

THE JESUS DIFFERENCE

“Christianity not only took over the empire, it radically altered the lives of those living in it... It was a revolution that effected government practices, legislation, art, literature, music, philosophy, and on the even more fundamental level – the very understanding of billions of people about what it means to be human.”

However one evaluates the merits of the case, whether the Christianization of the West was a triumph to be treasured or a defeat to be lamented, no one can deny it was the most monumental cultural transformation our world has ever seen.

The Triumph of Christianity: How a Forbidden Religion Swept the World. Bart Ehrmon

Ephesians – The Jesus Difference

Ephesians 1:1-14 – The Blessing

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

Ephesians 1:15-23 – The Prayer

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 1:17-20

Verse 17 – Good News!

We can know God better – epiginosko!

There is more...!

Verse 18 – the eyes of our heart – enlightened so that...

1. Past – “called”

2. Future – “glorious inheritance”
3. Present – “great power” (resurrection power!)

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 1:19-20a (NLT)

The Jesus Difference

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

Ephesians 5:8

The one essential for – The Jesus Difference

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write...”

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

*Yet I hold this against you: **You have forsaken the love you had at first.** Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.*

Revelation 2:1-5

The disciples of Jesus knew one thing – for sure- which was that Jesus loved them!

We love Him because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19 (NKJV)

Gather → Grow → Give → Go

Two central words of communion – “**Remember me**”