

# “THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS”

## CHAPTER ONE

THEME: “All spiritual blessings in Christ” Verse 3

### MAIN DIVISIONS:

1. GRACE AND PEACE SALUTATIONS VSS. 1-2
2. PRAISE TO AND BENEFITS FROM:
  - GOD THE FATHER VSS. 3-6
  - OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST VSS. 7-12
  - THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE VSS. 13-14
3. PRAYERFUL REQUESTS TO GOD: VSS. 15-19
4. THE PROMOTION OF CHRIST VSS. 20-23

### INTRODUCTION:

Just as it was the determinate counsel of God that Jesus should die Acts 2:23 and that Paul should be one of his apostles, so it was His determinate will that He would bless all who would obey His Son Jesus Christ.

However what does the term: “in Christ” mean and where in the world could it possibly be located? What are the blessings that God would bless us with and how many of those blessings has God decided we could enjoy?

### BODY:

#### ➤ GRACE AND PEACE SALUTATIONS:

- Paul identifies himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ because of the will of God. Galatians 1:15-16 the implication being that whatever he was about to say to the saints at Ephesus had God’s approval. Acts 26:16
- It was because of the undeserved kindness of God that the Ephesians were in a state of reconciliation (peace) with God. Colossians 1:21

#### ➤ PRAISE TO AND BENEFITS FROM GOD THE FATHER: Who

- He chose us
- He adopted us
- He made us acceptable

#### ➤ PRAISE TO AND BENEFITS FROM JESUS CHRIST: In whom

- He redeemed us
- He abounded towards us in all wisdom and prudence
- He revealed the mystery of His will to us
- He gave us an inheritance

#### ➤ PRAISE TO AND BENEFITS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT: Who is

- Our seal of promise
- The earnest of our inheritance

GOD’S CHOICE OF US:

TIME: “Before the foundation of the worlds”

PURPOSE: “That we should be holy and blameless before Him in love”

GOD’S MEDIUM:  
“In Christ”  
GOD’S AREA:  
“In heavenly places”

Paul's prayer was because of:

1. Their faith in Jesus
2. Their love for the saints

➤ PRAYERFUL REQUESTS TO GOD:

- The spirit of wisdom and revelation
- Eyes of understanding to be enlightened to know:
  - The hope of His calling
  - The riches of His glory
  - The exceeding greatness of His power
- Which was demonstrated when He raised Christ from the dead

➤ THE PROMOTION OF CHRIST:

- God raised Him to sit on His right hand.
- God gave Him a superlative name to any other
- God made Him to be head over all things to the church.

CONCLUSION:

- ❖ “Which He wrought in Christ” thus the Holy Spirit reveals that Jesus is the main focus of the design of God for the benefit of those who are His. Colossians 1:18
- ❖ God’s elected medium through which He would shower His blessings upon man is the church of which Jesus Christ is the head – it is indeed therefore “the fullness of Him that filleth all in all”
- ❖ If we are to receive all the blessings God promised, we have to be in Christ, which is in His church whose area of operation is in the spiritual realm.

THE WILL OF GOD

✠ “THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL”

VERSE 5

- Allowed God to beforehand determine our adoption as children through Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:5

✠ “THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL”

VERSE 9

- God made known to us in accordance with His good pleasure, which He undertook in Himself.

Colossians 1:26

✠ “THE COUNSEL OF HIS OWN WILL”

VERSE 11

- Worked all things in such a way that we could have a predetermined inheritance.

I Peter 1:4

“IN HEAVENLY PLACES” = “IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM”

EPHESIANS 1:3	This is where God gave us all spiritual blessings
EPHESIANS 1:20	This is where God raised Christ to sit on His right hand
EPHESIANS 2:6	This is where Jew & Gentile were raised to sit together
EPHESIANS 3:10	This is the area where the principalities & powers are to whom the church should make known the wisdom of God.
EPHESIANS 6:12	This is where the principalities & powers are that we are to fight against.

“PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS”

ROMANS 8:38	These things cannot separate us from the love of God
EPHESIANS 3:10	The church is to make known to them the manifold wisdom of God.
EPHESIANS 6:12	These are the things amongst other that we have to fight against
COLOSSIANS 1:16	They were created by Christ. (Exodus 9:16, Romans 9:17)
COLOSSIANS 2:15	Jesus defeated them openly
TITUS 3:1	We must be subject to them. (Obviously the physical ones – i.e. the Government)

## PROBLEM:

EPHESIANS 1:12~14

“...you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession...”

The apostle Paul wrote to the saints in Ephesus concerning the above but what does it mean?

- 1) Sealed – how and when?
- 2) Inheritance – what?
- 3) Redeemed – when and how?

### A. SEALED:

This sealing is traditionally explained as that which happened to the household of Cornelius.

They were the first Gentiles to be inducted into the kingdom of Christ. (Acts 10~11)

This is referred to as the spearhead and guarantee that all Gentiles were henceforth to be viewed as fit entrants for the kingdom of Christ (Colossians 1:13) on faithful obedience to the gospel of Christ.

But how would a congregation in Ephesus a world away from Caesarea be convinced that such is the application the apostle is making in these verses?

Could Paul not rather be referring to an incident much closer to home that had particular reference to the Ephesians? (Acts 19:1~7; Ephesians 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22)

### B. INHERITANCE:

If the apostle here has in mind heaven and eternal life then he would be implying that the guarantee would continue to that point as well.

But the guarantee was based on the sealing of the Holy Spirit which referred to the miraculous endowments of the Spirit. Would this not suggest that the miraculous should then continue indefinitely?

### C. REDEEMED:

If the redemption also refers to when Jesus returns then the miraculous should also continue because they are linked with the word: “until” (indicating duration)

Could there not be a redemption which does not refer to the second coming of Christ and yet still be God redeeming His people?

## SOLUTION:

LUKE 21:20~33

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies then know that its desolation is near”

Verse 28 “redemption is near”

Verse 30 “summer is near”

Verse 31 “kingdom is near”

Verse 32 “within this generation”

One could also ask: “how could an event that happened a world away in Palestine have any bearing on the saints in Ephesus?” The answer to that is: Jerusalem was the basis of persecution by the unconverted Jews and the Judaizers among the saints in Ephesus as it was in the rest of the churches (Acts 15:1~2)

When their basis would be destroyed, so would their power to harass the saints (Romans 16:20)

## THE CONCLUSION:

Even though the Holy Spirit of promise would continue to stand as the guarantee of our inheritance, the sealing would be until the redemption of the purchased possession (the deliverance of the church from under the persistent persecution of the Jewish authorities – this would be brought about through the destruction of Jerusalem)