



Devotional _____

Read Ephesians 1:1-3

Paul wrote this letter “to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus” (King James Version)

The **“saints”** and the **“faithful”** can sound like an elite group that only a few very special holy people can attain to.

These are not words that would have been used to describe the people Paul encountered at Ephesus (read Acts 18:19-20:1). Many were worshippers of the goddess Artemis prior to their conversion and practised magic arts. After meeting Jesus and being baptised, they confessed these practices publicly and burned their magic books. They turned away from their former beliefs and practices to follow Jesus.

In chapter 2:3 Paul described their former state as “children of wrath, like the rest of mankind”, saying “we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind.”

It is to such people that Paul now writes and addresses as “saints” and “faithful”. This should fill you with hope! No matter your background, you can have a fresh start in Christ.

God FORGETS our former conduct when we come to Him through Jesus Christ. He makes us new, “holy and blameless”, because of His great love for us! (Ephesians 1:4)

He loved us before the foundation of the world and chose us to be His children, regardless of our sin and brokenness. This is good news!

Application

1. What is God saying to you through this passage?
2. Do you KNOW that He LOVES you, today and always?
3. Do you know that He considers you a saint, holy and blameless, because of what Jesus has done for you?

Prayer

Father, help me to see myself the way you do, as a saint and faithful. Thank you for sending Jesus to take away my sin and make me righteous before you. Empower me to confess and turn away from practices that are not of you so I can live fully for you, in Jesus name. Amen.