

Greenvine Baptist Church

Newsletter

May 2, 2022

Ephesians — Continuing the introduction to this little letter.

It would be helpful in grasping Who God is and who we are by reflecting upon Psalm 8.

“Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against Your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is mankind that You are mindful of them, human beings that You care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of Your hands, you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

This Psalm presents clearly Who God is and to what end He has created mankind.

In Ephesians, Paul presents a two-fold pattern. First, explaining the new identity believer’s have in Christ and then bringing out the implications for their new way of life.



Identity is so very important. Let me share with you some of the difficulties that Matthew and I have had in finding his new identity. Not really a new identity as much as finding his real identity in our world.

As you are aware, Matthew has spent the last 16 years of his life in prison. With that, he has kind of lost his identity in the modern world. So, we have spent the past several weeks trying to identify who he is in a legal way here in Washington County.

It has not been an easy task, to say the least! First we went to the Department of Public Safety to procure a picture I.D. The website told us to have

1. Picture I.D.
2. Proof of residency
3. Social Security Number
4. Birth Certificate

He did not have all that! His picture I.D. was his picture I.D. from the Texas Prison System. His proof of residency was a letter from the prison system to him at the address where he would be

living. He had memorized his Social Security Number while in prison, but did not have his Birth Certificate. We went to the Courthouse and got a copy of his Birth Certificate, so we felt that we had everything that we needed to get the new I.D. card. But, not so fast! They not only wanted his Social Security number, they wanted him to have his Social Security Card. He didn't have the card, but the letters from the State prison system had his Social Security number as his prisoner number. But, the DPS would not accept that. They said he had to have the card.

So we ventured to the Social Security office. They told him that they had to have his State I.D. in order to procure the card! Wait, did you see that? DPS says he has to have his Social Security card to get a state I.D. and the Social Security office says he has to have his state I.D. in order to get his Social Security card!

Then the Social Security office said he needed his High School transcript. He then went on line and found the High School phone number. At his call, they told him to go on line to the School District office and they could get it to him.

Needless to say, I think, we are still waiting on both of those things in order for Matthew to get a Texas I.D. I'm thinking, "Wow, what a run around!" This is almost impossible, just getting his personal Texas I.D.

I also wondered how many of you have all that stuff? So Matthew has been out of prison for 4 weeks now, and still doesn't have an I.D. card. Legally, he doesn't have an I. D.; no identification.

Matthew had to register at the Washington County Sherriffs office since he is on parole, and they are waiting for him to get a picture I.D. from the state.

The State of Texas Department of Corrections has told Matthew that he needs to get a State I.D. card as soon as possible. In this case, as soon as possible seems like more than a month.

All that to say, "What is your I.D.? Who are you? And in reference to the Letter to the Ephesians, "Whose are you?" To whom do you belong?

**What is your ID?
Who are you?
Whose are you?
To whom do you belong?**

Paul states in Ephesians, "Who we are" and "whose we are." In the book of Ephesians, Jesus followers are told that they must give up their former way of life and practice purity in daily living and integrity in their relationships. This is the expectation of God for us! Plus, we are to expect spiritual battles and difficulties to come our way. But Paul tells us in Ephesians how to take on and win those battles.

Paul tells the "Holy ones" to whom he is addressing, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." That is precisely what he discusses in the first 3 chapters in this little letter. Our wealth in Christ.

And that is where we will begin our study of this little letter. **Our true identity is wrapped up in our relationship with Christ. Meditate upon that truth. You belong to Christ! You are His! You have a new identity in the God of the universe.**

Prayer Requests

Deborah Stevens mother has been placed on hospice. Please pray for her and for Deborah and her family as they care for their mother.

Please pray for those in Ukraine.

Please pray for Camp Falcon Rock as they are serving the refugees from Ukraine

Jack and Karen's friend, Angel Araguz has been placed on hospice

Jack's Sister Lin is home and doing better

Cliff Reed - Recovery—MRI this week

Gerri Smart—UTI Infection

Pat Alhardt has been diagnosed with Congestive Heart Failure. She is not doing well

Bob Easley is back in the hospital with UTI

Marie (Bob Easley's Sister) recovering from fall and knee injury

The Rutland's and they sell their home and prepare to move

Raymond Anderson – Undergoing Chemo treatments

Ben Poncik's sister, Anna is doing better.. She has 1 surgery left.

Matthew as he adjusts to his new life

Donna Richardson—continuing to heal from leg amputation—waiting on prosthesis- -It was great to see Donna at church this past Sunday!!!!

David Richardson – As he cares for Donna

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

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.

Zella has broken a bone in her leg and a possible a torn ligament

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

Announcements

Bible Study

Wednesday's @ 6pm—1st & 2nd Timothy

Women's Bible Study

Get Out of Your Head

Saturday May 14 @ 10am

Camp Hope Needs Volunteers

Please think about volunteering for Camp Hope this year. June 20—24th. Get with Charlotte or Jack if interested.

Diaper Drive

We will be having a diaper drive from May 8 (Mother's Day) - June 19 (Father's Day) to support the Brenham Pregnancy Center.

They need all sizes of diapers. Please bring what you can and drop them off in the back of the church.

Burton Bridge Meal

Friday May 13th

We need desserts and help serving

See Charlotte if you can help.

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