Tread: **A Study in Ephesians – wk 2 – You Are Here, Still**

**The map – the you are here sticker / marker. It puts it all in perspective. When you know where you’re standing, you have the confidence to move. If the sticker is moved? You stay or get lost.**

**When you understand where you stand, you find yourself in a strong position to begin your walk with confidence.**

**Before we can run, we must 1st learn to walk – before we can walk - we must first know how to stand. This is Ephesians**

**Chap 1-2 as believers, where we stand in Christ. Foundation. Chap 3-4 - how to walk it out. Chap 5-6 - how to run the race!**

**MAP / pics \*\* - Story Behind The Book:**

* **Written by Apostle Paul in prison in Rome.**
* **Paul started the church - lived there 3 yrs.**
* **Major port city – busy and advanced. Like a Dallas.**

**Considered Paul’s greatest letter - “queen of epistles”**

**Acts 18-20 – shares the exciting story about Paul in Ephesus… Paul loved them – this is a letter to them. We are looking over his shoulder**

**Four stages of Ephesus faith (Acts 19:17-20, Matt 16:13-27, Jam 2:18-24)**

* + **Magic Genie God – want his power – want the feelings.**
  + **Santa God – The big gift giver. If your good, you’ll get things.**
  + **Cosmic Consultant God – want advice and some help in life**
  + **Lord God – surrender your life to his control and follow**

**You see this in Acts 18-20 – Ephesians growth.**

**Ephesians is the challenge – to stand, walk – run!**

**AS I said last week - Eph 1:3 - 1:14 is one long sentence. As an opera – it sets the tone. A 202-word praise for the Trinity.**

**Eph 1:3-5 = where we stand - with the Father**

**Eph 1:6-12 = where we stand – with the Jesus the Son**

**Eph 13-14 = where we stand – with the Holy Spirit**

**Eph 1:3-5 = where we stand - with the Father**

**Ephesians 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. (we are rich!!) 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. (We are chosen – not a mistake!!) In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, (we are his kid – we have a good father – we have family!) in accordance with his pleasure and will - (God not only loves us – he takes great pleasure in us)**

**Last week – In the Father (thru Christ) - You are rich, you are Chosen, you are his child, you are accepted - one of my fav!**

**Eph 1:6-12 = where we stand – with the Jesus the Son**

**You are here - Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of his (the Fathers) glorious grace, which he has freely given us (accepted us) in the One he loves. (ONE is Jesus) 7 In him (the One Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us.**

1. **You are forgiven!**

**Three of the greatest words you’ll ever hear in your life.**

**Two words to point out**

* **Redemption – This is the - what God did.**

**Redemption is a purchase. A price paid for freedom.**

**The Greek word means “to liberate by paying a ransom”**

**Slaves set free. IJM – does that today around the world.**

**“In him we have redemption through his blood”**

**Not because of what we did - but by His cross! Not by His life or moral example, but his death (blood) He bought us w/ his blood from our sin.**

**Why would he do this? Why the pain – why suffer? Next word.**

* **Grace – This is the why God did it.**

**“according to the riches of God’s grace, which he lavished on us.”**

**Grace is unmerited, favor. Chosen to get what you don’t deserve.**

**Without God’s rich, expensive grace, there is no redemption.**

**“lavished us” romantic word. Lit. Over, above and beyond**

**Because of that – I am forgiven, my debts are paid, I’m free!**

**Now - Because I am loved – I can love. Because I am accepted – I can accept others. Because I am forgiven – I can forgive.**

**You are here - Ephesians 1:8 …With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, (Jesus is God for dummies – Jesus reveals God’s character and will) 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.**

1. **You are enlightened! Made wise! Your spiritual eyes are opened!**

**Born with physical sense (see, touch, hear, smell, feel)**

**Re-born again with spiritual senses. (spiritual eyes & ears)**

**John 14:17 …the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you (Christ disciples) do know Him, for He abides with you and will be in you. (Matt 13:11-12, 25:19,**

**Where do you stand Disciple? You through the HS have insight into God’s word and will. You have understanding.**

**1 Cor 1:18 - The message of the cross is foolishness (stumbling block, blind) to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

**But now you, in Christ - you see! “Once blind but now I see!”**

**I see God’s plan, purpose, and penalties and His salvation.**

**1 Corinthians 2:14 - The natural man does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. For they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

**Bible verses you read before that now come alive – because your eyes were opened. You are able to understand! We can know God’s will for our life – no need to wonder or wander.**

**There will come a day when every single person alive and who ever lived will see and understand – and bow. Believer, you see him now.**

**You are chosen, a child of God, accepted, forgiven, enlightened, and…**

**You are here! - Ephesians 1:11 In him we were also chosen, *(we have obtained an inheritance)* having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, (his prerogative) 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.**

1. **You are heirs!**

**Inheritance what does that mean? It means we have a new citizenship - Heaven. We are just passing thru – something greater is coming.**

**We are restored to our inheritance with God thru Christ - Thru sin we experience death & suffering – poor in sin. But thru Jesus we are made alive, free, and rich in Christ.**

**Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, (of God) then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.**

**You may feel poor in this life – but in Christ, you have an inheritance that is greater than anything this world can ever offer.**

**Are you sick, are you hurting, are you depressed, are you anxious, are you in need? The sufferings of this life… bring it! This world has nothing on my future inheritance. One of our great hopes!**

**\*THIS – IS – NOT – OUR – HOME**

* **Jesus gave his life for us, AND to us.**

**The inheritance is a relationship position. His death was not just forgiveness – but it prepared me (this vessel) to be place for Him to live and inhabit. Christ in me!**

**Ephesians 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard (trusted / believed) the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation.**

1. **You are saved! You are included!**

**You are included in that number of the redeemed. Saved!!! Those counted in the lamb’s book of life.**

**Notice - “you were included when you heard the message of truth, the gospel” Truth is a message not an action. The gospel is news not a sentiment. Truth is something embraced. Then lived out.**

**Saved from what? Our sin, our selfishness, our self-destructive nature – saved from a very real place mocked and made fun of – Hell is real.**

**But in Christ I am counted and included in that number of millions alive today and billions in centuries before who are the redeemed. I am saved! Thank you, Jesus – you saved me from my own pit of despair!**

**Eph 13-14 = where we stand – with the Holy Spirit**

**Ephesians 1:13b When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, (Jesus told his disciple before the cross he promised he would send the HS.)**

1. **You are empowered!**

**The HS was a gift from Jesus. He was the very presence and person of God living inside of God’s people.**

**The HS is a who not a what. (Rom. 8:11, 8:26, John 6:63, 1 John 5:6, 1 Cor. 2:12, 2 Tim. 1:14, John 14:26, Acts 5:3-4, John 14:16, Hebrews 9:14, Psalm, 139, 1 Cor 2:10, John 14) The HS is HOLY and fully GOD.**

* **The HS is given at our salvation thru Christ – when we believed.**

**(John 3:5-6, John 14:16, 1 Cor 12:13, Galatians 4:6, 1 John 4:4)**

**Romans 8:9 You, (believers in Jesus), are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. (The Spirit lives inside of those who belong to God - v10 Spirit in us brings life & righteousness.)**

**11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. / Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received (at salvation) does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received (at salvation) brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. (The Spirit in you – confirms you are a Child of God)**

* **The HS – Marks us and empowers!**

**The HS – leads us to Christ and works in us our salvation.**

**The HS – brings is boldness and courage to stand for Christ!**

**The HS – brings wisdom, counsel, and guidance.**

**The HS – gives discernment and understanding.**

**The HS – teaches us and reminds us what God says in his Word.**

**The HS – brings comfort and hope in crises and chaos.**

**The HS – convicts and matures us our walk with God.**

**The HS – brings stability emotionally and relationally.**

**The HS – leads in our prayers and spiritual warfare.**

**The HS – empowers us with spiritual gifts and abilities for God’s glory.**

**You donor have to walk in worry and weakness. You don’t have to live in fear and confusion. You don’t have to walk in hopelessness and nervousness. You don’t have to stay in a rut and run down.**

**Thru Christ – in the HS – you are marked and empowered!**

**Last one – you are here - Ephesians 1:13b When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, (declaration of ownership & authority) the promised Holy Spirit, (HS is the mark – there is no other) 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance (of the kingdom of heaven) until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory. (All those things from the HS are just a snapshot of our inheritance)**

1. **You are secure!**

**The HS is a down payment of what is to come.**

**If asked if I own my house I will say yes. You might ask did you pay the whole thing off? Oh, no the bank owns my house, but I made a deposit and pay a mortgage – and a legal document that says one day I will.**

**The HS is God making a down payment on me. Pouring into my life – that one day, the pain of this world will be gone and He will have me with Him in his presence.**

* **What this means is - God will not give up on His kids!**

**God will not quit on you – walk out on you – forsake you – abandon you – or neglect you. God is faithful and constant and secure.**

**Paul said - Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:8)**

**If you are a son or daughter of God – you can be confident that Jesus will never let you go.**

**Why would he do this? For what reason? Why, would he do this when we are so rebellious? Some might say because He love us. Well…**

**Why does he love us? He loves to love you extravagantly & lavishly – All for this- “For His will, glory, praise, pleasure, and prerogative.” (v. 5,6,11)**

**What that means is – you make him happy / blessed.**

**But right up front – Paul gives us a 202 word opera on where we stand. He places a sticker on the map – and says – you are here! (sticker)**

**This is where you are in Christ. BUT Reality is - Apart from Christ you are not these things… but you are loved.**