

## A Study of Ephesians 1

### I. Outline.

1. Salutation (Ephesians 1.1-2).
  2. All spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1.3-14).
    - 1) Chosen in Christ (Ephesians 1.4).
    - 2) Adopted through Christ (Ephesians 1.5).
    - 3) Abundant grace in Christ (Ephesians 1.6).
    - 4) Redemption and forgiveness in Christ (Ephesians 1.7).
    - 5) Knowledge and Wisdom in Christ (Ephesians 1.8-9).
  3. God's heritage our inheritance in Christ (Ephesians 1.11-14).
  4. Prayer for the church in Ephesus (Ephesians 1.15-23).
    - 1) The constant object of Paul's prayers (Ephesians 1.15-16).
    - 2) Prayer for enlightenment (Ephesians 1.17-19).
  5. The exaltation of Christ (Ephesians 1.20-23).
- from Mark Dunagan Commentaries, an e-Sword Module.

### II. Summary.

Paul presents to us an abundantly comprehensive development of the nature of the Lord's church. FROM CHAPTER ONE: It is made up of the saints. It is composed of those who BELIEVE. It is the realm of GRACE and PEACE. It is the sphere in which is experienced EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING. It is the realization of God's foreordination. It is the realm of RIGHTEOUS LIVING. It is the realm of SONSHIP. It is the realm of BLESSED HOPE. It is the realm of being SEALED with the Spirit, the realm of BROTHERLY LOVE, the realm of sacred KNOWLEDGE, the realm of available divine power. It is that over which Christ is HEAD. It is the BODY OF CHRIST. It is that which completes the Christ [Roy C. Deaver, "The Church of Christ—And the Book of Ephesians," in *The Church of Christ—Essential, All-Sufficient, Indestructible, Perpetually Relevant*, edited by Thomas B. Warren, pp. 306ff].

### III. Chronology.

**BIBLE PERIOD:** The Period of the Church.

*If you are not familiar with the 15 Bible Periods, please click here:* <http://bit.ly/Rvd8gW>

You can read an excellent article on Chronology from Wayne Jackson here:

<https://tinyurl.com/wylvljh>

### IV. Words/Phrases to Study

- Ephesians 1.1-2... "Paul wrote this letter as one who was specially chosen and sent by the Lord himself (Acts 9:10-16). He wrote to the saints in Ephesus. A saint is one sanctified, or set apart, for God's service (1 Corinthians 6:11). Sanctification is an ongoing process God is completing in us as long as we are on this earth (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The 'faithful' would be the same group of people as the saints (Ephesians 1:1). Notice, their location is 'in Christ Jesus,' an expression which is used some thirty-six times in this epistle. Since the Lord adds the saved to the church (Acts 2:47), we conclude being in Christ is synonymous with being in the church, which seems to be supported by Ephesians 1:22-23. Grace, or some form of it, was the typical Greek greeting, while peace was the normal Hebrew greeting. The Father is the source of unmerited favor for lost mankind and that grace produces both an inner peace and a desire to live in peace with others. (1 Peter 5:10; Hebrews 13:20; Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 5:43-48.) God's grace and the peace it brings to us is extended to man through his Son, so Paul appropriately says it is from God and the

Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:2)” [Gary C. Hampton, *Walking in the Lord’s Way*, an e-Sword Module].

- Ephesians 1:4... **ACCORDING AS HE HATH CHOSEN US**—“All people are called, but few are chosen (Mt 22:14; Rev 22:17). All Christians, both Jews and Gentiles, are now the elect ones of God (Rom 8:23-24; Mark 13:27; 1 Pet 1:1; 2:9; Rev 17:14). Before the foundation of the world God hath chosen us in him (Eph 1:4). Did he do it arbitrarily, picking out certain individuals? Or did he pick out certain kinds of individuals? If he picked certain individuals regardless of their character, then he is a respecter of persons (Acts 10:35). If he picked certain persons to be saved and abandoned the rest as the non-elect, he is not love (1 John 4:8). On the other hand, if he picked certain kinds of individuals, namely, those who work to be holy and without blame before him in love, (Eph 1:4), then he is no face-receiver, and he is love. It would appear, then, that his election is always of this character, not of an arbitrary selection. Each Christian must develop his own holiness and blamelessness and love (1 Pet 1:16; Phil 2:14-15; Heb 13:1). Lest he become a reprobate, he must prove himself according to the prescribed blueprint for elect people (2 Cor 13:5)” [Hugo McCord, “Expression of Praise of God,” in *The Book of Ephesians*, edited by Garland Elkins & Thomas B. Warren, p. 13, Emphasis mine, DRL]. ||||| “Before proceeding further in the study of this epistle, it is very important to get firmly fixed in the mind the use of the words we and us, and ye and you, as used in the first, second, and third chapters. We and us are used down to and through the twelfth verse, and refer to the Jewish Christians [Paul himself being of that number, DRL]; beginning with the thirteenth verse, ye and you are used, and refer to the Gentile Christians” [David Lipscomb, *A Commentary on the New Testament Epistles*, Vol IV, p. 17].
- Ephesians 1:5... **HAVING PREDESTINATED US**—“The Bible does teach predestination, but not after the Calvinistic variety. Notice the phrase IN HIM. God foreknew, before the foundation of the world, that He would save people IN CHRIST. Both the realm and conditions of salvation were foreknown (1 Peter 1:20; 1Peter 2:4; Romans 1:17). But to say that God chose specifically ‘who’ would be saved or lost, without any consideration of what decisions they would make in life, is false. The people to whom Jesus and the Apostles preached were called upon to ‘repent’ (Mark 1:15; Acts 17:30). As Boles remarks, ‘and their destiny depends upon their response’ (p. 203). (Acts 2:38; Acts 2:40; Acts 13:46; Revelation 22:17; 2 Peter 3:9). The gospel, the means by which God CALLS (2 Thessalonians 2:14), was to be preached to all creation (Mark 16:16). Hence, God has not pre-determined the saved or lost status of any individual, because everyone is given the same opportunity. ‘Jesus taught that to be included among the “chosen,” people must not only be invited--they must also accept the invitation (Mat\_22:1-14)” [Boles p. 203]. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:11). Calvinistic predestination makes God look like a hypocrite for He wants all men saved (2 Peter 3:9), but if Calvinism is true He has already acted in a manner contrary to that professed belief. The very people CHOSEN in Ephesians 1:4, are expected to live a life that is ‘holy and blameless’ (1:4), and these same people can forfeit their salvation (Ephesians 5:6). Hence if a Christian can end up lost (which the Bible clearly teaches, Galatians 5:4), then we know that God has not ‘locked’ anyone into a ‘saved’ or ‘lost’ status. The CHOSEN are those IN HIM, that means in Christ. Thus becoming one of the ‘chosen’ is conditional (Galatians 3:26-27).” [Mark Dunagan Commentaries, An e-Sword Module].
- Ephesians 1.6... **ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED**—“The expression freely bestowed (Ephesians 1:6 [ASV]) comes from the same root as the word grace. Rotherham’s translation of Ephesians 1:6 brings this out very clearly: ‘Unto the praise of the glory of His favour (grace), wherewith he favoured us in the Beloved One.’ The expression means to pursue with grace, compass with favor, honor with blessings. The King James translation of Ephesians 1:6 is not good” [Wilbur Fields, *The Glorious Church: A Study of Ephesians*, Bible Study Textbook Series, an e-Sword Module].

- Ephesians 1.7-9... **REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD**—“A redemption price is paid to buy something back. As Lipscomb says, in this case it is to rescue from bondage to the devil. It is in Christ and through his blood particularly, that we find release from, or forgiveness of, sins (Hebrews 9:22; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Matthew 26:28; John 19:31-34; Romans 6:3-4). Coffman notes the word here used for forgiveness means ‘letting go’ and is only used in Romans 4:7 and Colossians 1:14. This is done through the great wealth of God's unmerited favor bestowed upon sinful man (Ephesians 1:7). Out of the riches of His grace, God went beyond our need and provided wisdom, or the full knowledge of the divine plan of salvation. He also provided prudence, which is the understanding of that plan (Ephesians 1:8). The plan was a mystery because it was covered or hidden. (2 Corinthians 3:9-18.) The mystery was uncovered in Christ as it pleased God (Ephesians 1:9)” [Gary C. Hampton].
- Ephesians 1.9... **THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL**—“What specifically did Paul have in mind when he wrote of the mystery of God’s will? What was it that was revealed? He answers this question in Ephesians 3.3-6—**How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.**” The thing that had been hidden but was now revealed (the mystery) was the scope of the gospel. The gospel was for both Jew and Gentile [Gene Burgett, “Christ, in Whom All things Are Summed Up,” in Studies in Ephesians, Edited by Dub McClish, 1997, p. 35].
- Ephesians 1.10... **THAT IN THE DISPENSATION OF THE FULNESS OF TIMES**—“Let us summarize the meaning of Ephesians 1:10. God had purposed to save man **“before the foundation of the world”** (Ephesians 1:4). But the arrangement by which this would be accomplished did not come to pass until the cross (‘the fullness of the times’). This arrangement (‘dispensation’) will continue until Jesus comes again, so we could correctly say that the entire gospel age constitutes **‘the fulness of the times.’** When Jesus comes again all of God's creatures here on earth (mankind) that have been reconciled by the blood of Christ will be able to rejoice and worship God in Heaven along with those creatures ‘in the heavens.’” [Gene Burgett, p. 36].
- Ephesians 1.13... **YE WERE SEALED WITH THAT HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE**—“Ephesians 1.13 brings up the work of the Holy Spirit. Paul tells the Gentile believers that they were ‘sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise’ when they exercised faith in the gospel message. The seal of which Paul wrote was placed on letters, contracts, or other important documents. Usually the seal was of wax, which was placed on the document and impressed with a signet ring. The seal identified the document with the owner and authority of the signet ring. Thus, being ‘sealed with the Holy Spirit’ simply means that when people become Christians the Spirit identifies them as belonging to or being under the authority of the One the seal represents, which is, of course, God” [Gene Burgett, p. 38].
- Ephesians 1.14... **THE EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE**—“The Holy Spirit is like a down payment or guarantee that the Christian will be allowed to enter heaven. In Ephesians 1:14, Paul uses ‘our’ because this guarantee is for all in Christ, both Jew and Gentile. The redemption Christians still look forward to is that of our bodies from the tomb. When we come forth, it will of course be to the glory of God” [Gary C. Hampton].
- Ephesians 1.18... **THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING BEING ELIGHTENED**—“ The heart is the innermost center of man. It is the seat of the understanding and the source of thoughts, desires, emotions, words, and actions. It is the motive power of human life. Whatever is in the heart rules the conduct The eyes of the heart enable one to look out on the world and shape his course. This is a figure of speech that is common in all languages. What the eye is to the natural body the mind is to the soul of man. When the Lord Jesus appeared unto Saul on the way to Damascus, he said unto him: “To this end have I appeared unto thee, to appoint thee a minister and a witness both of the things wherein thou hast seen me, and of the things wherein I will appear unto thee; delivering

thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom I send thee, to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in me.” (Acts 26:16-18)” [David Lipscomb, *Commentary on Romans though Philemon* (edited, with additional notes by J.W. Shepherd), Reformatted by Bradley Cobb, 2014, An e-Sword Module].

- Ephesians 1:22... **AND GAVE HIM TO BE THE HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH**—“There are three ways Paul says God's greatness is seen. It was seen in the sending of Christ. His resurrection from the dead being the ultimate evidence during the time Christ spent on earth (Romans 1:4; Acts 2:23-24). Further, God seated Jesus on the throne of power (Ephesians 1:20; Acts 2:24-36; Hebrews 1:3). He then gave Jesus authority over all other authorities both in this present world and the one to come (Ephesians 1:21; Matthew 28:18; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:18). It might be said there is a fourth way God showed his power in Christ, or at least an extension of the third. Jesus was made the ruling head of the church, with all phases of it being under his direction and authority (1 Peter 5:4). That church is synonymous with Christ's body. Later in the letter, Paul states there is only one body which plainly establishes the fact that there is only one church (Ephesians 4:4). The church makes Christ full, because it was his ultimate purpose to establish the church (Matthew 16:13-20). Also, in his coming and establishing the church Jesus fulfilled all God's purpose in all that he did, especially the redeeming of man (Ephesians 1:22-23)” [Gary C. Hampton].
- Ephesians 1:17... **MAY GIVE UNTO YOU THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION**—“This prayer was primarily an intercession for the Ephesian Christians—a petition that God would give them such a ‘spirit.’ The question here that has occasioned some difficulty among commentators is whether this is a reference to the Holy Spirit or the human spirit or a spiritual attitude or endowment. ... ..a comparison with the very similar statement in Paul’s prayer for the Colossians (1:9) is weighty evidence for the same meaning here. There Paul said, ‘spiritual (pneumatike) wisdom and understanding.’ To have such ‘spiritual’ qualities one must have ‘a spirit’ that is characterized by the wisdom and revelation that come from God” [Gary Workman, *The Book of Ephesians*, p. 17].

## V. Lessons & Applications.

1. God in Ephesians 1.
  - 1) Sovereign (1, 2, 5).
  - 2) A Father (2, 3, 17).
  - 3) A Blessor (3).
  - 4) Eternal and Non-Related to the Material (4).
  - 5) A God of Care (6).
2. Christ in Ephesians 1.
  - 1) Christ (1).
  - 2) Jesus (1).
  - 3) The Lord (1, 2).
  - 4) The Beloved (6).
3. The Holy Spirit in Ephesians 1.
  - 1) The Spirit of promise (13).
  - 2) A Sealer (13).
  - 3) An Earnest (14).
4. Christians in Ephesians 1.
  - 1) Saints (1).
  - 2) The faithful ones (1).
  - 3) The IN CHRIST ones (1).
  - 4) Members of His body (22, 23).
5. The Church in Ephesians 1.

- 1) A purchased institution (14).
- 2) The body of Christ (22, 23).
- 3) The fullness of Christ (23).
6. The Scheme of Redemption in Ephesians 1.
  - 1) According to a plan (4, 5).
  - 2) Involved a people (1, 3, 4, 5).
  - 3) Involved a place—IN CHRIST (3, 22, 23).
7. Appellations of the word of God (Eph 1:13).
  - 1) The Word.
  - 2) The Word of Truth.
  - 3) The Gospel.
8. Preaching should result in producing faith, rather than destroying it (Eph 1:13).
9. Headquarters of the church of Christ (Eph 1:3, 22, 23). It is where the Head resides (1 Pet 3:22).

VI. Questions.

**True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_ Through grace Christians have been made accepted in the Beloved.
02. \_\_\_\_ There is a verse which stresses unity in Christ in this chapter.
03. \_\_\_\_ There is no mention of the word GOSPEL in this chapter.
04. \_\_\_\_ Paul had heard of some things about this church.
05. \_\_\_\_ This chapter tells us the church is the body of Christ.

**MATCHING**

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 06. ____ All spiritual blessings        | A. through His blood            |
| 07. ____ In whom we have redemption     | B. in heavenly places in Christ |
| 08. ____ The gospel                     | C. being enlightened            |
| 09. ____ The eyes of your understanding | D. under His feet               |
| 10. ____ And hath put all things        | E. of your salvation            |

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. Far \_\_\_\_\_ all principality, and power, and might, and \_\_\_\_\_, and every \_\_\_\_\_ that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.
12. To the \_\_\_\_\_ of the glory of his \_\_\_\_\_, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
13. Paul wrote this letter to the \_\_\_\_\_ which are at \_\_\_\_\_.
14. IN CHRIST, Christians have obtained \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Paul did not \_\_\_\_\_ to give \_\_\_\_\_ for these Christians in Ephesus.

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.** The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. -DRL

L C C P L E A S U R E Y D E M  
M P U R P O S E V G R A C E F  
L O V E L B A W F W I S D O M  
F W R D A E I H B J C L O R D  
J E H E C I N E L V H H O L Y  
M R E S E N T R E H E A V E N  
V Y J T S G S E S D S V O D C  
V N L I C H R I S T H I N G S  
B A F N F U L N E S S N T L Y  
E M A A C C O R D I N G F O J  
L E T T R U S T E D H E A R D  
I N H E R I T A N C E C I Y J  
E R E D E M P T I O N G T T E  
V P R A I S E V D I L J H I S  
E O W O R L D M A D E U P T U  
L F A A L S O G O O D H B U S

<b>ACCORDING</b>	<b>ALSO</b>	<b>BEING</b>	<b>BELIEVE</b>	<b>BLESSED</b>
<b>CHRIST</b>	<b>FAITH</b>	<b>FATHER</b>	<b>FULNESS</b>	<b>GLORY</b>
<b>GOOD</b>	<b>GRACE</b>	<b>HAVING</b>	<b>HEARD</b>	<b>HEAVEN</b>
<b>HOLY</b>	<b>INHERITANCE</b>	<b>JESUS</b>	<b>LORD</b>	<b>LOVE</b>
<b>MADE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>PLACES</b>	<b>PLEASURE</b>	<b>POWER</b>
<b>PRAISE</b>	<b>PREDESTINATED</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>REDEMPTION</b>	<b>RICHES</b>
<b>SAINTS</b>	<b>THINGS</b>	<b>TRUSTED</b>	<b>WHEREIN</b>	<b>WISDOM</b>
<b>WORLD</b>				



**IX. EXTRA CREDIT FOR “SUPER” Bible Students...**

*Will you please consider answering these three SIMPLE questions based on the Bible text of this chapter? I will try to make use of your answers. Bring them with you next week. Tear out this last sheet from the Study Guide and be prepared to put it in a basket. I think it will be a great help to all of those in the class if you will do so. Thank you in advance for your marvelous cooperation!*

**W O R D: What word would you like to know more about in this chapter?**

**W O N D E R: I wonder what this phrase, verse, or series of verses means...**

**W I S H: I wish myself—or others whom I know or even don’t know—would understand this fact, principle, or concept from this chapter...**