

In Christ....

We are Enlightened v9

'He has made known to us the mystery of his will.'

Our eyes have been opened and the darkness dispelled.

The Parish of Cannock and Huntington *Building Community with Christ at the Centre*

Lent Study 2021 'In Christ'

Introducing Ephesians—An overview

Ephesus was one of the most important ports in the north eastern Mediterranean It is mentioned in Acts 19:1-31 and 20:17:38 Paul worked there for approximately 3 years.

Ephesus had its problems as well as its joys for Paul. His letters show that he spent some time in prison there.

As Ephesians does not contain any personal greetings it is thought that it may have been a circular letter sent to several churches in the area.

The letter is sent to Gentile Christians—they had only recently come to know the Lord. Paul points out that it has always been God's plan for the Gentiles to share in God's blessings

The main points in the letter deal with

1. God's plan to bring all creation together cf Chapter 1 verse 10
2. Paul is also concerned with the unity Christians with Christ and each other. Jesus is referred to as
 - A. the head of the church Ch 4:15
 - B. the husband of his wife—the Church Ch 5:22
 - C. The cornerstone of his building—the Church Ch2:20

The letter has two parts

Chapters 1-3 speaks of how God has blessed his people through Jesus

Chapters 4-6 focussing on how Christians should live because of what God has done.

These studies will centre mainly on our rich inheritance and eternal¹ blessings in Christ.

**An introduction to the Lent Course
Ash Wednesday Sermon
Spiritual Blessings 'in' Christ**

In this introduction to the Lent Studies, Paul prepares us for an insight into the blessings we receive through faith in Christ our Lord.

To help in our understanding of this outline of the introductory sermon please read Ephesians 1:3-14

During Lent our journey will take us through the rich inheritance we have been promised as we walk by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us.

After each section a space is left for any thoughts or notes you may like to make as you listen to the talk. You can pause the video if necessary.

In Christ

1. We are Blessed v3

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.'

2. We have been Chosen v4

'Just as he chose us in Christ' c.f. John 15:16

3. We are Destined v5

'He has destined us for adoption through Jesus Christ.'

Christians are a people of destiny.