

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO YOU

EPHESIANS 1:1

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Apostles were chosen by Jesus to be His messengers, His ambassadors, His witnesses to the world. It was an office that had special authority of Jesus Christ!

JESUS SAVED HIM. The quickest way to come to Jesus is to be knocked down, to come to an end of yourself, to abruptly change directions. So it was with the apostle Paul, and so it is with you. God's plans for your life in Christ are realized spectacularly, even if they come with just humble submission. (Ephesians 1:1, Acts 9:1-16, fn 9:2-5, fn 9:3-5, John 14:6, fn 14:6[2nd], Acts 4:12, fn 4:12, Acts 16:11-15, fn 16:14-34, Acts 16:16-18, Acts 16:27-34, fn 16:30-31) *How was your salvation spectacular even though you may think it wasn't?*

JESUS MADE HIM AN APOSTLE. Because God wanted us to know what He is like, He took this anti-Jesus, thug-like Zealot and threw him down. He blinded him by His presence, and filled him with the Holy Spirit. He showed Paul (and us) that he was chosen to be an apostle of Jesus Christ! (Ephesians 1:1, Acts 9:1-2, Acts 9:13-16, I Corinthians 9:1-2, fn 9:1, II Corinthians 12:11-13, fn 12:11-15, Ephesians 2:19-22, fn 2:20, Ephesians 3:7-9, fn 3:8) *If Jesus had not used Paul the Apostle and His writings, what would God's Word be like to you?*

JESUS BRINGS HIM NOW TO YOU. In prison God has Paul in a place where he could be still so that he could write by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is here you see that God had you in mind as He gave Paul the words to be written. He wants you to receive these words as written just for you. These Scriptures are God-breathed by His Spirit, and as you read and believe them, His Spirit will fill you with His illumination and His joy. Ephesians is straight from Paul's prison to you! (Ephesians 1:1, fn 1:1[2nd], Acts 28:16-20, fn 28:17-20, Acts 28:30-31, fn 28:31, II Timothy 3:16-17, fn 3:17, Hebrews 4:12, fn 4:12, II Peter 1:20-21, fn 1:20-21) *How could realizing that you are in the presence of the Author when you open God's Word, given to Paul in prison, fill you with the Holy Spirit?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?