

We Are What God Has Made Us

A reading of Ephesians 1:1-2:10 for 3 voices

(Paul is centre stage. Tychicus approaches, holding a bunch of pages representing Paul's letter to the Ephesians.)

Tychicus: Hey, Paul.

Paul: Hello, Tychicus.

Tychicus: Well, I'm done.

Paul: Done what?

Tychicus: Proofreading your letter for the Ephesians.

Paul: Um, I wasn't really asking you to proofread it. I actually felt rather... well, you know, inspired when I wrote it.

Tychicus: Yeah, sure, I just... well, I have a couple of concerns.

Paul: I did remember to mention your name at the end...

Tychicus: Yeah, yeah, I know, it's not that.

Paul: Okay, let's hear it.

Tychicus: So, you have a really nice greeting to start things off...

Paul: Thank you.

Tychicus: ...but do you realize that the entire rest of your first page is just one sentence?

Paul: What's the matter with that?

Tychicus: Well, don't you think it's a little confusing? I mean you just go on and on and on and on...*(by now Paul has crossed his arms over his chest and raises his eyebrow at Tychicus)* Uhhh... don't get me wrong, it's awesome stuff, but you don't even put any breath marks in. How's a person supposed to read this to a group? It's totally overwhelming!

Paul: That's kind of the point, Tychicus.

Tychicus: Seriously?

Paul: Yes! Think about what I'm saying! When I get going on what God has done for

us in Jesus, I can barely stop to breathe myself! It's so amazing! Just imagine if you were sitting in a congregation (*motions to congregation*) and the reader stood up (*Reader gets up and goes to pulpit*) and started reading this letter. Can you just imagine God's good news washing over you in an unending wave?

Reader: Ephesians 1:1-14 (*as Reader begins, Paul and Tychicus turn and listen*)

Tychicus: (looking at Paul again) Okay, you're right, that's pretty amazing.

Paul: Thanks be to God.

Tychicus: But page 2 (*flips to next page of letter*) is the same thing. One long sentence!

Paul: What can I say, I have a style!

Reader: Ephesians 1:15-23 (*Paul and Tychicus turn and listen again*)

Tychicus: Seriously, I'm out of breath just listening.

Paul: Don't you get excited about God raising Christ from the dead and making him the head of the church?

Tychicus: Just don't say I didn't warn you when they start translating your letter into Parthian, Medean, and Elamite and who knows what other strange languages - and they edit some extra punctuation into it.

Paul: I take it a little easier on page 3, don't I? I'm sure I used at least 3 sentences.

Tychicus: That was hard for you, wasn't it?

Paul: (*smiles*) A little bit, yeah.

Reader: Ephesians 2:1-7 (*Paul and Tychicus turn and listen again*)

Tychicus: (*has been following along on his page occasionally, then says...*) Here comes sentence #2 (*holds up 2 fingers*)

Reader: Ephesians 2:8-9

Tychicus: (*holds up 3 fingers*)

Reader: Ephesians 2:10

Tychicus: Now that's a catchy line.

Paul: Yeah, I like that one too.

Tychicus: Say it again for me?

Paul: For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Tychicus: *(testing it out slowly)* For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. You know, I think you're right. You don't need my proofreading.

Paul: Thanks for the vote of confidence. Now, get that letter to Ephesus, would you?

(Tychicus hurries off. Paul walks off more slowly in the other direction. Reader goes back to his/her seat.)

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