

Ephesians

Lesson 1: Ephesians 1:1-1:14

Preliminary Questions

Take a few minutes and write down some working definitions for these theological words. (No, the teacher isn't going to help you, and no, there's no penalty at this point for getting them wrong.)

Christ	Lord
Faith	Election
Union	Spirit

Note that Ephesians 1:3-23 is one, extended praise of Christ. What purpose do you think that serves in the letter? Whose destinies, according to the praise in verses 3-6, are connected, and how?

On page 5, Wright notes the following:

...the true God, who deserves and should receive our glad worship, is the father of Lord Jesus, the king, the Messiah. He is not the same as the gods and goddesses of the pagan world. He isn't just a divine force, a vague influence or energy loosely known as 'the sacred'. He is the God who made the world, and who has now made himself known in and through Jesus. As far as Paul as concerned, any picture of God which doesn't now have Jesus in the middle of it is a distortion or a downright fabrication.

In what ways (if any) do you see this played out in the opening verses of Ephesians 1?

Take a look at page 11 of Wright's commentary. What connection does he make between the concept of inheritance and the stories of the Exodus?

What parts of our Christian life do you see as most obviously connected with the grand story of praise that Paul tells here? What parts make no sense without the bigger stories?