

How does an understanding of apostolic authority help you to take God's Word more seriously?

4. How did the gospel affect the city of Ephesus?

5. Consider our outline of Paul's letter to the Ephesians (point III). What are some key words or phrases in each section that support these various divisions of the letter?

6. How does Paul's letter to the Ephesians help you grasp God's overall purpose and plan for this world?

I. A. sent, message, people.



## Week 1: INTRODUCTION

Pastor Scott Nelson | Ephesians 1:1-2 | October 4-5, 2008

*Question:*

What in the world is God doing?

*Answer:*

He is blessing us beyond our wildest imagination!

*The Problem:*

We often fail to recognize, comprehend, or appreciate the blessings God has given to us—as a result, we fail to live as He has called us to live.

I. The Blessing of God's Word.

A. The meaning of apostolic authority (Ephesians 1:1).

1. Paul was \_\_\_\_\_ by God, with a \_\_\_\_\_ from God, for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
2. Paul was commissioned by God, not man (Galatians 1:1).
3. Paul's words were controlled by God (2 Peter 1:20-21).

4. Paul's words were addressed to the people of God (1 Corinthians 2:12-14).

B. The significance of apostolic authority for us.

## II. The Effect of God's Word on the Ephesians.

A. Grace and peace to a city of idols and demons? (Ephesians 1:2).

1. Conditions in Ephesus before the gospel (Acts 19).
2. Conditions in Ephesus after the gospel was preached (Acts 20, Revelation 3).

B. Grace and peace to us.

## III. How Grace and Peace Come to the World.

- A. Our new life in Christ (Ephesians 1:1-2:10).
- B. Our new community in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-3:21).
- C. Our new conduct in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-6:9).
- D. Our new conflict in Christ (Ephesians 6:10-24).

NOTES:



## QUESTIONS *for study, reflection, discussion, and growth*

1. Read Ephesians 1:1-3 and 2 Peter 1:2-4. From these two passages, what can you conclude that God has provided or supplied for living the Christian life?

2. Divide your life in two components: A. Time spent reflecting on, appropriating, and thanking God for His blessings. B. Time spent reflecting on, praying about, complaining over your problems.

In which of the above categories is the majority of your time spent?

Do you think your outlook on life would change much if you spent a significantly greater amount of time in category A? Why or why not?

How would it change, do you think?

3. Why do you think the idea of apostolic authority is important?