

Protagonists Anonymous Series
Epenetus
08/29/20
Newport News

Opening

- funeral reflections (separate page)
- Chris House, 6 year anniversary on staff...
- September 12th...a time of prayer and worship with Communion...
- last two weeks...next week Pastor Kevin Swann (Ivy Baptist)

Introduction

-How about some historical firsts?

- 1519 - Magellan circumnavigates the globe
- 1903 - First powered flight by Wright Brothers
- 508 BC - Greece attempts large scale democracy
- 1542 - First laws to abolish slavery (Spain)
- 1981 - First female Supreme Court Judge
- 1798 - First vaccine, small pox
- 1971 - First email between two computers
- 1440 - Printing press, Gutenberg
- 2007 - First Smart phone

- (it's a fascinating exercise...so many things we take for granted had a first...)

- And in the book of Romans, we find one of histories most important firsts...

-Romans 16:3-5

-Let me share with you tonight 3 lessons we find in the life Epenetus.

Living But Not Yet Alive

-Why does Paul refer to him as being the “first fruits” or a “convert?”

-John 3:3

Jesus is talking here about what we call The Gospel. The Good News is that Jesus died for us so we could be born into the family of God.

-John 1:12-13 (God created child birth so we could see...)

You might be living, but you are not yet fully alive until you have born into the family of God!

-(tell story of December of 1990...the day I became alive)

- Heaven is only for God’s family.
- Destiny and purpose are only for God’s family.
- The promises of God are only for God’s family.

-(pray...are you supposed to be a first?)

Known But Not Yet Beloved

-What does Paul mean by calling him “beloved” or even what is this list in this chapter really about?

-Ephesians 3:10 (1 Peter 1:10-12)

Beloved doesn’t just mean a deeply valued friendship, it means affection stoked by a common eternal purpose.

You will never know the full experience of being beloved until you are rooted in a local church.

-Ephesians 4:1-3 (show here how affection must be preceded by calling/purpose)

-Rooted means...

- **Devoted (Acts 2:42...and disagreement is the ultimate test...)**
- **Active (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)**
- **Invested (2 Corinthians 9:7)**
- **Honest (1 Corinthians 3:2)**

Present But Not Yet Assigned

-He became a Christian in Ephesus; what is he doing in Rome?

-The most common belief about Epenetus is that he made a vow of devotion to Jesus in Ephesus, then was part of a team of people who planted churches in Rome and eventually became the Bishop of Carthage...AND is considered by both the Greek Orthodox Church and Catholic Church to one of the 70 Apostles credited with the formation of Christianity.

-Acts 13:1-3

Are you just living in places that are of interest to you or are you responding to divine assignment?

-Three Questions

1. Was there a divine encounter? (tell my story of moving to NN)
2. Do I have a confident hope? (what do you feel)
3. Is this place a collective win? (for marriages and families)

Close

-Alive, Beloved, Assigned...