

The background of the entire slide is a photograph of ancient stone ruins, likely in Ephesus, showing a path of large stone slabs leading through a landscape of smaller ruins and greenery. A glowing orange cross is positioned on the right side of the image.

Understanding Who I Am

# Ephesians

Becoming Who We Are

**The Unvarnished Truth**

# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



Series – Understanding... Becoming...

- Setting

- So Far:

Chosen

Adopted

Redeemed – implications

Inheritance

Sealed with Holy Spirit



# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



- Encouraged
  - faith in Jesus, Love for Saints
- Prayed for
  - wisdom, revelation, enlightened
- Power evidenced in Christ
  - raised from death, seated at right hand, given authority, head over the church

# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



Ephesians 2:1-5 “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—  
<sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved”



# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



## 1. Remember Who You Were

- important to remember - vs. 11-12
- Paul recalls often who he was before Christ
- gives perspective, reminders that realign

### a) You had no spiritual pulse

- not in doghouse, in trouble – dead
- scripture – heart of stone vs. heart of flesh
- dead in trespasses & sins, even when you were dead!

# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



Rom. 3:23 “<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Rom. 6:23 “<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Matt. 23:27-28 “<sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup> So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness”



# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



## **b) Sabotaged by Satan**

- Jesus Description in John 8:43-44 “<sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies”

# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



- scripture pictures Satan as:
  - stealing away the truth – Matt. 13:19
  - snaring you, captured to do his will – 2 Tim.2:25-26
  - Blinding you to - 2 Cor. 4:3-4 “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”



# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



- Eph 4:18-20 “They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup> They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup> But that is not the way you learned Christ”

- see also – 1 John 5:18-19, Col 1:13-14

# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



## c) Sentenced for Your Situation

- you are deserving of the wrath of God poured out against sin. Children of wrath.....
- 2 Thess. 1:7-9 “and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might”



# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



- Matt. 13:41-42 “<sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- Rev. 20:15 “<sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”
- Heb 9:27... “<sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment”

# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



## 3. But God .....

### a) motivated by

- rich in mercy
- great Love

### b) made alive in Christ

- new life – wrath of God satisfied
- chosen, adopted, redeemed, sealed, inheritance – new people



# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



## c) by Grace

- receiving what I don't deserve
- cannot earn or be worthy of
- while we were still dead – unable to help self
- needs to be responded to

# Ephesians – the Unvarnished Truth



## So What?

1. Remember
  - renews perspective, life lessons, gratitude
2. Reminded of Reality
  - were without a pulse spiritually
  - sunk by Satan – by nature rebellious
  - wrath of God was rightly ours
3. But God
4. Participate in Communion