

Grow in Jesus – “Grow in Grace”

Ephesian Series: Part 2. Ephesians 1:1-14
Rev. Dr. Scott Arnold FBCLA. 5/22/2022

A. The Will of God is to Bless people with Grace (v.1-2)

We grow in Jesus through God’s Holy Spirit that provides:

1. Grace - The gift of God’s redemptive love that leads to..
2. Peace - The reality of God’s personal powerful presence

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

Paul wrote from prison in Rome, yet still his heart of faith had grown through God’s grace. Because of God’s grace and peace, Paul desired to live to forgive, show grace in every place, and release others in God’s peace.

B. The Way of Grace grows with Praise (v. 3-14)

1. In Christ we are Spiritually Blessed (New Life). (v. 3)

³ *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

2. In Christ we are Adopted as God’s Children

(Acceptance) (v. 4-6) ⁴ *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.*

3. In Christ we are redeemed to grow in wisdom and understanding (Character) (v. 7-10)

Verse 7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.*

⁸ *that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.*

4. In Christ we grow in fulfilling God’s purposes (Hope) (v. 11-12)

¹¹ *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.*

5. In Christ we receive and share the Gospel of salvation. (Glorification) (v. 13-14)

¹³ *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.*

Invitation/ Prayer

Questions:

1. How is God blessing you today?
2. How have you struggled to understand God’s blessings when times are difficult?
3. What are specific ways Jesus has helped you grow in grace and forgiveness to yourself and others?