

Session 5 : Paul Prays for the Church

Ephesians 1 and 3

Background Ephesus was a major port city in the Roman empire, home to a large, well-known temple of Artemis / Diana (Greek / Roman goddess)

See Acts 18:18-26; Acts 19:1-10, 23-31; Acts 20:16-38

Author Paul, the apostle

Audience Ephesus; churches in Asia Minor (circular letter)

Date About 60 A.D., written in Rome during Paul's imprisonment

Theme Unity among believers of different cultures based upon what God has done for us through Christ Jesus

Read Ephesians 1 and 3

1. In Eph. 1:15, for what reason does Paul pray for the church? [read Eph.. 1:11-13]
2. What does Paul ask God for on behalf of the Ephesians? [Eph. 1:15-23]
3. What are the end purposes of Paul's prayer? [see Eph. 1:17-19, also 1:10, 1:12, 1:23]
4. With your group, brainstorm a list of requests you make to God on behalf of others. How do these align with the end purposes of Paul's prayer in chapter 1?
5. In chapter 3, what reasons does Paul give for his prayers? [read Eph. 3:4.6. 10-12]
6. What does he tell the Ephesians he prays for? [Eph. 3:14-21] How are these similar or different from the requests he made in Chapter 1?
7. What does God want to do among the Ephesians, based on Paul's prayers for them? What does God want to do among those at WVPC, based on Paul's prayers?
8. How do you see that happening (or not) here?