

*This week we begin a new journey in the word. We turn to Paul's universal letter that is found in our new Testament as the Epistle to the Ephesians. We have ancient copies of this letter without the name of the Church of Ephesus in it - so we know that this letter is VERY important to Paul - he sent it to more than one church. We begin this week focusing upon:*

*Ephesians 1:1-10 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are also faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace<sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us. For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fulness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (RSV)*

*Gary Allen Henecke DD*