

Ephesians – Discovering our Divine Purpose

Who are we? Why are we here? How will we get there? And by who's power?

*And when this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.
Colossians 4: 16*

undertones that Paul and early Christians had to face.

- 1: They were **not** the majority religion.
- 2: The merging of **Gentile** and Jewish peoples was unheard of.
- 3: **Holiness** in a Christian context was something new.

One of the main themes is that we are to be imitators of God, rather than of the apostles.

Ephesians 1: 1-2 Greeting

1: 1 *Paul and apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God.*

Apostle : Greek *apostolos*; “One who is sent” / One sent to act on the authority of another. Refers to the earliest, closest followers of Jesus (Matthew 10: 2-4).

---Westminster Dictionary of theological terms.

Paul was not one of the twelve. So how can he thus say he is an apostle of Jesus?

Acts 7: 54-58 / 8: 1-3

Paul was born in **Tarsus**, **Roman** born citizen and trained at the feet of Gamaliel.

We see that before v13 it is always Barnabus and Saul, but after v13 through out the remainder it is always Paul and Barnabus.

By the will of God

Calvinistic understanding of salvation. We use the acronym TULIP to convey these beliefs. **These five points arose from the Synod of Dort in 1618-1619.** Total Depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, and the Perseverance of the saints.

Predestination Latin predestination; *God's actions in willing something to a specific result.* ---Westminster Dictionary of theological terms.

Did Saul have a choice? Wesleyan Arminian view of original sin.

Prevenient grace- That God draws to Himself the unregenerate, who by reason of original sin, would otherwise be inclined to sin and evil.

We are God's chosen feet and hands.

Paul is all he is because of God's will. All of us have a desire, but the issue is not what we want, but as Christians daily bending our will and desires and causing them to conform to God's. He has a plan of salvation for this world, it involves each and every one of us.

V2 **Grace and Peace.**