



## INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

### ALIVE IN CHRIST

#### HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians sometime after his 3rd missionary journey when he was imprisoned in either Caesarea or Rome. It was probably about AD 60 when he put pen to paper. Since Ephesus was the gateway to Asia, this letter was probably meant to be carried along to the many believers scattered beyond Ephesus as well.

#### PASSAGE OVERVIEW

The letter to the Ephesians is clearly divided into two parts. The first part (Eph 1 – 3), which we will look at this week, is a theological treatise of encouragement about all that we have and are IN CHRIST. As you read this week, notice how many times “in Christ” or “in him” occurs. The second half of the letter (Eph 4 – 6) is practical, explaining how we must live since we are in Christ.

Our salvation is in Christ alone. Our hope is in Christ. Our equipping is in Christ. Our unity is in Christ. Our life is in Christ. Our identity is in Christ.

Too often, we think of Christ as being little more than our Savior. We understand that it is through Christ that we are forgiven. We even recognize that it is in Jesus’ name alone that we pray, having access to the Father. But we rarely contemplate the truth that our whole identity is now in Christ. We cannot live apart from Him. Apart from Him we have no hope, no strength, no life, no future.

In Christ, the dividing walls that separate and segregate people are demolished. We become new people, with a new unity and new purpose, in Him. In Jesus we grow, mature, and together become a dwelling place for God.

#### READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Ephesians 1 - 3

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Following Jesus is disturbing because it is so transforming.

#### I. Disturbance in the dominant culture. (23-34)

What was the conflict with the majority culture in Ephesus?

- A. Economically (24-25)
- B. Spiritually (26)
- C. Foundationally (27)

#### II. We don't disturb. We are transformed. (35-41)

Our transformation is what is disturbing.

#### III. True transformation is always visible.

So what do we do?

1. Preach the whole gospel. Preach truth.
2. Live the whole gospel.
3. Do not disparage or denigrate those we disagree with. Love them with truth.

How does this apply to me?

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