



EPHESIANS

In Christ

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

Paul in Greek means little or small. Before Paul's conversion he was full of himself and his many achievements (Phil 3:5-8). After he encountered Jesus, in comparison to Him he was small and his works and effort meant nothing. Paul literally got knocked off his high horse on the road to Damascus.

The word apostle in Greek is apostolos and means a messenger that is sent. By the will of God reveals Paul did not appoint or put himself in this position. Some ministers place themselves in certain offices, but it is God who places a person in the fivefold ministry (Eph 4:11).

Ephesus was a region in Asia minor that was known for its size, wealth, and power. Ephesus means desirable and is one of the main regions that the Gospel was preached. It was the center of commerce and travel and was the third largest city in the Roman Empire. This area was also known for its worship of idols and was immersed heavily in sorcery and witchcraft (Acts 19).

Some denominations believe saints are those who have gone on to be with the Lord but anyone who is born again is a saint. It is not scriptural to worship the dead who have gone on to be with the Lord. The word saint is used nine times in this chapter. Paul is writing to those born again in Ephesus to establish them in their union with Christ and the benefits of that union.

Ephesians 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All of Paul's letters begin with grace and peace and some also include mercy. Grace is what God has already accomplished for man and is His power, ability, and strength to do what we could not possibly do on our own. Grace is available and was provided 2,000 years ago through Jesus. Grace and peace can also be multiplied through knowledge (2 Pet 1:2).

The word peace in Greek is eirēnē and means rest or peace between individuals. If we think our relationship with God is based off our performance there will be a lack of peace because the enemy will always attempt to accuse us of something. Rest will always follow grace and is where one ceases from their own works (Heb 4:10). Every religion is independent of peace.

Paul inserts the word Father immediately, which is a term unknown in the Old Testament. The Greek word for Father is patēr and means parent. Throughout this chapter Paul elaborates on the inheritance we

possess now that we are God's children. The Greek word for Father also indicates a radical truth that takes place when we get born again. It implies one who has infused his own spirit into another and the originator and transmitter of anything. The next verse initiates the remainder of the chapter and reveals the realities we possess in Christ now that we have been infused with His Spirit.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Paul wastes no time and sets the tone immediately stating that we have everything we would ever need. Paul uses the term blessed three times in this one verse. Victorious Christian living is found in understanding what God has already done (grace) through the finished works of the cross. This differs greatly from the Old Covenant. Most Christians are living as if the cross never existed and we are still begging God to do something.

The first three chapters of Ephesians explain what God has already done for us (grace) and the last three chapters describe how we should live (faith). Chapters 1-3 are doctrinal (vertical) and chapters 4-6 are practical (horizontal).

The moment we receive Jesus as our Lord we immediately have union with Him. Anytime we see "In Christ, In Him, or In Whom" throughout this book it is pointing us to our identity, who we are now, and what we have through Jesus. What is true of Jesus is true of any born again believer (1 Jn 4:17). Many people struggle to believe this because they cannot feel it. If we fail to see what took place when we were born again and what occurred when we received Jesus, we will live a very frustrated and defeated Christian life. There is nothing more frustrating than trying to become something you already are or work to get something you already got (Gal 2:21). At salvation, we were put into Christ by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:13), we become one with Him (1 Cor 6:17) and now everything Jesus has, He shares with us (Rom 8:17).

God is in covenant with Jesus and since I am in Jesus I get in on the covenant. That is the gospel and the word gospel means good news. If you are hearing what you have to do or that you need to become something you are not hearing the gospel. The gospel is about the finished works of Jesus, not what He is going to do someday.

The book of Ephesians is based off our identity "in Him". In today's modern culture if a person is famous or of status, they have special treatments and can gain access to where others may not. If we are attached or associated with a person of status when we need to get into places we just say "I am with them" and we are able to get what we need because of who we are with. We are not just with Him, we are "In Him" and gain access to anything we need and have all of heavens resources available to us because we are joined to Him (Rom 8:17).

He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Spiritual blessing simply means it is in the heavenly realm (unseen realm). These blessings do exist but it is our job by faith to draw out what we already have into the physical realm.

This is similar to having a bank account with millions of dollars. The money is there, it belongs to you but you may not physically see it. It is our job to make a withdraw from our account and get it into our hands. Likewise, we have all we need in the unseen realm (God has already deposited all we need in our spiritual account) but it is now our part to place a demand and make a withdraw and bring it into the physical. Healing, joy, peace or any other need we may have, God has already placed within us. Most Christians prayer life is based off petitioning God to do something. God give us peace, God heal us. That is pre-cross and not a New Covenant prayer.

Ephesians 1:4: *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*

The sister book of Ephesians is the book of Colossians. A parallel passage of scripture can be found in Colossians 1:22; which says “we are holy in His sight without blemish and free from accusation”. God is a spirit and we are a spirit (Jn 4:24, 1 Thes 5:23). The very moment we make Jesus our Lord we became identical to Him (1 Cor 6:17) and when God looks at us, He sees Jesus. God has 20/20 vision and does not have to squint when he looks at us with disappointment or with His eye brow raised. Not only does God see Jesus when he looks at us but the devil does too. What a shame it would be for the enemy to know who we are but us not to. We are before God in love, not disappointment.

This verse also says we were chosen. The word chosen in Greek is *eklegomai* and means to make a choice. God has made a choice to offer salvation to the entire world and anyone who puts faith in Jesus is chosen because we chose God’s chosen. This is not saying that God chooses some for heaven and some to go to hell. If God chose who would go where, why did He say He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)? Why did He say He desires all to be saved (1 Tim 2:4)? Lastly, why would He commission the church to preach the gospel if God is the one controlling who goes where (Rom 10:14)? There is no point in preaching the gospel if God has already made up His mind who He will accept or who He will reject. Man has a choice to either accept salvation through Jesus or reject it.

A college sports team selects their players and offers scholarships to them based off their performance and the coach is the one picking and choosing the players to be on their team. In God’s kingdom it is completely opposite. It is not God who is picking and choosing, it is the person. God does not choose based off performance but opens the door for man to choose which team they want to be on.

This was planned before the creation of the world, that God would redeem us and we would become new creatures in Christ (2 Cor 5:17). God does not wait until we have a problem or need to move. He’s waiting on us to move based off what He has already accomplished through His Son.

Ephesians 1:5 *having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,*

Predestined is a word used only four times in the New Testament. Two times in Ephesians (v.5, v.11) and two times in the book of Romans (Rom 8:29, 30). Many people believe this verse is saying God has predetermined who is saved and who will go to hell. This is not true because God is not willing that anyone should perish (2 Pet 3:9). To understand predestination, we have to know it is linked to foreknowledge. God foreknew who would put their faith in Jesus and in His foreknowledge, He predestined those to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:29).

This verse also says He predestined us to be adopted. When we put our faith in Jesus we got born again (Jn 3:3) and instantly we are translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light (Col 1:13). We now belong to a new family and have a new Father. We are no longer children of the devil (Eph 2:3). In American culture when a child is adopted, they are brought into a new family but still do not possess the DNA from the parents who adopted them. The scriptures say when we got born again, we became born of God (Jn 1:13) and now have His very nature in us.

When a recipient receives a new heart from a donor, studies have shown that the recipient adopts patterns of thinking and even desires after the heart transplant has taken place from the donor. At the new birth, we

received a heart transplant and a brand-new heart (Ez 36:27). This is God's heart and now we are in complete union with Him, spirit to spirit.

Notice this says according to the good pleasure of His will. Many Christians believe God sent Jesus out of pity, anger, or disappointment. No, it was His good pleasure and desire to come back into relationship with us (Jn 17:3).

God did not do anything out of obligation or to get anything from us but to give everything to us. God is delighted to make us His children (John 1:12).

Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

The word accepted in Greek is *charitoō* and means highly favored. We need to see ourselves after the spirit, identical to Jesus so when the enemy comes to condemn us or remind us of our failures, we need to be established in the truth that we are already accepted by God. No amount of sin or bad action will change this. We are just as accepted as Jesus is because when God looks at us, He sees Jesus (Eph 1:4). In the same way God was there for Jesus, He is there for us.

If you are born again, God has already made up His mind about you. Man's opinion may change about us but God's will never.

In Jesus' high priestly prayer Jesus prayed that the same glory that was given to Him would be given to us (Jn 17:22). The word glory in Greek is *doxa* and means view and opinion. Jesus' prayer was answered and the same view and opinion God has of Jesus, He has of us.

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

In Him is the key that unlocks the New Covenant realities. He is a king so we are a king. He is a priest, so we are a priest. He is victorious, so we are victorious. If anyone wants anything from God it comes from their union with Christ.

The Greek word for redemption is *apolutrōsis* and means a releasing effected by payment of ransom. This verse says we have redemption, past tense. Redemption means the buying back out of slavery. We were dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1) but God redeemed us through the blood of Jesus. Redemption is the forgiveness of sins. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Heb 9:22).

The world's system for forgiveness is apology and sorrow. God's system for forgiveness comes only through blood and that was already provided through His Son, Jesus. No amount of penance, rosary beads, or confession is enough to wash away your sins. Only the sinless blood of Jesus could do that (1 Jn 1:7). To think otherwise is to make Jesus of no effect (Gal 5:2) and is as if He died for nothing (Gal 2:21). Understanding this would clear up much religious error and set people free from the bondage of rules and rituals that religion brings.

Jesus is our Jubilee. All debt has been cancelled (Col 2:13, Eph 4:32), slaves are set free (Col 1:13), and all property and what we lost in the fall has been restored back to us (1 Cor 3:21, Gal 4:1). What we lost in the Garden of Eden we regained in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Gethsemane actually translates to "olive press". Gethsemane is where oil was pressed and where Jesus was pressed so that we can be released from the bondage of this world (Gal 1:4).

Ephesians 1:8 *which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,*

Again, this verse is telling us what God has already done (grace). He has abounded toward us all wisdom and prudence. Our born-again spirit has the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16) and knows all things (1 Jn 2:20). All wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ (Col 2:3). Many times, we rely on other outlets and sources for knowledge, however our spirit man knows all things and we can pray in the spirit at any moment to draw out this wisdom (Rom 8:26).

In God's wisdom, He came up with the plan to be both the justifier and satisfy justice. If a judge had a son who was on trial for murder but the judge just let his son go, he would not be serving justice. In the same way God did not just overlook sin and forgive us, rather He stepped down and appeared in the flesh (1 Tim 3:16), to become the very thing that separated us (2 Cor 5:21, Is 59:2) thus He became the justifier and justice was satisfied.

Ephesians 1:9 *having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,*

Made known means it is no longer a secret. What is Paul referring to that was the mystery of His will? The mystery that was hidden from the Old Testament saints is that God would become a man, die for us, and then choose to indwell us (Col 1:27). Who could have imagined God would make our bodies His permanent dwelling place (Jn 14:23). Why did the Old Testament saints not know this? Before the cross, no man could be born again thus everyone pre-cross was spiritually dead and disconnected from God (Eph 5:8). Old Testament saints could not understand spiritual things (1 Cor 2:14), therefore since we are now born again with the spirit of God in us, we are no longer in the dark and nor does God want us to be.

Any person that says they just can't understand God and do not know His will have not truly sought Him with their whole heart (Jer 29:13). God does not want us ignorant concerning His will (Eph 5:17, Col 1:9).

In context, the major mystery that was hidden from Old Testament saints is that Jews and Gentiles would become one new humanity in Christ Jesus. Paul goes into detail on this radical truth in chapter two of this book. The word pleasure in Greek is eudokia and means desire or delight. We must see God's true nature which is love (1 Jn 4:8) and that He saved us because of His desire to be with us. When Adam and Eve sinned, they sold the entire human race out to the devil and everyone born into this world is born with a sin nature that is dead and disconnected from God (Rm 5:12). God was not satisfied being disconnected from us so He sent Jesus and everyone who believes on Jesus now has a reborn spirit connected to God (Eph 5:8).

Ephesians 1:10 *that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*

The word dispensation in Greek is oikonomia and means administration. Dispensations are how God dealt with man during a particular period of time. There are seven dispensations in the Bible. The key to understanding the Bible and rightfully divide the Word of Truth is to understand that God dealt with man differently under different dispensations. Two main dispensations are the Mosaic covenant (law) and the covenant of grace. We are under the dispensation of grace. Under the Mosaic Law it was a performance-based system; that was if you do good get good. Under grace we get good because Jesus was good. It is through His obedience that we receive the blessing (Rom 5:19).

The Trump administration is different than the Biden administration. Many believers have failed to comprehend the covenant of Grace they are under with all its benefits and believe they are under the

Mosaic Law having to earn God's blessings and favor. Grace is God's free gift to us independent of our performance.

Ephesians 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

This verse Paul shares another benefit we received at salvation which is Christ inheritance. A person does not receive an inheritance when they die but when someone else does. We are partakers of Christ inheritance (Col 1:12) and all that belongs to Jesus belongs to us because we are IN HIM. When we fail to realize what belongs to us, we will continually beg God to do something He has already provided for us. How many times have we asked God to bless us, give us peace, or to release His power? If Jesus has it, we have it now. We must perceive this by faith and not by feeling.

God has made everything available to a believer. The children of Israel were in proximity of the promised land but never entered in. I do not want to be in proximity of my inheritance and never experience it due to lack of knowledge (Hos 4:6).

Ephesians 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Our trust is in Christ and His finished works not ourselves.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

God made salvation so easy to receive. Faith comes by hearing, hearing coming by the Word (Rom 10:17). Once the Word or gospel (good news) was preached that Christ came to die on man's behalf and all we have to do is receive that payment, we believed and were saved. So, we heard (Rom 10:14), believed, and then we were sealed by the Holy Spirit. Our born again spirit is identical to Jesus (1 Cor 6:17) and sin can no longer penetrate that spirit (1 Jn 3:9) because we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit.

We may sin in our souls or our bodies, but sin will never penetrate our spirit man. Our spirit man is sealed and marked with security in the same way an important package is sealed and marked for shipping during high priority mailing. The word sealed in Greek is sphragizo and means a private mark of security for high preservation or for security; from Satan. We can see the trinity expressed by Paul in chapter one of this book. The Father predestines us for adoption (v.5), the Son redeems us (v.7), and the Holy Spirit seals us.

Ephesians 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

The word earnest in Greek is arrhabon and means security. The word earnest or guarantee refers to a down payment. The Holy Spirit is our down payment until our souls are completely renewed and we receive our glorified bodies (Rom 8:23). The purchased possession was for the whole man including our souls and bodies but we will not receive that fully until we go to be with the Lord. Until then we must renew our minds (Rom 12:2) to who we are in Christ and bring our flesh under subjection to our spirit man. Praying in tongues will remind us that our salvation is real and operating in the gifts of Spirit will as well.

Eph 1:15 *Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,*

Paul's letter to the Ephesians is to establish the believers who were mainly Gentiles of their position and identity in Christ and as a byproduct how to walk out this union in our everyday lives. Unlike many of Paul's other letters that were correctional in doctrinal error, Paul is commending the Ephesians for putting their faith solely in Christ and not moving into self-effort. The foundation of our salvation is first vertical and relational with the Lord Jesus and as a result we move into the horizontal and into our love for the saints and other people. Trying to love others outside of God's love for us first is impossible.

Ephesians 1:16 *do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:*

Paul constantly expressed thanksgiving in his letters. This is amazing that Paul is giving thanks and mentioning others in his prayers considering he was in prison.

Ephesians 1:17 *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,*

Paul is now moving into the heart of his letter that many believers today need to key in on how Paul prayed. As we study the epistles, we can see Paul never prayed a prayer for God to do more, as much prayer is today. In this verse it seems contradictory to what he wrote in verse eight but the two verses complement one another. We already have all wisdom in our born again spirit (1 Cor 2:16) but Paul is praying that we would release out into our flesh what was already present in our spirit. Believers today should pray the way Paul prayed here in that we would get revelation of what has already been done for us. All wisdom and knowledge are found in Jesus (Col 2:3) and the Holy Spirit is our teacher and will make the word of God come alive and bring revelation knowledge.

The Holy Spirit is like a tour guide that knows exactly where everything is on the trail. Without the tour guide we would be lost. A tour guide will also highlight things throughout the trail that may not be easily noticed or caught. Likewise, the Holy Spirit will highlight the scriptures and show you what belongs to you and who you are. He is delighted to do this.

Ephesians 1:18 *the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

We are a three-part being; spirit, soul, and body (1 Thes 5:23). One third of our salvation is already complete. So, what part of us is Paul praying that needs to be enlightened? Our soul that is linked to our understanding. Our born again spirit is identical to Jesus and possesses the very life of God but our souls are the part that need to be renewed and made to see what has already been accomplished in our spirits (Eph 4:23).

The Greek word for enlightened is photizo and means to make to see. Know in Greek in this verse is eido and also means to see. In this verse alone, Paul says three times that we would see. Victorious Christian living is found in seeing what God has already done. Again, Paul is not praying for God to do anything new. There is provision for everything we would ever need in this life and we need to start praying for the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see what belongs to us already.

Paul also prays here that we would know the hope of His calling. This says His calling not our own. At the new birth we became new creatures identical to Jesus and it is no longer us that live but Christ in us (Gal 2:20) so we now have His calling. What was Jesus calling? 1 John 3:8 says the reason Jesus appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. Jesus walked in victory and authority over circumstances

and the devil (Acts 10:38) and has now passed that same commission to His church (Mt 28:19, Lk 10:19).

In verse 11, Paul said we have already obtained an inheritance. This verse dives deeper and tells us it is His inheritance. Everything Jesus has and is, He shares with us. Where is it? It is IN the saints, inside of us. We need not look somewhere out there for what we need. Do you need peace, joy, or self-control? It is already present in your born again spirit (Gal 5:22-23) but is up to us to draw it out (Phil 2:13).

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

The previous verse says we have His calling, His inheritance, and now Paul says we have His power. The key to understanding the New Testament is our union with Christ and our in Christ realities. This power is toward us or for us and is for our benefit. God has invested His power inside His children and expects us to walk in the same dominion and authority Jesus did while on this earth (Jn 14:12). We could not walk in greater works than Jesus with a lesser power given to us (Jn 14:12).

Ephesians 1:20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead dwells us in. The word according to means to the degree of. When Jesus rose from the dead every demon in hell was present to oppose Him from coming out victorious. Hell could not hold Him because He had no sin (2 Cor 5:21, 1 Pet 2:22, Heb 4:15). Jesus had every demon and force of darkness against Him yet that could not stop the power of God from raising Him from the dead. There is no situation we are in that every demon is assigned to our case so we have more than enough power present within us to be victorious in any situation the enemy throws at us.

It is important to note we cannot feel this power. We should not try to detect this power through our five senses. Much like we cannot feel the power flowing through our television or electrical units in our home but the power is present and available. The supply is there, we simply need to turn on the switch and allow the power to flow through us and we do that by faith. Faith is not believing God can do something. It is taking Him at His Word that He has already done everything. God is the power source and we are the transmission line. When we go to lay hands on the sick it is God's power through us that the person is healed.

The water company has already released the supply of water to our faucets in our home. It is up to us to turn the spigot or nozzle to release the water into our sink. The water is available long before we turn the nozzle. We could die of thirst sitting next to a faucet and begging the water company to give us water when they have already done their part. No matter how desperate we are, the water company will not come to our home and turn the spigot. They are the supplier and it is up to us to release. To the degree that we can renew our minds is parallel to how much power we will release.

Ephesians 1:21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

No Christian would debate me if I said Jesus was raised from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father. The controversy begins and where many Christians fall short is believing when He raised from the dead and they put their faith in Christ, they also raised from the dead and are seated far above the kingdom of darkness.

We are not in a face to face confrontation with the enemy. We are on the high ground, and he is on the low ground. We are on the high ground of joy, healing, blessing and the enemy wants us to think we are striving to become someone and get something from God. Jesus humbled Himself, therefore God exalted Him to the highest position and gave Him a name above every other name. Jesus then delegated His Name to the church to use (Luke 10:17, Jn 14:14, Mk 16:18). If it has a name, Jesus' name is higher than it. Cancer, lack, or depression is beneath the name of Jesus.

Ephesians 1:22 *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,*

The Greek word for under is hupo and means to place beneath. The Father did not leave us here as orphans but has given us all dominion as kings and placed all things under subjection to us.

If everything is under Jesus' feet and we are the body than everything is under our feet. We should be looking at our problems from heaven's perspective (Col 3:2). If there is lack, we know we have the power to get wealth available to us (Deu 8:18). If grief tries to cripple us, we should see the joy of the Lord as our strength (Neh 8:10).

The enemy is under our feet but and our responsibility is to keep him out of our head.

Ephesians 1:23 *which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

The body cannot function without the head. Jesus is the Head and we are the body. Jesus in a sense is the brains of the operation and we are the body to go out and execute His will. He flows through us and we are His ambassadors on earth (2 Cor 5:20). Jesus is not complete without us because of His investment in us. Most know we need Jesus, but few believe He needs us. God's will does not come to pass outside His people. God's intervention in our life is dependent on us because He has delegated authority to man (Ps 8:6). Why did Jesus not heal anyone after He rose from the dead? He passed the baton to His church and it is now our turn (Mt 28:19).