BURN OUR HEARTS · STUDY GUIDE

To You In Christ

On the sermon **"To You In Christ"** by **Pastor Philip Anthony Mitchell**, 2819 Church · September 27, 2026 · Ephesians 1:1-2

EPHESIANS 1:1-2 (ESV)

[1]Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:
[2]Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

MAIN IDEA

"It'd be easier to know how to live when you understand your identity in Christ."

MAJOR POINTS in the order preached

1. **Know whose you are.** (John 17:17) *"Orlando has no concept of identity."* Chance the shih tzu is confident; Orlando the poodle lives timid. The remedy is not hype but truth: "your word is truth."
2. **The sender: Paul.** (1:1; Acts 9; 20)
   - a **Converted by Christ.** *"Not with a choir. Not with a preacher. ... by Jesus Himself."*
   - b **Faithful to the finish.** *"Success is to finish the work that God has given you."*
   - c **An apostle by God's will.** *"We should be scared of titles that God did not give us."*
3. **The recipients: two titles, two locations.** (1:1)
   - a **Saints.** *"The word saint means set apart ones."*
   - b **Faithful.** *"Could you put the same title on yourself?"*
   - c **In Ephesus and in Christ.** *"The real test of being a Christian is can you be in Christ and in your city and not lose your witness."*
4. **Grace and peace, defined.** (1:2) *"Him giving you what you don't deserve and protecting you from what you do deserve."*

KEY INSIGHTS our observations, not from the sermon

- **The Son stands with the Father.** Grace and peace come "from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 2). In a simple greeting, Paul names Jesus as the source of divine grace.
- **Grace comes before peace.** The order is never reversed. Peace with God flows from grace received: "since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God" (Romans 5:1).
- **Saints is a gift, not a grade.** Paul calls every believer in Ephesus a saint before giving a single command. Holy living (chapters 4-6) grows out of a holy standing given in Christ.

DIGGING DEEPER God's set-apart people in the big story of Scripture

- **Creation.** God made humanity "in his own image" (Genesis 1:27), to belong to Him and reflect Him.
- **Fall.** After sin, Adam and Eve "hid themselves from the presence of the LORD," and God called, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:8-9). We lost our place and our identity.
- **Promise.** God called Israel "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6). In exile He told them to "seek the welfare of the city" (Jeremiah 29:7), and Daniel stayed set apart in Babylon (Daniel 1:8): in Babylon and with God at the same time.
- **Fulfillment.** Jesus, the faithful Son, prayed, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17). In Him we become "a holy nation" and live as "sojourners and exiles" (1 Peter 2:9, 11).
- **New creation.** Paul says "our citizenship is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20), and one day "the dwelling place of God is with man" (Revelation 21:3). Then we will be fully home in Christ.

DISCUSS

1. Paul gives the Ephesians two titles and two locations (v. 1). What are they, and what does each say about who a believer is?
2. Pastor Mitchell said the remedy for a weak identity is not hype but truth. Why is God's Word (John 17:17) the cure?
3. Where are you most tempted to live like Orlando: online, at work, at home? What would living as a "set apart one" look like there?
4. When this week will you read the whole letter of Ephesians, and who will you read it with?

THIS WEEK

Pastor Philip Anthony Mitchell asked us to read Ephesians for ourselves, "maybe four times this week." Do it, and each time list everything the letter says you are "in Christ."

PRAYER

Father, thank You that in Christ You have made us saints, set apart for You. Sanctify us by Your truth; Your word is truth. Where we have lived timid and confused, give us a settled identity in Your Son. Make us faithful in our cities, at work, at home and online, and fill us with grace and peace from You and the Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

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