

Bible Study from the series on Ephesians

An Introduction

Read: Eph. 1:1-6, the passage we're going to be concentrating on.

1. What do you know about the city of Ephesus?
2. Now take a look at Acts 19:24-34. What does this passage tell us about the culture of Ephesus?

Read: Eph. 1:1-2

Paul describes himself as an 'apostle'. It's very similar to the word 'angel' in that they both mean 'messenger'.

An angel could be a heavenly being (e.g. a seraph or a cherub) or a human being, or even an animal that God has chosen to send with a one-time message to a specific person or group.

An apostle is someone who has been sent with a message to proclaim or deliver over and over again, to whomever will listen, and sometimes even those who won't. It's similar to being an ambassador.

3. Why do you think Paul introduces himself in this way?
4. How does he describe the recipients of this letter and how do they differ from what we read of the Ephesian people in Acts 19:24-34?

Read: Eph. 1:3

"**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." (NIV)

Paul loves a good play on words. He uses it to emphasise a point. The words 'praise', 'blessed' and 'blessing' all have the same root word in Greek: εὐλογέω (eulogēō). It's where we get the English word 'eulogy' from. It means "to speak well of". The word translated 'praise' in Greek is an adjective. It describes God as someone who is 'spoken well of'. Paul is not saying, "**May** God **be** spoken well of." He is saying, "God **is** spoken well of". That is his nature, his character, his status.

Now English is a little cumbersome when it comes to translating Paul's emphases. But here's my attempt at getting it across:

"The **well-spoken of** God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has **spoken well of** us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual **well-speaking** in Christ."

5. Think about who God is for a moment. This God speaks well of you in the heavenly realms. And what he says about you is **every** spiritual thing you have in Christ. What encouragement is this knowledge to you; to your faith and confidence as you go about your day?

Read: **Eph. 1:4-5**

6. Notice the little word 'For' at the start of verse 4. 'For' introduces the purpose or reason of what's just been said. What is the purpose or reason God speaks so well of us? What 3 things has he chosen us to be?

7. What do you think it means to be these things?
 - a)

 - b)

 - c)

Read: **Gen. 1**

8. How many times does God say, "And it was so"?

9. What confidence does it give you knowing that, if God says something, it will be so, so if he says something of you, it will also be so?

Read: **Eph. 1:6**

10. What is the result of all of this?

Why not spend some time thanking God and speaking well of him in response to his speaking well of you in Christ.