

“Ephesus: A Place Of...”
By Brother Parrish Lee
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You know, that might seem a little strange, but y’all got up here, and that just sounded a little too good to let go. You talk about, “... The time is now here...” You know, they’ve got a spot on the Christian network website-the Bible website-they’ve got a new movie coming out about missing the rapture. They got TV series coming out-I don’t know what that’s called- about people that missed the rapture. They are infatuated. They’ve gone from zombies to spiritual zombies, I guess. It’s going to be entertaining, and it’s going to be exciting. “We can make money at this!” How sad the news will be. How sad, sad it’s going to be. That is one thing nobody has to miss out on. I haven’t gotten to the message, but the fact is, the precious blood of Jesus, when He hung his arms out and lifted his hands, and said, “It is finished,” that included anybody; that went all the way down from the beginning of time to the end of time. He wrapped his arms around everybody, everybody. If you would receive it, you can have it. If you want to be saved, if you cry out to God, if you give your life to Him, and accept Him, you have a guarantee; He will save you. That’s how good He is. Anyway, I started to talk about the goodness of God, and it led to something else.

Giving honor to God, who is the head of my life. Giving honor to our Savior, our Master our Redeemer, our Healer, our Strength, our Rock, as they said in the song today, our Shield, as they said in the song today, our present help in time of need. Giving honor to that same God who opened our eyes this morning, and allowed us to walk across the floor, who brought us here. Giving honor to Him who put the sun in the sky, and the air on this planet, He gave us food to eat and a place to sleep, and loadeth us, according to the scripture, daily with benefits. Giving honor to Him. Giving honor to all those who have gone before us in this ministry, from our founding pastor and his family, our pastor, now, Pastor Paine, in Virginia, he and his family, and all those who have stood in the gap to make up the hedge, giving honor to all their labor of love that they have showed to usward, that allowed us to be here on this day. Giving honor to all of y’all, who present yourselves to the Lord, on a Sunday, when people are either sleeping late, or getting ready for football, on a Sunday morning. That’s what I’m going to hear when I go back to work. “What did you do, Sunday?” “You know what I did Sunday.” “Oh, okay.” They’re going to tell me what they did, and that’s going to be a short conversation. Giving honor to all of you who present yourselves, and all those who are in the Word, that precious Word of God, the Bible. Giving honor to all of those that live the life, and preached it, who were sawn asunder, or were beheaded, or were burned at the stake, down through the ages, and said, “I’d rather have Jesus than every treasure in this world.” Giving honor to them.

We have already said that this month is the time of sanctification, as Brother Andy came up and shared, we’re going to extend it to next month. The fact of the matter is, some of really have—I know I do—some things—you ever say, “I left some points out there on the field?” Did you ever hear that expression? It means that some of the plays that you had, you could have gotten more, you could have gotten better, you could have completed this, you could have ran that, but you made this mistake, and you got slothful in that, and didn’t execute properly—the fact of the matter remains, that, if there was more that we could have than we do have, simply because of *us*. We need to have more coming to us; we need to ask; we need to try, we need to press, we need to seek, we need to grasp, we need to, as the Bible says, the violent taketh it by force. So, looking forward to an extension for another month, and, actually, I had such a blessing this week. One of the brothers on my accountability team—I was struggling little bit, and I was trying to get myself focused. I wasn’t being successful. I was trying to think of a good Scripture that would go along, and it would help, I went through Ephesians-you know, you can have a lot of keys, but you need *the* key. I got a text on my phone-I can’t really use my phone network, but I can hit the button and see if I get any texts-a brother said, “Back to the basics. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” Unlocked. It was the very thing that I needed for my life to say “Everything else is off the table. First comes You, Lord.” All of a sudden, things started lining up; focus cleared up, things that were on the table that were disarranged, started getting arranged properly. All of a sudden, I had been peace and contentment and the consolation and the

actions, going along with the Scriptures and the fellowship. Seek ye first the kingdom of God... Amen, I want to thank my accountability partners; I have a few. I just want to thank them for laboring, and putting up with me and encouraging—it is such a blessing; it is such an honest and true blessing.

As we said, this month, the Scripture for the month is going to be Joshua 3:5, and that's actually going to be the theme for both months.

Joshua 3:5 *And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.*

Really, the fact of the matter is, we could all use—we don't want to settle for the things that we have received to this point; we want God to give us more. God, fill us, add to us, load us up, give it, just pour it in; if I ain't got enough room, God, give me one of those expand-o-size. You know how they got the elastic in your—well, maybe your not heavy enough yet, but when you get heavy, they put elastic in your pants, so nobody else can tell. Then, when you gain, or get a little bit more full—let me say it that way—get a little bit more full, they can't really tell. You don't have to get your pants altered; they already have that expand-o-size built in. God, expand-o-size me. Let it be so that You can press it in, and when I feel like I'm over-full, God, fill me even more. I don't care; just smear it all over me if You have to. Amen.

But, our Scriptures have been, this month, we've gone through Ephesians chapters one, two, and three. Today we're actually going to do a bit of a recap, as we go into another blessing. To start off this morning, we're going to start with:

Ephesians 1:1-5 *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

We could bow our heads for a moment. Lord, we thank You, because every time we come into Your presence, look at what You do, look at how You pour out, and look at how good You are to us, even without us asking for so much, God, You daily loadeth us with benefits. God, You've blessed us with a wonderful praise and worship, we can open our hearts and sing praises and hallelujahs unto You. God, we pray, at this time, You add a blessing on to the reading of Your Word, that, as You said, it would not return unto You void, but that it would surely accomplish that for which You have sent it, God, that Your servants, Your Saints, and Your people might be nurtured thereby, that they might be fed, that we might encouraged, that the chaff would be burned out, and that the good wheat would be strengthened and fortified, and, God, that we might all rise up to do what You have called us to do. This we do lay before your feet, as we pray and claim, in Jesus name, and everyone said, amen.

So, our first Sunday of the month, we went over Ephesians chapter 1. "Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:" Now, we set a little stage here, to say that Ephesus was the second-largest city in Rome. That has a lot of bearing for the time that they were in. Another thing about Ephesus: out of all the things that they could have had a weakness for, that they could have had a malady for, that they could have had a potential for, the thing that really was grabbing Ephesus was idolatry. Now, understand that this wasn't in the year 1000, 1500, or 2000, this was somewhere around the year A.D. 65. Somewhere around there. Somewhere around—after-this was after the day of Pentecost, and Apostle Paul had been out traveling, and the disciples... People had heard this, but they didn't have what we have today; they didn't have a Bible that they could pull off the shelf and go through and read. They didn't know all the stories about the Lord Jesus; they knew some, but the Gospels weren't written down, and they didn't have a printing press there. So, some

of the things that they heard were by word-of-mouth, from some of the people that had an experience. Other people that had heard, or maybe they been in a service, or they had traveled, and they didn't get all the message, but what they got, they shared. And the other things that they got, was from them hoping, and praying, and seeking God. So, as Apostle Paul would visit these places, he had to both examine what was going on, and he had to minister to their needs.

And if I could make a point right here, as you see in verse number two, he says, "Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." If we can take a point right here, he highlighted that is about grace. It's from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, but he went on to say, in verse number three—and, you've got to love this one, because you see this throughout Ephesians, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:" What a thing to say! You don't just have a worldly blessing; you don't just have food on your table—and I'm thankful, I love to eat! I like food. I'm thankful for a blessing on my table. I like to have a house; I like to have a roof over my head, when it's cold, when it's hot. I like to have electricity. I like that stuff. But, He's called us to have blessings in *heavenly* places. He didn't call us just to be fed and warm. He didn't call us just to even call was just to have a good time. He called us to have blessings in heavenly places. In other words, Godly blessings. Spiritual blessings, that the world can't answer. He called us to have that. He goes on in verse four, "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:" Predestinated. In other words, before we were even thinking about it, God had this whole thing set up. In fact, before we were even thinking about it, God had the plan for our lives. Before we were children, running around, He already had that love for us. Predestinated. The Bible says that He formed us in our mother's womb, but even before that, He saw when it was going to happen; when we were going to come about. And he's letting people in Ephesus know, "Yeah, yeah, this thing is sewed up. This is something new, and you're hoping you can get your part of this. This isn't something new that's the wear out, or fadeout, or only last for certain period of time. God has made sure that this is going to take care of you." "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will," God has been looking for us to be with Him for a long, long, long time. He has been working for that reconciliation. He has been looking for us to come sit in heavenly places with Him. He's been looking for us to be raised, so that He can shower us with daily benefits; He's been looking for that for a long time.

. And in verse number 18, if we could skip down there. We're going to go through this kind of quickly.

Ephesians 1:18 *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

That you may know and understand. There is a part of us as Christians, you have to have faith. God doesn't put it out there for you to say, "Well, if I understand it, then I'll believe it." No, no, no, no. You don't make that kind of deal with God. God doesn't have to meet our approval; He did it, we believe it, and that settles it. But, He does want us to be able to come and to understand. He wants our minds to be open, so that we can ask and understand the mysteries of revelation, that we can say, "Yeah, I got some of the same inheritance." That's Ephesians chapter 1; just to take a synopsis of it.

And we talked— Brother Jesse, I actually wasn't here when you preached, I was down in Virginia. What a wonderful, also time. Everybody— Pastor Paine, Debbie Sister Davis, everybody says, "tell everybody I said, Hi" Okay. Everybody, everybody in Norfolk says hi. I can remember everybody's name, but they were coming nonstop, and I told them all, "This is my conference, everybody. This is my conference." I'm thankful for the wonderful job that they did. But, in Ephesians chapter 2:

Ephesians 2 :1 *And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

Now I can't even—Jesse, you were right. When I was going over this, I was trying to stay in tune with the that we're going over here. If we're going to go over Ephesians, I know I'm not going to be there; I know want to miss the service, and I opened it up and, wow! This is so amazing! What God was able to open my little mind to—and it filled up pretty quick. I'm not one of those geniuses breakages back my head and understand the mysteries of the world. No, God, hallelujah, you revealed to me, and I'm thankful for it. So, it says, "And you hath He quickened..." meaning, to be made alive. If you don't think that's a big deal, go back to *before* we were alive, and realize that this is a great thing that God has done. Wait, wait, wait, if you take away that salvation—that day—take that day out of my life... Wait, wait, wait, that means I'm not saved yet. If I don't have that day—well, I believed in God, and I received God, and God fulfilled his promises, then I'm not yet saved. That's a big deal. But it goes on to say, "Who were dead in both trespasses and sins." And, yes, Brother Jesse, I looked at the notes, and I said, "Yes! He stole it!" We had talked—he didn't steal it, of course, it was God's—and that brother there, when we were sharing, he was staring right back what I was sharing with him. But, it's amazing how it says, "Who were dead in both trespasses and sins." Now, this is something amazing. Now, we're not really ignorant about sins. We know what sins are; those are our errors, mistakes, those are things we might get trapped in. Those are violations of the Law and the righteousness of God quite frankly. Those are sins. Yes, we were dead in sin, and we know that whatever sin had a hold on us, it had a hold on us. But, the Bible said we were dead, he had quickened you from those sins. But then he says, "...and trespasses." I was like, "What? Why would it say both? Why trespasses and sins?" I had to look that up, because I wanted to understand. You know how—you ever see—I remember the first time I saw a sign that said, "No trespassing." What does that mean? I don't really know what that means, but I figure I'll probably get in trouble if I go there. But our trespasses are all the ways that we fall short. Even when we're at our best state, and He makes up the difference. "God, I tried to get it right, but I just couldn't get it together." He quickens you. Did you ever go on a hike, or a walk, or you're out exploring, and you come across a sign, or maybe you didn't even see the sign, and somebody comes up to you and says, "Hey, you're trespassing." "What do you mean I'm trespassing?" "There's a sign over there that says you don't belong here!" "I didn't see no sign." "Whether you saw the sign or not, you're still trespassing!" "Oh, okay, I guess I'd better leave." "Wait a minute, you've already trespassed. By the law, we could lock you up." And you hath he made alive in the things that we didn't even know that we had done. That is amazing! That's amazing that God would do that for us!

Ephesians 2 :4-6 *But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together I and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love... That's what this whole thing is about: that rich mercy and His great love. This is what this whole thing is—he's telling the people at Ephesus, this is what this whole thing is about. God's mercy being showered down on all of y'all, because He loves you like that. And, since we're at it, now imagine, when he wrote them, this was one letter, right? so it didn't have chapters and verses. So, if it didn't have chapters and verses, here it is again, in verse six, "He has raised us up together—" Well, let's look at verse five: "Even when we were dead in sins, hath He quickened us together with Christ..." Made us to live with Christ. Not just made us to live alone, but with the Lord Jesus Christ. Every thing, every victory just poured out. And, then, in verse six—and this is just awesome—"And hath raised us up together I and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" Made us to sit—again—made us to sit together with Him in Heavenly places. So, He's rich in mercy, and that love that He's pouring out has made us to sit in heavenly places. So, you know what that means, saints? That means that we are entitled; that means that those things of God are ours. We have access to the great things of God—you've got to say this, if you, if any one of us are not receiving

the things of God, then you have a chance to turn around to God and say, "I want more. You've got better than this for me. I don't have to go through the muck and mire with no hope of redemption. You have something for me!" You can turn around and say, "You know what? Why do I have to drink polluted water? Why do I have to have secondhand? God you have precious promises for me, and you have prepared them, because you've called me to sit in those heavenly places." So, when a Christian says—when we find ourselves in a predicament, we have to realize, God has already got something in the midst of that. He knows what we go through. It's hard not to get excited about this, because I've seen Him deliver so many times. I've seen! I've seen in my life, and I've seen it in other lives.

I had a chance, when I was visiting family in Baltimore—and no, it's not a vacation when I go to visit family. You've got to have on the whole armor of God. You'd better be prayed up. You'd better have your tank full, because they are going to use every bit of it. When I was visiting my family I had an opportunity—it wasn't supposed to happen like that—I had my nieces and nephews—and I got 30 some odd of them. Five brothers and five sisters, yeah, I got 20 of nieces and nephews—I got a chance to share with one of them. We were picking her up, and we had like six of them there. I had to babysit for a couple of minutes; that wasn't supposed to happen. She asked me a question, she said, "Uncle Parrish, why did you move up to Chicago?" And I said, "I got called to the ministry. I got saved." She said, "What do you mean, you got saved? Weren't you always like that?" And I said, "No, Niece, I used to be Muslim, like the rest of your uncles and aunts." She said, "You used to be Muslim?" I said, "Yeah, until God changed my life." She said, "Does everybody know that?" And I said, "Yeah, and God's blessed me. I've been able to do this and do that..." She said, "Why aren't you telling everybody? You never told me. I need to hear this. We all need to hear this." And I thought, "Lord, I thought I told them, but maybe I'm not listening to tell them again." As I continued to share with her, that she had questions specifically about she can find God in her *own* life. It was amazing! All of my other nieces and nephews that were there, they all got quiet; and these were teenagers. Yeah, these were teenagers, and they got quiet. That's a miracle. And the end of the story was they said, "Mom, next time Uncle Parrish comes to town you need to make him stay with us, because I want to talk to him some more." And I thought, "Lord, I need to have more of a prayer—sure, for those of us that have a big family, you want to be able to just say God bless them all, but then you realize that God wants you to name them; name out their needs. He wants you to name them specifically; ones that are hurting, the ones that have had relationships, the ones who needed healing, the ones who are struggling financially, the ones who are young and think they can't get the knowledge, and the ones who are facing big decisions, He wants you to bring them all before Him, that He can do his miraculous work. Amen. But just to go back quickly about how He has called us to sit in those heavenly places. You know, if we're not receiving the blessings that we should, the Bible says He will withhold no good thing from him that walks uprightly (Psalms 84:11). God, if I ain't getting my blessing, You show me why not, because I want my blessings. God, you already promised it. You promised it; you promised we could sit there. You've got it for me, so I need to know, if something's in the way, let's get out of the way, and let this whole pipeline of blessings come through.

This is the summary. We're just a little bit of revisit, here.

Ephesians 3:6-7 *That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power.*

Fellow heirs—the Gentiles should be a fellow heirs. That's miraculous! Fellow heirs, that means the same as everybody else. That's miraculous, because, see, the Gentiles at that time were saying, "We're not Jews." And not only that they were saying, "Not only are we not Jews, we're not Kings, and we're not princes, and we're not governors, and we're not all these high and mighty people." They were used to seeing this special division; if you were high and mighty, you would get more. Yeah, not everybody had a chance to go to school. It's not like now, they didn't have public schools. Yeah, you learned at home with mom and dad. You learned how to work out in the field, you learned how to cook,

you learned how to sew, you learned how to make things happen, you learned how to preserve food. That's what you learned. You didn't go and learn psychology, and sociology, and engineering; you didn't go to school for that. If your dad was an engineer, maybe you could go down to the rocks when he was chiseling them away, and maybe you could learn. Maybe. Or if your brother was a warrior, or if your dad was a warrior, maybe you could learn to be a soldier. Not everybody had access, but now we all have this access, we are all fellow heirs. They needed to know that this was precious, because he says in verse seven, "Whereof I was made a minister..." talking about to the Gentiles, "according to the gift of grace of God which was given to me by the effectual working of His power." I'm nobody special, but God makes us ministers, He makes us prophets, He makes us useful tools for His purpose.

Ephesians 3:8 *Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;*

Got to love that; you gotta love those unsearchable riches. You gotta love that his riches, all the time that you seek, you find that you're just scratching the surface. But he says, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all Saints," not all the apostles, not all the big important people of God, I'm less than all the Saints. What a lesson in humility that he's showing. When we come before Christ, we can come humble, that He can lift us up. And he's showing, that when you come to God—you see, the Jews had gotten to the place where if you weren't a Jew, "You ain't a Jew. If you ain't one of us, shame for you; you missed out. If you ain't got this blood, you're cut off! You don't have a chance!" The Jews had gotten to that place. And not only are they fellow heirs, Apostle Paul says, "I got all this. I'm not even worthy to be called one of these Christian brothers; Saints." But he's showing them, "I'm going to take everything that God has for me, and I'm going to do everything I can with it." Because, the only one that gets the glory of God Himself.

Ephesians 3:9-12 *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places. [There it is again—heavenly places] might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.*

So, he said, "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God," This mystery. Before I get saved, I used to wonder so many things about Christians. You people confused me. I'm serious. I figured it out, though, "Christians, they don't really have the real God," because I never saw Christians live it. Besides that, you get four or five Christians in the room, and they don't agree on *anything*. "They all pick fights with each other. Yeah, Christianity yet." Just because—this was before I get saved, before I knew that the Bible had the answers, before I had even cracked it open, before anybody had cracked it open for me, before God had spoken to me, before He moved, He showed me that, instead of pointing fingers, my little finger that points out means there's three fingers pointing back at me. We see here that these mysteries—I thought that this whole Christianity thing was a mystery. How can you ever find the true God—I heard about the miracles, but I guess they're all gone away; maybe one or two special people, somewhere. You know, they had those children, prophets, you know they healed the elders; they have a little eight-year-old to pray, and somebody gets healed, and they throw a party. When I was little I saw it on TV; they had kid preachers; they made them out to be a big deal. "Where are the adults? Why aren't they doing this?" But He's made us to know these mysteries that were hid in God. And once again, those heavenly places, and Saints, that thing that we have to pull away from that, is that God would never have us to sit on the lowest step. He did not call us to sit on the lowest rung of the ladder. If anybody has ever—if the devil has ever gotten a hold on you, you have the power to shake him off. He gave it to you to be able to call on the

name of Jesus, and should. Get thee behind me, Satan. I will turn my eyes to the hill of Calvary, and I will receive my victory. He gave that to us. It used to be a mystery, but now it's revealed to His Saints.

Ephesians 3:16-18 *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened—strengthened! Strengthened! With might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...” By faith. Not by surgery; not by money. “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...” Not by some strange application; not by sorcery, not by conjuring, not by watching some fancy TV show, the 12 steps, or some seven step method, not none of that stuff! But, by your own personal faith, Christ might dwell in you.

When I was coming up, when I was in school, my teacher read us this poem. It was by Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Anybody ever hear of her? Elizabeth Barrett Browning. She had this wonderful poem: “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. I love thee to the depth and breadth and height my soul can reach...” I thought, “Wow, I wish I could write like that. What a wonderful love poem! I want to be a poet, and I want to be able to write something like that. How did she ever *think* of it?” Yeah, how did she? Well, she didn't. In verse number 18, “May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;” because, we have to understand that God's love isn't just a narrow thing that we have to walk just—it's a broad thing, and we have room to move in God. And it's deep, because it will reach deep in our lives when you're sinking so low that you're thinking, “I'm outside! I'm so far outside, God can't reach me!” Yes, He can. And it's high; His love is so high that no matter what exultation we go to—we don't lift ourselves up, let's put that in there. We don't get lifted up my pride or a haughty spirit— whatever height God takes us to, His love will reach us there. And it's long. Do you know why His love has to be long? His love has to be long, because wherever we go, it can reach there. Wherever we've been, whenever maladies, sins, trespasses, it will cover them. Sometimes it's broad, and it's deep, and it's high, and it's long. “Are you trying to say that, no matter what, God will have you covered?” Amen. No matter where you go, you stand by that He's got you covered. Amen.

Ephesians 3:19 *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

“To know His love, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.” I need to wrap this up, but to wrap this up I need to go into Acts. In acts chapter 18, something really precious happens here. You might get a glimpse of this sometimes, but this was a highlight.

Acts 18:19 *And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.*

Now, the them that it's talking about, is two people named Aquila and Priscilla, and those who traveled with them, but, specifically, Aquila and Priscilla. He left them there, and if we were to skip down to verse 24... Apostle Paul actually went to other places, but he left let and Priscilla there to do the work. “You mean he left a married couple to take care of business in the second-largest city in the Roman Empire?” Yes, yes, yes, yes he did; yes he did. “They must've been called. They must've been something special!” They were something special; they were Saints. They believe Jesus; that made them special.

Acts 18:24-26 *And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.*

He called them to reason and share, lift up and explain. Do you understand what that means? It means that in Ephesus, there are disciples. In Ephesus, there is understanding. In Ephesus, there is teaching and learning. In Ephesus, that's a place where you have to have humility. Ephesus is a place of humility, it's a place of learning, it's a place of disciples, it's a place of families. So, if we were to skip down to chapter 19, verses one through six right quick:

Acts 19:1 *And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,*

Ephesus is a place where the disciples are.

Acts 19:2-6 *He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*

What does this mean? It means that Ephesus is a place where you check out your foundation. That's what this means. You know what else this means? It means that Ephesus is a place of real baptism. You know what else this means? It means that Ephesus is a place of change. This means that Ephesus is a place of prophecy. Ephesus is a place with the Holy Ghost, that's what this means.

Acts 19:10-11 *And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. [Because of what was going on in Ephesus.] And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:*

Ephesus is a place of miracles.

Our last Scripture is none other than the Scripture that Chris so eloquently shared from last week.

Ephesians 3:20-21 *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

Give the Lord a praise.