



Title: Ephesians - The Work of God.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:1-14

Date: 01082023

Bible Version: NKJK

BOTTOM LINE: Don't live your life spiritually broke.

Vs. 1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God: The author of Ephesians identifies himself as Paul. This would be the apostle Paul.

To the saints who are in Ephesus: Paul addresses the recipients of this letter as saints. He will do so nine times in this letter.

The word saint is simply one of the many terms used in the New Testament to describe "one who has trusted Jesus Christ as Savior." - Warren Wiersbe

Vs. 2

Grace to you and peace from God: This is a typical Pauline introduction. The word grace appears twelve times in Ephesians. It can be understood as the kindness of God toward and undeserving people. Grace and peace are a part of every believer's life. Because of God's grace, we have peace with God.

You will never experience the peace of God until you have experienced the grace of God.

The Work of The Father in Eternity Past (Vs. 3-6)

Vs. 3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Paul calls for a blessing to God the Father. The idea of blessing means to praise with worshiping love. This is our response to a God who has immensely blessed us.

Has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ: God's spiritual blessing of Christ is for us. The 'us' refers to both Jews and Gentiles and 'heavenly places' refers to where these blessings are. 'In Christ' is used twenty-seven times in Ephesians. It describes with whom the believer identifies.

He is in Christ, and therefore is able to draw on the wealth of Christ for his own daily living. - Warren Wiersbe

Vs. 4

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world: As believers, we can rest assured that God chose us. He chose us before the foundation of the world.

Believers are chosen by God, and they are chosen before they have done anything or have been anything for God. - David Guzik

As far as God the Father is concerned, you were saved when He chose you in Christ, in eternity past. But that alone did not save you. As far as God the Son is concerned, you were saved when He died for you on the cross. As far as God the Spirit is concerned, you were saved when you yielded to His conviction and received Christ as your Savior. What began in eternity past was fulfilled in time present, and will continue for all eternity. - Warren Wiersbe

Even though God is sovereign, we can also see that mankind has a responsibility.

That we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: We were chosen (in Christ) so that we could stand blameless before God the Father.

Vs. 5-6

Having predestined us to adoption: Paul tells us that we have been predestined to adoption. We are not merely just good friends or acquaintances with God, we are His sons and daughters. Culturally speaking and according to Roman Law, someone who was adopted into a family had the same rights as if they were born into that family.

According to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace: This was done for the singular purpose and pleasure of God's will. It was not done because we were good enough or earned it.

He made us accepted in the Beloved: Because of what God the Father has done, we are now accepted. It's solely because of His grace. It has nothing to do with us. We cannot make ourselves acceptable to God. Only He can, and He does so through Christ.

The Work of The Son In History Past. (Vs. 7-12)

Vs. 7

In Him we have redemption through His blood: Redemption is found in Christ alone.

Forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace: The forgiveness of our sins was according to the riches of His grace. The word forgiven means to carry away. Our sins have been carried away.

Vs. 8

He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence: God spared no expense to extend forgiveness to us sinners. According to the Word, His choice was prudent and wise.

Vs. 9

Having made known to us the mystery of His will: God's plan to save us (through Jesus) has been made known to us.

Vs. 10

The dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ: The idea here is that God had a plan to deal with our sin. Jesus did not come because God did not have a plan. God's plan is for everything to come together in Christ.

Vs. 11-12

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance: For those who believe in Jesus we can note that we have obtained an inheritance.

Being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will: We are reminded again that we have been predestined by God for His purpose.

The Work of The Holy Spirit In Present. (Vs. 13-14)

Vs. 13

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth: Even though we have been predestined, we see that we still have some sort of choice.

You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise: The result of believing in Jesus is that we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. This seal shows ownership and also security. We belong to God and our belonging to God is secure.

Vs. 14

Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession: Paul answers how long the guarantee will last. It will last until the purchase is complete (when we pass unto glory).

Things Every Believer Needs To Remember:

1. Don't minimize the blessings that you have in the Father.
2. Don't live your life like a spiritual pauper.
3. You have time to live your life on purpose for God

Before you ever made your appearance on earth, God chose you. God knew there would come a day when you would put your faith in Him, and He chose you before you chose Him. And what is His goal for you? His goal is that you might become like Jesus. - Greg Laurie



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3D Guide

DO. **BOTTOM LINE: Don't live your life spiritually broke.**



DIG DEEPER

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. What is grace and what does it mean to you?
2. Try to explain what the severity of God means?
3. What are some ways you can apply this scripture to your life?



DO.

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.