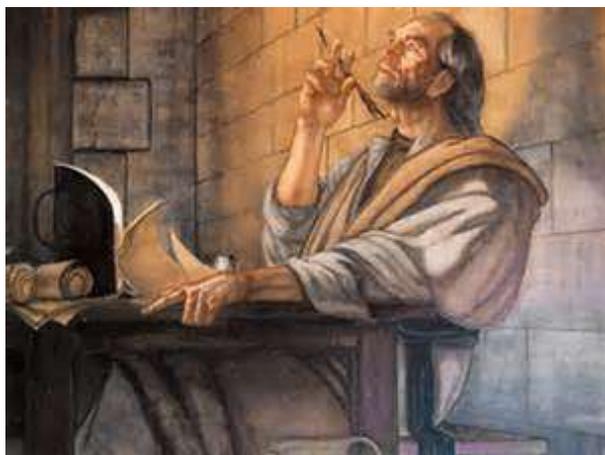


Ephesians 1:1-10: The Plan

By Bev Kilts



From within the walls of a Roman prison Paul writes what has been called the “Queen of Pauline epistles”. Written to the church at Ephesus it was also probably sent as a circular letter to other churches and contin-

ues its circulation through the years to the local churches throughout the world. Paul is teaching and reminding the congregations that because of God’s great love His plan came to pass to bring forgiveness and salvation to God’s chosen people through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. Paul reminds them of the blessings bestowed upon them by God. Because of Jesus, God would see His faithful followers as holy and they would be welcomed into His Kingdom here on earth and eternally. Paul presents the “good news”, the “Gospel message” that salvation is the gift of God in and through Jesus Christ. In Him alone we have been chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, and sealed. Halleluiah! And this is the very Gospel we are called on to proclaim – the Good News that God saves us!

Paul has written a letter of praise, of worship. His concern seems to be to remind believers not to forget who Christ is, both in God and in themselves. He encourages with thanksgiving and praise. He writes with a sense of joy and expectance. He reminds what God has done for us all and that we shall receive even more. In 1 Corinthians 2:9 we read that, “Eye has not seen nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” Paul exhorts the saints in maintaining God’s Truth in a faithless world. This letter nurtures the local congregation with reminders of God’s ultimate purpose – uniting the faithful into one identity in Jesus Christ – the Church Universal, the Body.



The first weekend of October is customarily set aside for World Communion. On this weekend the Church Universal gathers at the table of the Lord to partake of the bread and the wine, which represent the body and blood of Christ, humbly acknowledging the redeeming sacrifice of

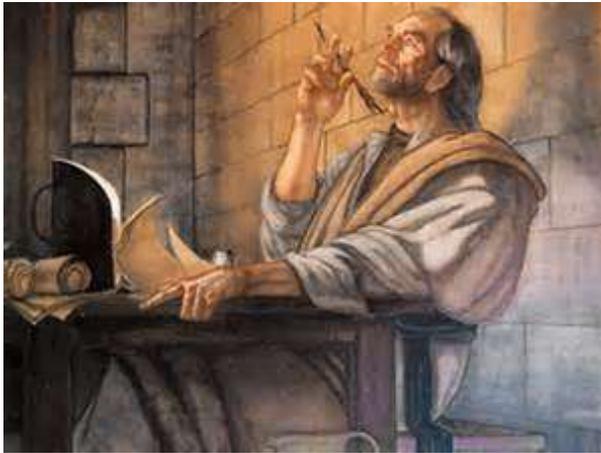
Christ on the cross and expressing their oneness in Christ. Although many things separate us (hence the myriad of Christian congregations) times like this give us the opportunity to recognize our oneness – chosen, children of God, inheritors to His Kingdom. We are “saints” (Ephesians 1:1) – redeemed and we come to the Lord’s Table to witness to this identity. We are called to be “faithful” (Ephesians 1:1), accepting God’s gift of “grace and peace” (Ephesians 1:2). As you take communion come before Him with praise and thanksgiving – remembering. And send a prayer up, not only for those who touch you own lives, but also for God’s children around the world – different cultures, different languages, different problems – all making their own way through life as do we – all coming to His Table and waiting on God for His grace and peace to renew them as they continue their journey.

God chose us first! He loved us best! (Read John 3:16) He provided The Way (John 14:6). His Plan! His Way! We have a choice...Life, abundant? Or Death? We just need to love Him, accept Him as Lord and Savior and then walk towards Him and choose life.



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