

SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: Sunday, September 2nd, 2018

Take me directly to:

1. [PREPARE for this Sunday](#)
2. [REFLECT on last Sunday](#)
3. [Further Reflection and Study](#) (resources, questions, etc.)
4. [Resources for Kids \(and Parents\)](#)
5. [Sermon Review](#)

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Prayer of Preparation //

Loving God, for each one who leads us in worship today,
we pray that they may be so filled with your Spirit
that they will clearly reflect the glory of Christ in all they say and do.
We pray that everyone in this place will know you are with us
and be drawn to bring you all honor and praise. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

Let us worship the eternal God,
the source of love and life, who creates us.
Let us worship Jesus Christ,
the risen one, who lives among us.
Let us worship the Spirit,
the holy fire, who renews us.
To the one true God be praise
in all times and places,
through the grace of Jesus Christ.

[O Come to the Altar](#)

[Come Thou Fount \(Above All Else\)](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Congregation: Lord God, we have given more weight to our successes and our happiness than to your will.

Leader: We have eaten without a thought for the hungry.
We have spoken without an effort to understand others.
We have kept silence instead of telling the truth.

We have judged others, forgetful that you alone are the Judge.
We have acted rather in accordance with our opinions
than according to your commands.

Congregation: Within your church we have been slow to practice love of our neighbors. And in the world we have not been your faithful servants.

Leader: Forgive us and help us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds you have been healed.

— 1 Peter 2:24

[There is a Peace](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

Just as the peace of Christ is with all who have faith today, let's practice that peace by extending a greeting of peace to one another this morning

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

Sermon: Blessed in Christ (Ephesians 1:3-14)

[Grace Alone](#)

// Benediction //

Leader: As those who are "in Christ" go from here with glad and eager hearts.
Glad for what Christ has done and eager to share that good news with others.
Peace be with you!

Congregation: And also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Prayer of Preparation //

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for the privilege of corporate worship—for the joy of gathering with sisters and brothers to boast in Christ, worship by the Spirit, and receive your Word.

Thank for you those who will lead us in your worship today. We pray for the singers, musicians, and liturgists. Thank you for your servants who will read and preach your Word to us today. Thank you for the guests and visitors who will gather with us today. May they experience your welcoming heart, the magnificence of your glory, and the riches of your grace. And as we leave the service today, free us to serve you this week with gladness, in everything we think, say, and do. In Jesus' merciful and mighty name we pray, Amen.

// Call to Worship //

Leader: Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving.
You are greater than we can understand

Congregation: Open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths
you have shown to us in Jesus.

Leader: You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;

Congregation: Help us to give ourselves to you in worship
so that we learn what you want us to be.

Leader: You are wiser than we can know;

Congregation: Still our minds as we worship you
so that we can understand the things you are saying to us.

Leader: Loving God, in Jesus you chose to come to the world in humility.
You chose the path the world saw as foolish. You used what the world considered weak.

Congregation: We worship and adore you. Amen.

[Grace Alone](#)

[How Deep the Father's Love for Us](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: Father, you tell us in your Word
that whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

Congregation: We confess that we have frequently relaxed our faith.
We have allowed ourselves to become cynical,
and our cynicism has boiled over
with slander, criticism, prayerless-ness, and pessimism.

Leader: How easily we've allowed ourselves
to crumple under the stresses of our lives.
Forgive us for our smallness of faith.

Congregation: In your mercy, hear us,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

Leader: Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

Congregation: In Christ we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace.

—from Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7

[O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

Ephesians 2:17,19

And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.
So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

Sermon: Introduction to Ephesians (Eph 1:1-2)

[Revelation Song](#)

// Benediction //

To those who are called,
who are beloved in God the Father and kept safe for Jesus Christ:
May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.
(Jude 1-2)

Leader: The Lord be with you!

Congregation: And Also with you!

FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

Scripture to Meditate On:

Ephesians 1:1b To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus...

Reflection Questions:

- In our Prayer of Confession we confessed to the Lord that “We have allowed ourselves to become cynical, and our cynicism has boiled over with slander, criticism, prayer-less-ness, and pessimism.” Have you noticed this in your life? When does it occur, what do you become most cynical about? What does your cynicism say you really believe about the character of God?
- Why is it good news to you that Paul calls you a “saint in Christ Jesus”? How could that affect your spiritual journey and everyday life?
- Explain this statement: Indicatives give rise to imperatives. Why is that important? Why does it matter when we are talking about christian doctrine?
- Read through all 6 chapters of Ephesians in one sitting two times this week. After doing that, what questions do you walk away with?

This Weeks Theological Word and Definition:

Imputation - Simply, to credit or reckon. Through Adam, the guilt of sin is imputed to all men; through Christ, righteousness is imputed to believers (Rom 5:12-21). On the cross, Christ exchanged his righteousness for man's sinfulness (2 Cor 5:21) by means of imputation. The sins of believers were imputed (credited) to Christ on the cross, and the righteousness that belonged to Jesus Christ was imputed (credited) to believers. Thus, believers possess an "alien" righteousness and can stand before a righteous God.

Suggested Resources

Book: [Alive in Him](#) by Gloria Furman (available on Sundays for \$5) and accompanying [Study Guide](#)

Journal: [Ephesians Scripture Journal](#) (available on Sundays for \$2)

Audio: [Intro to Ephesians](#) White Horse Inn Podcast

Articles: [Why Does Faith Alone Matter?](#) By Silverio Gonzalez

[The Radical Gospel](#) by Gerhard Forde

[The Gospel of Union with Christ: A Conversation with J. Todd Billings](#)

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents) [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

Questions for Children and Parents to discuss:

- Are you always faithful to God and his commands? (A: No. And dad and mom neither!). Well in the book of Ephesians which was written by the Apostle Paul, he says that we are SAINTS in Christ Jesus. Do you know what a saint is? (A: Something to the effect of "A holy person")
- If we aren't always faithful to God how do you think Paul can call us Saints? (A: Because Jesus lived the life of a Saint for us and gives us his life!)
- Who does God say you are? (A: His beloved Child). Why? (A: Because Jesus lived and died for me!)
- What do you look forward to most about being with Jesus one day? (You're going to get some good ones here) ;)

New City Catechism Video: [The Benefits of Catechizing Your Children](#)

[New City Catechism Question 13](#)

Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.

Prayer

Good evening God! We are really glad you love to spend time with us. Today we felt _____ because _____. We know you know our feelings and our experiences and are always with us. You comfort us in tough times and celebrate with us in happy times. We ask you give us opportunities to love and serve other people tomorrow. Show us who we can love with the same love you love us with. Thanks for our family, God. And most of all, Thanks for Jesus and remind us every day how much you love us. You are awesome God. Amen.

Sermon Review ([back to table of contents](#))

Title: Intro to Ephesians

Text: Ephesians 1:1-2

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/intro-to-ephesians/>

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

One of the things sticks out the most about the book of Ephesians is its clear cut structure. Chapters 1-3 are full of deep, rich theology and Chapters 4-6 are instructions on how to live in light of that theology. This book is not only beautiful in its language and able to whisk you away with its detailed theology, but it also gives us a beautiful pattern with which we ought to approach all of the Christian life. That being that belief informs our actions. Doctrine is not merely a cerebral activity that doesn't have any practical implications, quite opposite of that it is precisely our theology that is the source of our practice. We will see this as we go through this great letter.

In an attempt to summarize the content of the book, I give you a key phrase to remember and a summary tagline. The key phrase is "in Christ". You'll see it over and over again throughout the letter and it is at the very center of what Paul believes is the revealed mystery of God.

The tagline for the entire book is Ephesians: Old Purpose, New Community. The purpose for God's people hasn't changed, they were always to be a reflection of their God, but now, because of the work of Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the church can now be a reflection of their God like they were never able to be previously.

The thing that sticks out most in these first two verses has to be Paul's calling the church "saints" and then telling them that they are faithful "in Christ" (theres that phrase!). What an amazing statement for us to cling to. Paul was not commenting on the specific actions of the Ephesians, he was pointing out to them this amazing truth- that their faithfulness (or "righteousness") is not of anything inherent in them, rather it resides in Christ Jesus. It is his faithfulness which is theirs. It is his faithfulness which has given them their sainthood, and it is his faithfulness that defines their right standing with God the Father. That faithfulness in which they find themselves will never waiver or wain. It will never grow weary or go through a season of staleness. In fact it wont move or change one iota because its already fully complete. "It is finished," as Jesus cried from the cross.

When you are tempted to be proud of your own goodness, and think you may have reached "sainthood", hear the apostle Paul say to you- you already are a saint, and your faithfulness is complete and finished in Christ. Cease your striving, put to death your pride and thank Christ for his good and faithful work for you. When you are tempted to sulk in misery that you are not faithful to God like you want to be, hear the apostle Paul say to you- you are a saint! Your faithfulness is complete and finished in Christ. Receive it once again today. Trust in it once again tomorrow. Amen.