Paul's Journeys

Some Facts About Ephesus:

- the largest, most "important" city in Asia.
    - perhaps 100,000 people or more.
- capital of the Roman province of Asia.
- driven by commerce & trade.
- large dredged port, in which the majority of all goods going to & from Rome passed through.
- very cosmopolitan & multi-cultural.
- large Jewish population.

Some Facts About Ephesus:

- a religious centre for worship:
  - Temple of Artemis/Diana.
    - goddess of fertility.
    - over 10,000 temple prostitutes.
  - significant industry within Ephesus was manufacturing silver shrines in honour of both Diana & the Emperor.

    - Acts 19 – account of Paul's visit and the riot that resulted.

Conclusions:

- In many ways, Ephesus was *"the place to be"*
  - very wealthy commercial center
  - political center
  - religious & cultural center

People did not move to Ephesus for its beauty, as much as for its opportunities in terms of wealth & power.

The Church at Ephesus:

- begun by the Apostle Paul – approx A.D. 48-50
- pastored by Timothy for many years.
- Timothy replaced as pastor by the Apostle John
    - John pastored Ephesus prior to being banished to Patmos, where he was given the Revelation of Jesus.
- John replaced by Onesimus (Paul's ltr to Philemon)

Paul's Letter To The Church At Ephesus

From Who: The Apostle Paul.

From Where: Prison in Rome.

Date: A.D. 61-62.

To Whom: The Christians living in Ephesus.

Purpose: To encourage & instruct the followers of Jesus Christ.

Theme: God's work through Jesus in creating a ***New Society*** of people.

1. *Paul, an apostle of **Christ Jesus** . . .*

*To the (people) in **Christ Jesus** . . .*

*Grace and peace to you from . . . **Jesus Christ.***

Point #1: Jesus Christ is the foundation of everything that Paul is about to say!

Nature	*Purpose*	*Structures*
The Church IS	The Church DOES	The Church ORGANIZES
Christology	*Missiology*	*Ecclesiology*

2. *To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:*

Two contexts for the Ephesian Christians:

a. They ***live*** in Ephesus.

but

b. They ***belong*** to Jesus Christ.

"to the faithful in Christ Jesus:"

Greek: *pistos* - those ***having*** faith
(i.e. – belief)
- those ***being*** faithful
(i.e. – fidelity)

Point #2:

Christians actively live in two worlds:

- we are ***in Christ***
- we are ***in Calgary***

"Many of our spiritual troubles arise from our failure to remember that we are citizens of two kingdoms. We tend to either pursue Christ and withdraw from the world, or become preoccupied with the world and forget that we are also in Christ."

John Stott

Key Question:

How do I live effectively in "two kingdoms" at the same time?

- *How do I live well in Jesus?*
- *How do I live well in this world?*

A. I Learn the art of "*Double Listening*":

- I listen *humbly* to the Word of God.
- I listen *critically* to the world.

A. I Learn the art of "*Double Listening*":

B. I practice "*grace & peace*".

Grace & peace to you through God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (v. 2)

Point #3:

As followers of Jesus we are called to demonstrate his grace and his peace!

How does God's *grace & peace* alter the way you live your life?

- Are you known as a person of grace?
- Are you known as a person of peace?
- Do you practice "double listening"?

How can we become known as a congregation full of *grace & peace* this year?