

Ephesians 1 Holy and Blameless

Truth Annihilates Deception

- **Author:** Apostle Paul
- **Location:** Roman Prison
- **Summary:** Blessing In Christ
- **1-3** What God has done for us In Christ
- **4-6** How we are to live for God In Christ

I. Redemption In Christ

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To the Saints in Ephesus and All the Faithful in Christ Jesus
Grace and Peace from the God the Father and Jesus our Lord

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...**

God is **blessed** to **bless** those In Christ with every Spiritual **blessing**

- **In Christ:** At least 35x in Ephesians **13x in Ch. 1**

Galatians 3:26 ...you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized **into Christ** have **put on Christ**. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**.

In Christ... we have every spiritual blessing/benefit from God

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

God chose us **In Christ** before He created the world to be Holy and Blameless at Judgment
IOWs Jesus will present His bride to the Father Holy and Blameless

Colossians 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you **holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight**

Jude 24 ...to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to **present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy...

Those **In Christ** were chosen before Creation to be...
Holy/Blameless at Judgment in the eyes of the Father who now sees us **In Christ**

- **We were chosen:**
 1. To be In Christ
 2. To have every spiritual blessing/benefit of God In Christ. Purpose of blessings...
 3. To be found Holy/Blameless when Jesus presents us to the Father..

His Father...and Our Father

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

Before Creation God the Father chose to adopt us as His own children
Basis of His decision? His Good Pleasure!

- The Father chose to adopt us before creation...

Our adoption officially began when we received the Spirit of His Son

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons/daughters of God. 15 ...you received the Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, "**Abba, Father.**" 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are **children of God**, , 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and **joint heirs with Christ**

- Those **In Christ** are...
 1. Children of God
 2. Joint heirs of all things w/Christ our Brother
 3. We cry out Dad...You are so good!

Galatians 4:5b ...[Jesus redeemed us that we might...] receive the **adoption as sons. 6** And because you are sons, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"**

- Our adoption was decided before Creation. Process officially began at Salvation...
 1. **Jesus redeemed our Soul** by His blood. New Heart
 2. **Father gave us the Spirit of His Son** and yet...

Adoption process is not fully complete...Papers not yet signed

Romans 8:23 [Creation groans] ...even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body...**

IOWs Adoption is complete when our Big Brother takes us home to Dad

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions **...I go to prepare a place for you.** 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Before Creation it was the Father's good pleasure to choose us for adoption!

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

The Father could not adopt us as sinners or Heaven would not be Heaven
We became adoptable/adopted the moment we believed/were placed **In Christ...**

7 **In Him** we have **redemption** through His blood, the **forgiveness of sins**, according to the **riches of His grace** 8 which He made to **abound toward us** in all wisdom and prudence [lit. Understanding], 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 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.**

In Jesus we have **been made** accepted.
Q. How? **A.** In Christ we are Holy/Blameless

- **In Jesus we are Redeemed:** Bought back from sin/death/hell/devil by the Blood of the Son of God

Hebrews 9:12 Not ... blood of goats and calves, but with **His own blood** He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained **eternal redemption.**

Romans 3:24 ...[In Jesus we are] justified freely by His grace through the **redemption that is in Christ** Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a pro-pitiation [wrath taker] **by His blood** [grace], through faith...

- In Jesus we are Redeemed
- **In Jesus we are Forgiven:** How much?

We are forgiven in direct correlation to the Riches of God's Grace. 100%
His Grace Abounding Toward Us!

- It is God's to 1) Adopt us and 2) **to reveal His will to us...**

God's Plan of Redemption; i.e. The Desired Outcome of God's Wisdom/Understanding

In Christ we would be with the Father for Eternity **because of what Jesus did for us**

- Spiritual Blessings **In Christ so far...**
 1. Redemption
 2. Forgiveness
 3. **Inheritance...**

11 **In [Christ]** ...we have obtained an **inheritance**, being **predestined** according to **the purpose of Him** who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

- **In Christ we have an inheritance:** From before creation into eternity

1 Peter 1:12b ...[Salvation] **things which angels desire to look into.**

Predestined to fulfill God's purpose...
That God would be praised for His work in us through His spiritual blessings given to us

- Spiritual Blessings **in Christ so far...**
 1. Redemption
 2. Forgiveness
 3. Inheritance
 4. **Next...Guarantee of Heaven**

13 In [Christ] 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**, **14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

What does it mean to be "In Christ" ?

- Heard/Believed/Trusted/**Sealed**

The Holy Spirit in us is God's seal...Our guarantee of Heaven
While we wait for Jesus to come back to redeem our bodies

- God's Seal cannot be broken/Guarantee never revoked

Titus 1:2 [We have the] ...hope of Eternal life which God, **who cannot lie, promised before time began...**

Suppose someone were to tell my children that the continuance of my love to them will depend entirely on their good behavior. My children would dismiss the suggestion with indignation. They would answer, "We know better; you speak falsely. Our father will always love us." Even so the Lord's children know that their **Father's love is immutable**. For our transgressions, our heavenly Father will **visit us with the rod, but never with the sword**.

2 Corinthians 5:4 [Guarantee/Promise of completed eternal Adoption] For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now **He who has prepared us** for this very thing [immortality] *is* God, who also **has given us the Spirit as a guarantee**.

If we are In Christ we are going to heaven and eternity with the Lord!

- Whom He predestined He called, He justified, He glorified. Past tense. [Rom. 8:30]
- He will finish the good work He began in you. [Philip.1:6]

The Lord will perfect that which concerns me... all those truly In Christ [Psalm 138:8]

NOTE: We must learn to ask questions that always bear good fruit
Not questions that always lead to division and controversy. E.g. John 15

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit **...4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **5** "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, **bears much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in Me, **he is cast out** as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and **throw them into the fire**, and they are burned.

- **Wrong Question:** Is the branch in the fire one who lost salvation not abiding?

- **Right Question:** Are *you* abiding in Christ, bearing fruit, glorifying the Father. Saved?

Ask questions whose answers *always bear fruit*

By this My Father is glorified, that you *bear much fruit* [John 15:8]

Question of Gods Sovereignty vs Man's Free-will

- **Wrong Questions:** Who has God chosen and how does God choose?
- **Right Questions...**

1. Am I bearing fruit to make my election sure? [2 Pet. 1:10]
2. If so...How can I lead others to the Lord? Spend my time wisely?

The fact that God foreknows those that are going to be saved and chooses them does not preclude any man from coming, because the scripture says, "Whosoever will, may come and drink of the water of life freely" ...Not one person has ever come to God and been turned back by God. ... Predestination, divine election never precludes any man... But you can find out whether or not He chose you by just accepting Jesus Christ. And you will discover He chose you before the foundation of the world...if there is any question, you can answer the it today. Just say, "Lord, come into my life. I am going to be a Christian. I am going to follow Jesus Christ." And you will discover the minute you do, that God chose you from the foundation of the world. He says, "I've been waiting for this. Great to have you on board; come on in." And then He'll show you, "I chose you, here you are. I knew exactly the time, and the whole situation. Here it is, you were **chosen before the foundation of the world.**" [Chuck Smith]

We are neither Five-Point Calvinists, nor are we Arminians. We adhere firmly to the biblical teaching of God's sovereignty *and* man's responsibility. **We avoid any theological systems** of belief that go beyond the written Word and thereby divide the body of Christ. [CCY] God desires all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth [1 Tim. 2:4]

Ask questions whose answers always bear fruit

By this My Father is glorified...that you **bear much fruit** [John 15:8]

II. Prayer Blow Your Mind in the Lord

15 **Therefore**, I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 **do not cease to give thanks for you**, making mention of you in my prayers:

- **Since In Christ** we have these Spiritual Blessings...
 1. Redemption
 2. Forgiveness
 3. Inheritance
 4. Guarantee of Heaven...

17 [I pray] ...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, 18 the eyes of your understanding [lit. Hearts] being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling...

Paul's Prayer/God's Desire for Ephesus and All the Faithful In Christ...

- **Spirit of Wisdom:** Ability to hear/apply God's Word in real life
- **Spirit of Revelation:** Word opened up by the Spirit to understand

Know the Hope and Excitement of God's Calling

18b... [That we may know...] what are the **riches of the glory of His inheritance** in the saints, 19 and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us** who believe according to the working of His mighty power 20 [same power...] which He worked in Christ when He **raised Him from the dead** and **seated Him** at His right hand in the heavenly places

- **Riches of His inheritance?** For the joy set before Him endured the cross. [Heb. 12:2]
- **Know the Greatness of His power...**

Romans 8:11 ...if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit who dwells in you.

We have access to the power of God. Paul prays we would know it

IOWs despise weakness when the strength/power that raised Jesus from death to life is readily available/acceptable toward us! [NJC]

The same Power that raised Jesus from the Dead
Seated Him with the Father in Glory...

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**.

Revelation 7:17 [This age] ...the Lamb who is **in the midst** [center] **of the throne**

Matthew 19:28 [Age to come] ... in the **regeneration**, when **the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory**, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

- **Name above all names** now/forever to the glory of the Father

Philippians 2:9 ... God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the **name which is above every name**, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth...

22 And He [the Father] put all things under His feet, and gave Him [Jesus] to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, **the fullness of Him who fills all in all**.

Matthew 28:18 ..."All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

- Jesus will be back to reign 1000 years **into Eternal State**

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born [to die], Unto us a Son is given [to rule]; And the **government will be upon His shoulder**. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the **increase of His government** and peace **There will be no end**, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever.

Jesus: Head of the Church: Those who are In Christ: Body of Christ
IOWs We are the fullness of Him who fills all in all v23

Colossians 1:15 [Jesus] ...is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And **He is the head of the body, the church**, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things **He may have the preeminence.**

In Christ: We are blessed with all spiritual blessings preordained by God before creation

In Christ: We see the purpose of His blessings. To be found Holy/Blameless at Judgment

In Christ: We were predestined/assured by God to be His adopted Eternal Sons/Daughters forever

...according to the good pleasure of our Father's will toward us...In Christ