

## The Road From Jerusalem To Ephesus (Part 4)

October 4, 2009

“Why did Paul write this letter to the Ephesians?”

That we may come to know and then continually grow in the grace & knowledge of Jesus Christ  
Acts 18-20

Opening prayer:

**Ephesians 3:14-21 ESV** For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, (15) from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, (16) that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, (17) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) **may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, (19) and to know the love of Christ** that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (20) Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, (21) to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**1 Peter 2:2 ESV** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may **grow** up to salvation--

**2 Peter 3:17-18 NIV** Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. (18) **But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

“Christianity is not instinctive to anyone, nor is it picked up casually without effort. It is a faith that has to be learned, therefore taught and so some sort of systematic instruction is an essential part of a church’s life.” (and a Christian’s life, too)  
~ J.I. Packer, Growing In Christ, Introduction p.xii

One of my greatest lessons learned as a young Christian occurred on Friday, May 13, 1983. As I was playing shortstop for the Chelsea Crilollos...the story...

I learned to disdain sin and was given a Bible...told to read Ephesians, Philippians & Colossians...and read them hundreds of times as I lay in a hospital bed, with a cast from thigh to toe...

Ephesians was the first book of the Bible I ever read. I began to learn Ephesians.

Today, we enter the city for the very first time since our journey began in Jerusalem...

This morning, we shall seek to answer the question:

“Why did Paul write this letter to the Ephesians?”

That we may initially come to know and then continually learn & grow in the grace & knowledge of Jesus Christ!

- From Accuracy ...to More Accuracy!
  - From some truth...to more truth!
- From some freedom...to more freedom!
  - From some life...to more life!

There is much for us to learn and experience about God. An ocean of knowledge and delight to swim in, learn about and walk in. God is infinite and eternal...we will forever increase, never decrease...forever, in our knowledge in and enjoyment of God, through Jesus Christ!

“Teaching of God exists because fullness of worship of God doesn’t” ~ a Piperism

Let’s glean from Acts 18-20, Ephesians and Revelation 2 (major Eph. centers)

18.19 A Brief but impacting visit

### The Strengthening of God’s People

18.23 The Strengthening of Disciples throughout a **REGION**

18.24-26 The Strengthening of A **PERSON** (TEACHER)

19.1-10 The Strengthening of A **GROUP**

20.17-38 The Strengthening of **ELDERS, SPIRITUAL LEADERS**

Ephesians – The Strengthening of A **CONGREGATION**

- Specific: Eph 1.3-14 God Saves Sinners (Packer)

the point that God saves sinners. “**God** – the Triune Jehovah, Father, Son and Spirit; three Persons working together in sovereign wisdom, power and love to achieve the salvation of a chosen people, the Father electing, the Son fulfilling the Father’s will by redeeming, the Spirit executing the purpose of Father and Son by renewing. “**Saves** – does everything, first to last, that is involved in bringing man from death in sin to life in glory: plans, achieves and communicates redemption, calls and keeps, justifies, sanctifies, glorifies. “**Sinners** – men as God finds them, guilty, vile, helpless, powerless, unable to lift a finger to do God’s will or better their spiritual lot. God saves sinners – and the force of this confession may not be weakened by disrupting the unity of the work of the Trinity, or by dividing the achievement of salvation between God and man and making the decisive part man’s own, or by soft-peddalling the sinner’s inability so as to allow him to share the praise of his salvation with his Saviour.

Revelation 2.1-7 The Strengthening of the Church for **TIME & ETERNITY**

God, in the letter to the Ephesians, is feeding their souls with truth, life, so that they may walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called (Eph 4.1)

From all this, What specific word does God speak to us @ HCC?

God knows everything about everything. He is the teacher...

He teaches us about Himself. We don't know everything about anything!

God is at work when we don't expect it!

\*\* We all must learn the Bible. A careful, serious, joyful, earnest learning of this book. And in learning of this book, we shall learn of the God revealed therein!

- A systematic learning, as in Wednesday evenings. Biblical Theology
- A contextual learning, as in Sunday mornings. Expository Preaching
- A comprehensive learning, as in the whole counsel of God. Sunday School
  - Learning about God in His Word, life, friendship, fellowship
  - All for His glory and our satisfaction!

**“The Glories of Calvary”** Music & Lyrics by Steve & Vicki Cook

Lord, You're calling me to come  
And behold the wondrous cross  
To explore the depths of grace  
That came to me at such a cost  
Where Your boundless love  
Conquered my boundless sin  
And mercy's arms were opened wide

My heart is filled with a thousand songs  
Proclaiming the glories of Calvary  
With every breath, Lord how I long  
To sing of Jesus who died for me  
Lord, take me deeper  
Into the glories of Calvary

Sinners find eternal joy  
In the triumph of Your wounds  
By our Savior's crimson flow  
Holy wrath has been removed  
And Your saints below  
Join with your saints above  
Rejoicing in the Risen Lamb