to sick and evil spirits, were healed and cast out.
- **Seven Sons of Sceva** - Jewish exorcist group tried to use Paul and Jesus' name. They got beat up. "I know Jesus and know about Paul, but who are you?" - fear hit the city.
- **Revival of Magic Users** - Sorcery magic was very popular in Ephesus. But as Paul ministered many turned from the demonic forms of magic using and many burned their books, tons of expensive ones. The word grew mightily.
- **Idol Fiasco** - The main worship at Ephesus was to the uniquely Ephesian version of Artemis (later connected to Diana), a goddess of fertility. Demetrius who made Artemis idols got mad at Paul & his ministry, and started a riot about it. They grabbed 2 of Paul's friends (Gaius & Aristarchus) and dragged them into the riot in the theater. Shouting for 2 hours 'Great is Artemis'. It only got calmed down when the town clerk reminded them that Rome doesn't like riots and would shut them down.
- **House arrest** - toward the end he was imprisoned under house arrest (unknown event) and then released.
- **Never came again** - due to threats on his life (orthodox Jewish aggression) he never visited Ephesus again (that we know of). But he still had contact with them.
- **Later Paul called the Ephesian elders to come to a final meeting** (Acts 20:17) giving them a serious warning: 'I'm going to go to Jerusalem and probably never see you again. Lead the church well, they are precious to Christ. Protect them from the religious wolves that will come in and try to divide and ruin you in my absence. I never took anything from you, only worked hard for you.' At the end they prayed and cried.
- **Additional Connections**
  - **Lots of Opportunity, but lots of Opposition** - 1 Co 16:7-9  
 - "I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.  
<sup>8</sup> But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, <sup>9</sup> for a wide door

*for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”*

- **Timothy was Sent to Minister There (strengthen and organize leadership and policy)** - 1 Ti 1:3 - *“As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine.”*
    - **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy is all about leading at Ephesus.**
    - **1<sup>st</sup> Bishop of Ephesus** - according to Eusebius of Caesarea, Timothy was the first bishop of Ephesus.
    - **Timothy would stop there on travels** - 1 Co 16:10-11 - *“When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. <sup>11</sup> So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.”*
    - **Tychichus was sent there** (no recorded reason, assumed ministry).
    - **Onesiphorus lived and ministered there** - a great partner to Paul.
  - **Revelation Letter** - they were 1 of the 7 churches of Revelation.
    - **John’s Letters** - Rev 2:1-7 records a letter sent by God, via the Apostle John talking about their hanging in there through difficult times. They were called back to their first love but had other good things mentioned too.
  - **The Saints (in Ephesus)** - Saints are those called out by the Father, purified by what Jesus did on the cross and given the right to become children of God by the Power of the Holy Spirit.
  - **Faithful in Christ Jesus** - They are known as saints, because of their lifestyles of remaining faithfully connected to Jesus Christ.
- **Why Grace and Peace Matter So Much**
    - [Ephesians 1:2a](#) - *“Grace to you and peace from God...”*
    - **Grace from God**
      - The word “Grace” is used 13 times in Ephesians. It’s a critical, foundational part of the Christian identity.
      - Do you live in a state and mindset of Grace?
    - **Peace from God**

- **Peace** is "*eirene* in Greek, but translates *shalom* in Hebrew. It is not the absence of trouble but "*everything which makes for a man's highest good.*"
- A Christian's peace is independent of outward circumstances.
- **Sorting out the Trinity**
  - [Ephesians 1:2b](#) - "...*God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*"
    - **God our Father**
    - **Jesus Christ our Lord**
      - **How Jesus is referred to:** Jesus Christ/Christ Jesus is used 3x's in 2 verses. That can't be an accident.
  - **Why the Doctrine of the Trinity matters so much: 5 of many reasons - remember, who He is helps us understand who we are...**
    1. It explains how there is One God; 3 distinct persons
    2. It demonstrates how Jesus is fully man, fully God - appropriate to die on the cross and save us from our sins.
    3. It Engages us with the Holy Spirit as a person, not a force.
    4. We can have a more accurate relationship with God.
    5. Explains how God is self-contained and yet relational in nature.

### **Conclusion**

- There's a **Confidence** to live when we know who God is and who we are.
- Paul had it. He tried to teach it to the Ephesians.
- Do you?