

EPHESIANS

PART OF SOMETHING BIG

Ephesians 1:1-2

For the week of September 10, 2023

Reading the Text:

1. As we begin Paul's letter to the Ephesians, what do we know from our reading of Acts about Paul and about the church in Ephesus?
2. What does Paul tell us in these first two verses about himself: his calling and his theology?
3. Paul addresses the letter, "*To the saints in Ephesus...*" Do you think he only intends the letter for believers? Why or why not? If it's not only for believers, why do you think he phrases his address that way?
4. Certainly '*Grace to you and peace from God...*' is a common blessing from Paul. He opens most of his letters with it, but what does it mean? Is he pronouncing a blessing over them as he begins? Or do those words somehow correspond with the content of the letter?

Living It Out:

5. As we prepare for our time in this letter to the Ephesians, what are your expectations? Are you expecting more 'grace and peace' from God? Why or why not?
6. In this greeting, Paul has defined himself, his audience, and his goals for communicating in terms of his relationship to Christ. How does that translate to the ways we communicate – Text? Email? Social media?
7. How can we help each other celebrate the deep truth of Paul's letter – God's past, present, and future goodness and its life-changing impact on us?