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.

Double Listening

LISTEN TO GOD (Ephesians 1-3)	**LISTEN TO WORLD** (Ephesians 4-6)

Jesus – Mission – Structure

IS DOES ORGANIZES

God has deliberately set out to save you!

God has deliberately shown you His plans for His world.

"Knowing" God involves traveling the 18 Inch Path.

- *from head to heart*

Conclusion:

This is who you are in Christ . . .

This is what God has done through Christ . . .

And I pray that God will give you the spiritual ability to understand everything I've just said to you . . .

Because when you understand with your heart (instead of your mind), you will see things through the eyes of God . . .

1. <u>You will realize who you used to be.</u>

verses 1-3

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when:

- *you followed the ways of this world*
- *you followed the Satan*
  - *the spirit who is at work in those who do not know and follow Christ.*
- *you followed your human cravings*
  - *your sinful nature*

<u>Like everyone, we were by nature objects of wrath</u>.

(Peterson – The Message)

It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living , tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us.

Ephesians 2:1-3

2. <u>You will e*mbrace* grace.</u>

verses 4-5 & 8-9

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved . . .

For it is by grace you have been saved through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works so that no one can boast!

<u>Grace is a gift, not a paycheque!</u>

3. <u>You will *become* grace.</u>

verses 6 & 10

And God raised us up with Christ, and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus . . .

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Message in a Sentence:

It's All About Grace!

- ***God IS grace,***
  . . . His Mission is grace!
- ***Jesus IS grace,***
  . . . His mission is grace!
- ***The Church IS grace,***
  . . . Our mission is grace!

I challenge you to find one soul who came to God seeking grace and did not find it.

Max Lucado

When Grace is proclaimed:

- the devil shrinks back in defeat.
- the angels step forward in awe.
- heaven explodes in applause.
- the world tastes God's incredible love.
- God's people fall to their knees in worship.

Question this morning:

Have you *become* grace?

- does God's grace define your character?
- will God's grace define our life together?