

“Introduction to The Book Of Ephesians”

Ephesians 1:1-14

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Teaching Aim: To lay the foundation for our journey through the Book of Ephesians. To recognize the humble position born-again Christians are in having been chosen by God in Christ before the foundation of the world. To realize redemption comes only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. To understand the sealing of the Holy Spirit guarantees our future inheritance in Christ.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part 1: Introduction to the Book of Ephesians (Eph. 1:1-6)

1. The Book of Ephesians was written somewhere around 62 A.D. during the time in which Paul was under house arrest at Rome. As Paul wrote, he was awaiting trial before Caesar which would either result in his freedom or execution. What other three New Testament epistles were known as “*The Prison Epistles*”? (Hint: Google it)

2. Orthodox Christians believe in the doctrine of the Trinity. Christians believe in one God revealed in three in persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Each person within the Godhead has a different role. It is important to note that all three persons of the Trinity are seen at work in **Eph. 1-14**. What role does the Father play in **verses 4-6**? What is the Son’s role in **verses 7-12**? What can we learn about the Holy Spirit in **verses 13-14**?

3. The Book of Ephesians is presented in two major divisions: 1) Our position in Christ (**Chapters 1-3**); and 2) Our practice as Christians (**Chapters 4-6**). While **chapters 1-3** are doctrinal in nature, **chapters 4-6** are practical. If asked to explain “*our position in Christ*,” what would you say? If you were asked to describe the characteristics of a true Christian, what would they be?

1. Paul opens his letter by immediately establishing his apostolic authority (**vs. 1**). Why? What does the word “*apostle*” mean? (See Dictionary) Who is Paul an apostle of? By who’s will is Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ? Who was this letter addressed to (**vs. 1b**)? What does the word “*saint*” mean? Ephesus was one of the greater ancient cities. What are some of the facts you can learn about the city from a Bible dictionary?

2. Why do you think Paul opens and closes his epistles with the frequent combination of the words “*grace*” and “*peace*” (**vs. 2**)? What is the meaning of the word “*grace*?” What is the only way people can receive “*the peace of God*” today? (See **Rom. 5:1**)

3. According to **verse 3**, what has God blessed every follower of Jesus Christ with? What are some of these blessings? Where do they come from? What are some ways that God has blessed you since coming to faith in Jesus Christ?

4. According to **verse 4**, did we choose God, or did God first choose us? What were we chosen to? What pattern do you see in the following Bible verses? (See **Matt. 22:14; Mk. 13:20; Lk. 6:13; 18:7; Jn. 6:44, 65, 70; 13:18; 15:16,19; Acts 1:24; 9:15; 10:41; 13:17; 22:14; Rom. 8:33; 11:5; 16:13; Eph. 1:4, 11; Col. 3:12; 1 Th. 1:4; 2 Th. 2:13; Jam. 1:18; 2:5; 1 Pet. 1:2; 1 Pet. 2:9; 2 Jn. 1:1, 13; Rev. 17:14**) Note: To speed up your search, try using an electronic device if you so choose.

5. What is the meaning of the word “*predestination*?” Have you ever traveled by airplane to a destination somewhere in the world? Was your final destination set before you left? According to **verse 5**, what are believers predestined to? What is the meaning of the word “*adoption*?” In what way are born-again (or regenerate) believers adopted into God’s family? (See **Eph. 2:8-9**) Does this adoption make us true children of the King? According to **verse 5b**, what is the determining factor in this adoption?

6. The ultimate purpose of election in salvation is the glory of God. We may struggle with the meaning of the doctrine, but election is definitely taught in the Bible. Who is “*the Beloved*” in **verse 6**? According to **verse 6**, who made us accepted in the Beloved?

Part II: Understanding the mystery of redemption in Christ (Eph. 1:7-10)

1. What does the word “redeem” mean? How does redemption relate to buying merchandise in a store (**vv. 7-8**)? According to **verse 7**, what are born-again Christians redeemed with? What does this redemption bring? Based on what? How does redemption relate to Christ freeing us from our sins today? (**See Heb. 9:22; 1 Pet. 1:18-21**) How far away have the sins of the believer been removed in Christ? (**See Psa. 103:11-12**)
2. What is the meaning of the word “mystery?” (See Dictionary) One of the key themes in the Book of Ephesians is the revelation of a mystery. (**vs. 9**). What previously unrevealed truth is revealed by Paul in **Eph. 1:9-10 & 3:5-6**? What does this mean for those who are Gentiles and not Jews?
3. What future period of history is Paul referring to when he speaks of “*the dispensation of the fullness of the times*” (**vs. 10**)? (**See Rev. 20:1-6**) What does the word “dispensation” mean? (See Dictionary) How do we see both elect angels and elect human represented in **verse 10**? (**See 1 Tim. 5:21**)

Part III: Obtaining our inheritance in Christ and being sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:11-14)

1. How do born-again (or regenerate) Christians receive their “inheritance” in Christ (**vs. 11**)? (**See Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:12-14; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 1:3-4**) According to **verse 11**, what is the basis of this predestination and who is in control of it?
2. According to **verse 12**, what does our belief in Christ bring to God? What are you doing today in your life that will bring glory to God?
3. There are two sides to the coin of election: 1) The sovereignty of God, and 2) The responsibility of man. Which side of the coin do we see in **verse 13**? Which side do we see in **John 3:3-8**? By what means has God chosen to call people to faith in Christ? (**See Rom. 10:13-17**)

4. What, if any, significance was there in the Roman soldiers sealing the tomb of Jesus? (See **Matt. 27:62-66**) What did that seal mean? What significance is there in the Holy Spirit of God placing His seal on the born-again (or regenerate) believer (**vs. 13b**)?

5. At the moment of belief, the born-again believer is at the same time sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. According to **verse 14**, what is that promise? How does the Holy Spirit serve as an “earnest” or “down payment” of our future inheritance in Christ? When will we receive this inheritance in the fullest sense? Who is glorified when by grace through faith we become children of God (**vs. 14b**)?

6. How should the regenerate Christian live his or her life in light of being “chosen by God?” (See **Eph. 1:4b**) Does being chosen by God mean that we are any smarter or better than those who have not received Christ? (See **Eph. 2:8,9; Tit. 3:5-7**) What does it mean? Should we receive glory for coming to Christ or does all the glory belong to God? (See **John 1:12-13**)?

Miner’s Corner – Manna for life!

- Those who are chosen by God are chosen not because of anything they’ve done, but according to God’s grace and the good pleasure of His will. (See **Eph. 1:3-6**).
- Being chosen by God should not lead to pride, it should drop the believer to his or her knees in humble worship.
- Both sides of the coin of salvation are seen in Ephesians 1:1-14: 1) The sovereignty of God; and 2) The responsibility of man.
- We see all three members of the Trinity at work in **Eph. 1:1-14**: God the Father elects (**vv. 4-6**), God the Son redeems (**vv. 7-12**), God the Holy Spirit seals (**vv. 13-14**)
- The responsibility of man is to repent of his or her sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ; we also see this in **Eph. 1:1-14**. (See **Act 16:31; Eph. 1:13**)
- God’s glory is the highest revelation of His holy character; it is who He is revealed to the world.