

The Way

Fruit of the Church: Ephesians

Lesson 32: God Has Given All Spiritual Blessings to Those in Christ Jesus

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Scripture

Ephesians 1:1-14

Review (Where We've Been)

Our purpose over the last 31 weeks in *The Way* series has been to study the Bible.

Our focus has been on learning to speak and live out the gospel.

We have learned that all of us must decide to live in *the Way of Jesus...*

Acts 19:23 (ESV) ...there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way.

Why is the church called *The Way*?

"It means that Christianity is more than a set of doctrines. Following Jesus is a way of living as well as believing. Christianity was spreading everywhere." – David Guzik

Thus far in our series, we've studied two books of the Bible: Acts and Romans.

Acts allowed us to see the birth (Acts 1-12) and growth (Acts 13-28) of the church.

Romans allowed us to see the maturity of the church.

Paul helped us understand the following truths in his letter to the Romans...

- We are far from God (Romans 1-3) ***Condemnation***
- We are made right with God through faith (Romans 4-5) ***Justification***
- We are free from the power and penalty of sin (Romans 6-8) ***Sanctification***
- We are restored to God (Romans 9-11) ***Restoration***
- We are to live in obedience to God (Romans 12-16) ***Transformation***

BIG Idea

Today we'll move into the final part of The Way series, *Fruit of the Church*.

For this we'll be studying Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.

Paul will dwell heavily on how what we believe should affect the way we behave.

Information (What You Need to Know)

What background do we need to know about Ephesians before jumping in?

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV) Paul, an apostle [sent one] of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints [believe, baptized, set apart ones] who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Paul is writing (AD60-62) to the church of Ephesus (some think Ephesians was to be distributed among the churches in Asia Minor - Ephesus just received it first)
 - ✓ Brief visit on his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 18:19-21)
 - ✓ Return visit on his 3rd missionary journey and was persecuted (Acts 19)
 - ✓ While returning to Jerusalem, he met in Miletus with the elders of Ephesus



- Written from a Roman prison (first Roman imprisonment)
- Written to teach that beliefs (Ephesians 1-3) affect behavior (Ephesians 4-6)
“The first 3 chapters focus on what Christians should believe, unfolding the glorious riches of God’s grace in Christ. Dead sinners are made alive and gain eternal salvation ‘by grace... through faith’ (2:8). The last 3 chapters explain the implications of God’s grace for the church, individuals, and families.” – Bible Expositor’s Commentary

As a matter of introduction, Paul reminds them about the spiritual blessings in Christ (these blessings are not a result of our effort).

Ephesians 1:3 (ESV) Blessed [praise; speak well of] be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed [benefited; prospered] us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...

“Every spiritual blessing refers to every spiritual enrichment needed for the spiritual life. Since these benefits have already been bestowed on believers, we should not ask for them but rather receive them by faith.” – Bible Knowledge Commentary

What spiritual blessings have been given to us in Christ?

▪ **God chose to make believers holy and blameless in Christ**

Ephesians 1:4 (ESV) ...he chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him...

- ✓ God knew Adam (and all in him) would be sinful and unacceptable to Him
- ✓ So, God determined that another “Man” (Jesus) would take Adam’s place because He was without sin and acceptable to God

1 John 2:1 (ESV) I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

▪ **God chose to adopt and accept believers as sons**

Ephesians 1:5 (ESV) ...He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will...

- ✓ Parents can pass on their inheritance to an adopted child, *but not distinct characteristics*
- ✓ But God gives His very nature to believers. He makes them His children in the image of his Son, and gives them Christ’s blessings and nature

▪ **God has redeemed and forgiven all believers**

Ephesians 1:7 (ESV) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, **8** which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight...

Jesus delivered us from the penalty/power of sin – we no longer are slaves to sin!

▪ **God helps us understand His plans for the future**

Ephesians 1:9 (ESV) ...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which He set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

“This present world is falling apart with war, strife, and sin. But one day God will usher in a new creation, with all things united in Christ.” – Warren Wiersbe

▪ **God promises that believers will receive an inheritance with Jesus**

Ephesians 1:11 (ESV) In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...

God the Father has determined that when Jesus becomes King over all things and people, we will share everything that the Father has given to Him.

- **God seals believers with the Holy Spirit**

Ephesians 1:13 (ESV) In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee [down payment] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- ✓ The Holy Spirit is given to protect and preserve us until eternity

“Paul regards the Holy Spirit as the first installment of the Christian’s inheritance. At the end of the age God will redeem his pledge and open the treasures of heaven to all who are his in Christ. Meanwhile, the Spirit gives us the assurance that these things will one day be ours.” – Expositor’s Bible Commentary

- ✓ The Holy Spirit is the one who produces fruit in us (helps us reflect the image of God in our daily life)

Application (What You Need to Do)

Even though Jesus paid the full price for us when He gave His own blood on the cross, our bodies are still troubled by sin, sickness and death.

But the Holy Spirit is God’s guarantee that the Lord Jesus will return to deliver our bodies, making them like His wonderful body.

He will then take us home to Heaven where there is no sin, sickness or death. We will be with Him forever.