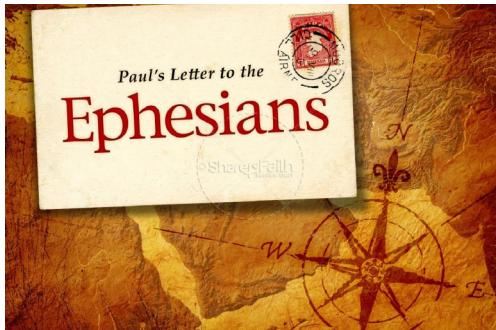


# Greenvine Baptist Church

## Newsletter

February 21, 2022



The little book of Ephesians in our Bibles is so very important in informing us who we are in Christ Jesus. A very good theme for this book is “The Church, Christ’s Body.” We are informed as to who we are, what we are to do, and what is to happen. It has been called the “complete guidebook for living a Christian life.” I hope that it will be a great learning experience for us all as we look at it together, and that it will not only be informative, but comforting, encouraging

as well as an example from Holy Scripture that tells us how to live.

From last week, we find that the first chapter is all about the ‘Entry Way.’ It is called the “Entrance” into the body of Christ, and what that entails. There are some wonderful truths in this first chapter that are truths for all believers of all times.

Of course, in the Apostle Paul’s style, it begins with a commendation and greeting from the author. He begins with introducing himself to the church in Ephesus. As he begins, he identifies to whom the letter is written: “the saints who are at Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus.” One of the simple truths found here is that this letter is not written to the people who live in Ephesus. It is not a general letter to the populous of the city. It is not even addressed to the people who are following the way of Christianity and trying to make a decision about whether or not they should be involved; it is written to the “saints” in Ephesus.

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It has been called the “Complete guidebook for living a Christian life.”

This term narrows the scope as to whom these truths and spiritual morsels are addressed to. The we see the word “saint” in Scripture, it is the description of people who have been “made holy” by God Himself. The word actually is a form of the word, “holy.” It means to be set apart from everything but Christ. It identifies those who have accepted Christ as their personal Savior and are trusting the finished work at Calvary for their Salvation. It is an exacting term. When Peter uses this term, he includes the idea that not only are we holy, but we are of a “royal priesthood.” The book of Hebrews tells us that because we are “in Christ Jesus,” we have the ability to “enter into the presence of God body,” not because we are special in and of ourselves, but because God has deemed us holy by Christ.

Paul reiterates this in 2 Corinthians 5: 21. “For God hath made Him (Jesus), who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” God not only laid our sin on Christ, He became our sin so that the Father could pour out His wrath, because of sin, on Christ.

For Paul to use the word “saint” in describing to whom this letter was written literally boils down the recipients to only those who are true believers.

He calls them “the faithful in Christ.” As a side note, in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul says, “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are on body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jew or Greek, bond or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Even though there are so many members or saints in so many places, we are all a part of the body of Christ. He says that we have all been baptized (placed into) into Christ’s church, or body. In the original language, it is in a verb tense that we don’t have in our English language. It means that once we were placed into the body of Christ, the Church, and we are kept there by that baptism. This is known as spiritual baptism. Our water baptism is a picture what what happened to us when the Spirit of God placed us into the body of Christ. We are immersed into the water signifying that we have been put into the body. We are lifted out of the water, signifying that we are now different. Completely wet. Completely immersed in the water. The word “baptism” means to immerse. Our water baptism is an outward sign of what has happened to us spiritually. The language carries the thought that even though the spiritual baptism happens once, we are placed into the body of Christ forever. Aren’t you glad that our water baptism isn’t that way....we would have to stay in the water. But we are raised to “newness of life.”

## Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

In our spiritual baptism, we are put into the body of Christ, and are kept there forever. Not by our own will or working, but by the will of God and His work alone.

This is the description of those to whom Paul was writing in the city of Ephesus. We have commented many times that the “church” is not the building, but rather the people who are placed into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit.

It becomes a little confusing in our society and culture because we call the body and those inside, “the church.” Any one who comes to Greenvine Baptist Church, the building, is welcome. So many of you have stated that you are here because of the wonderful welcome that you received and the sweet fellowship that is here. That being true, because someone attends Greenvine Baptist Church, that does not make them true believers of Christ Jesus. It simply means that they attend services here. And, by the way, that is okay with us.

We would welcome those who are desiring to attend Christian services to be a part here. But, their being added to the “body of Christ” is an individual response to the wooing of the Spirit of God upon them, and then they, in turn, believe on Christ as their personal Savior.

No one has to attend Greenvine Baptist Church, or for that matter, has to attend any fellowship of believers to be a part of the body of Christ. John 3: 16 says that whosoever believes in Christ has eternal life. We believe that we tell that story to all who attend, and make it a point to relay that “good news” to all who will listen. But it is up to the individual to make it a part of who they are.

This describes those in Ephesus to whom Paul was writing. The saved, the redeemed, the ones who possess eternal life.

This book is for believers in Christ Jesus. It is for you, if indeed you have trusted Christ as your Savior. It is so important in our lives to read, know, and apply the truths that we will uncover in this little book.

Again, read it several times this week. Paul says in Colossians 3, let the Word of God dwell in you richly. Permeate your entire body, soul and mind. Let the Holy Spirit use it to instruct, comfort, encourage, correct and be your guide.

Some have said that the B I B L E is “Basic instructions before leaving earth.” I like that. Hope you do too.

Blessings upon each of you this week as you trust in Him. Jack & Karen

## **Announcements**

### **Bible Study**

Wednesday's @ 6pm—1st & 2nd Timothy

### **Men's Prayer Breakfast**

Wednesday February 23 @ 7am

### **Burton Bridge Meal**

Friday February 25 @ 7am

### **Woman's Bible Study**

Saturday February 26 @ 10am

### **Greenvine's Girls of Grace**

Tuesday March 8th @ 6pm

### **Blinn Taco Stack**

Wednesday March 9th

See Charlotte to sign up for food or serving

### **Directory Photos**

See Charlotte to schedule a time to have your photo taken.

### **Spring Picnic**

Saturday April 9th

Deborah and her family in the loss of Charlie

The Easley family in the loss of Sadie

Raymond Anderson – Undergoing Chemo treatments

Tom Nugent – Recovery and overall health

Jack & Karen's friend Matthew—Moving to our area and starting a new life.

Donna Richardson – Recovering from surgery to correct some problems with recent amputation of leg

David Richardson – As he cares for Donna

Please pray for Vicky Lee, David Becker, and the Rutland's and they try to sell homes

Becky's Granddaughter Taylor is having some rejection issues from her transplant. She will be having a new procedure soon.

Debbie and Cliff Reed – Cliff having a lumbar tap on March 2. Please ray for answers

Bobby Schulte will be having a knee replacement on March 7

Jim and Carol travelling home from Jim's cousin's funeral in Arizona

Billy Montgomery as he heals from a quadruple by-pass

Mary and Chuck's granddaughter Brecken for comfort and healing

Patty's sister Thelma – Pray for healing in her feet

Carol's sister Lynn has bronchitis and now has Covid. She is high risk due to lung issues.

Ricky Eckert recovering from a leg amputation. - Should get prosthesis soon

Carolyn Cox -Pray for continued healing. We can now visit her. Call first and please wear a mask

Denny's Sister is in need of a Kidney Transplant

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Sandra Pulliam's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Brayden Lopez - Mental and Spiritual health

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Lee Ehring's brother, Bill Hoot, undergoing treatments for lung cancer

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

## Prayer Requests

If you have a new prayer request or would like to update a current one, please call Charlotte at 979-203-4524 or email the church @ [greenvinebaptist@gmail.com](mailto:greenvinebaptist@gmail.com)