

Ephesians

The Epistle of Ephesians is written by Paul to the saints in Ephesus in A.D. 64. Ephesians is one of the "prison epistles." It was written by Paul while he was a prisoner in Rome. It describes all the spiritual blessings we have in Christ: adoption, acceptance, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, inheritance, the seal of the Holy Spirit, life, grace and citizenship.

Ephesians 1:1-6

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God." (Eph. 1:1a)

Paul became an apostle of Jesus Christ not by his own will, desire, and choosing or the will of others but by the will of God. (Gal. 1:1; Gal. 1:11-24).

"To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus." (Eph. 1:1b)

Contrary to what the Roman Catholic Church teaches, in the New Testament all true believers are called "saints". They are the ones who have been justified and sanctified in Christ Jesus. The Roman Catholic Church identifies certain ones as "saints" after their death. But the Bible teaches otherwise. Paul addresses his epistle to the saints who are living who are true believers in Christ.

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (Eph. 1:2)

This is a common greeting in Paul's epistles. Notice that equality of Christ with God the Father. Grace and peace comes to us from both God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Grace is the unmerited and undeserved favor of God toward man.

"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." (Eph. 1:3)

God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Here are a few: adoption, acceptance, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, inheritance, the seal of the Holy Spirit, life, grace and citizenship.

"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, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." (Eph. 1:4-5)

In this verse we learn of the doctrine of Election and Predestination. God chose certain ones in Christ before the foundation of the world. Now He chose them not because they were any better than the others or because He foreknew that they would choose Him but rather He chose them by His sovereign will and good pleasure to bestow His love upon them. (John 15:16; John 1:13). The same thing is true of the nation of Israel (Deut. 7:6-8).

God chose us in order to be holy before Him and to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29). One of the blessings in Christ is adoption. God adopted us as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself. What wonderful love is this to be called children of God! (1 John 3:1). We have received the Spirit of adoption and are "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ." (Rom. 8:15-17).

"To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved." (Eph. 1:6)

We are accepted before God only because of His Beloved, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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