

# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

## Ephesians, Chapter 1 (Part I & II)

Wednesdays  
7.30-8.30PM

### Spiritual Blessings

**Introduction (1-2):** What makes Paul a credible messenger? Who are saints? How does Paul greet the church? What was Paul's prior connection to the Ephesus church? How does addition of 'our father' to God change the relationship? How would you explain the full title "Lord Jesus Christ"?

**Spiritual Blessings (3-14):** 1. What are some qualities of the blessings that we have received? 2. Count your blessings ... Identify the many blessings that you can find in this passage. 3. How are these blessings different from the Old Testament covenant blessings? 4. What do we mean by the the following terms: election, predestination, adoption, redemption, mystery, will of God, dispensation? 5. What is the condition for receiving the spiritual blessings? 6. How must our understanding of spiritual blessings impact our daily life? 7. What should be our response to these blessings?

**Personal Reflection:** Why are we not content when God has already blessed us with all spiritual blessings? Do we recognize and appreciate the priceless value of spiritual blessings in our life?

4..07.21

# Ephesians

*From:* Apostle Paul (in Prison @ Rome awaiting hearing by Nero)

*To:* Saints in Ephesus (Saints ~ set apart, believers)

<https://Jefferson.zoom.us/j/177525702>

*Date:* Around 60 AD (same time as Colossians, some repeated topics)

*Delivered by:* Tychichus

# Important Themes

Revelation of Mystery

Who we are **in-Christ**?

What we have received **in-Christ**?

What is our responsibility?

Doctrine (1-3) Application (4-6)

# Introduction (1-2)

What makes Paul a credible messenger?

Who are saints? How does Paul greet the church?

What was Paul's prior connection to the Ephesus church?

How does addition of 'our father' to God change the relationship?

How would you explain the full title "Lord Jesus Christ"?

# Paul ... what makes him a credible messenger?

- Saved by the Lord ([Acts 9](#))
- Had a blameless personal testimony/life
- An Apostle of Jesus Christ
  - Appointed by the will of God for the ministry (not Paul's personal ambition, or a church appointment or a profession) ([Acts 9](#), [Ephesians 3:5-9](#))

We must confirm our calling in order to be profitable!

We cannot be credible messengers  
if we are not receiving message from the Lord;

We cannot be credible workers  
if we are not appointed/called by the Lord

# Greetings of Grace & Peace

**Source:** God our Father and from Lord Jesus Christ (2)

## Grace

- God's unmerited favor for our salvation (Saved by Grace, [Ephesians 2:8](#))
- God's unmerited divine strength for our sustenance (Sufficiency of Grace, [II Corinthians 12:9](#))

## Peace

- With God
- With others
- Inner peace

# Lord Jesus Christ

## God, our Father (2)

... He is God but we also enjoy intimate relationship as our Heavenly Father

## LORD JESUS CHRIST (2)

- LORD ...He is our master
- JESUS ... He is our savior
- CHRIST ... He is the anointed one

# Worship for Spiritual Blessings (3-14)

**Blessed** be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ...



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (3)

**Worship & Adoration** addressed to God and Father of Lord Jesus Christ

God is also **God** of Lord Jesus (Mathew 27:46)

And **Father** of Lord Jesus (Luke 23:46)

- **Reason for worship:** Spiritual Blessings
- What are some qualities of these blessings?

# Nature of these blessings

- Spiritual (not material/physical like the Mosaic covenant)
- Complete (all)
- In-Christ
  - Exclusive to believers
  - Born again Christians are in-Christ, Sinners are still in-Adam
- Heavenlies or Heavenly places
  - 1:20 (Christ's exalted position), 2:6 (our position), 3:10 (Angels location), 6:10 (region for source of conflict with evil spirits)

# Six Spiritual Blessings

Election

Predestination

Redemption

Mystery  
Revealed

Holy Spirit

WORSHIP

# Election (4)

<sup>4</sup> According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

## Election (Chosen) (4)

- Does God choose some and reject others?
- Does everyone have an opportunity to be chosen?
- When did God choose us?
- What type of people has God chosen?
- What is God's purpose in choosing us?

Are you among God's chosen? Are you sure?

# Election (Chosen) (4)

## Does God choose some and reject others? (Yes)

- Romans 9:11-16 (Jacob chosen, Esau rejected)
- II Thessalonians 2:13, John 15:16 (God has chosen)

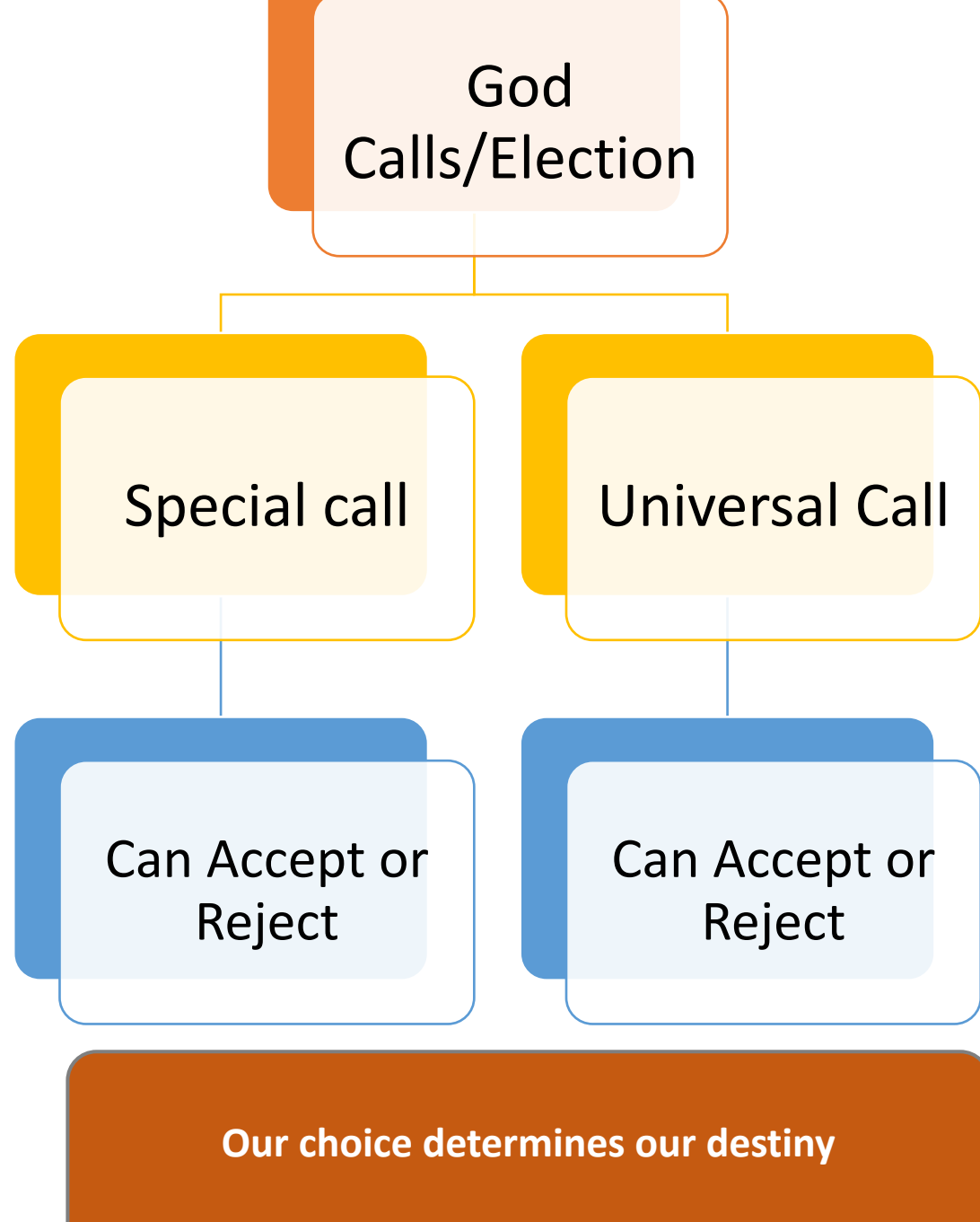
## Does everyone have an opportunity to be chosen? (Yes)

- I Thessalonians 1:4-7 (election, followers based on receiving the word)
- John 3:16, Acts 2:21, Romans 10:9 (Whosoever believeth will be saved)
- **So we observe two sides to the Election**
  - Choice that is made by God (this may be considered as special calling)
  - Choice that is given to All (this is an open invitation to everyone)

# Election (Chosen) (4)

**God's desire** ... all should come to repentance (II Peter 3:9, Luke 19:10)

- So sinners choose to be lost by rejecting the gospel (it is not God rejecting sinners, but rather sinner rejecting God)
- **Believer's responsibility/privilege** ... to share the gospel to lost (Mark 16:15-16)



God does not reject Sinners. Sinners choose to reject God



## God's choice ... God looks on the inside (ex. David)

**Old Testament (Israel):** For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath **chosen thee** to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the **fewest of all** people (**Deuteronomy 7:6-7**)

**New Testament (gentiles):** Foolish, weak, and despised (**I Corinthians 1:27-29**)

# God's timing and purpose in choosing us

**Timing:** God Chose us before foundation of the world (4)

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (II Timothy 1:9)

Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God (I Peter 1:2)

God's choice

by Grace,

through Christ,

before the world began! (Before Genesis 1:1)

# God's timing and purpose in choosing us

**Purpose:** Once chosen, we should strive to be holy and blameless (4)

- Holiness achieved through sanctification
- Perfection achieved only when the Lord returns and glorifies us
- We are Chosen ... to show forth the praise of Him (1 Peter 2:9)

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)

Are you among God's chosen?  
Are you sure?

# Six Spiritual Blessings

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If you are chosen,  
what is your destiny?

God Knows

## 2. Predestination (5, 11)

<sup>5</sup> Having **predestinated** us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will

<sup>11</sup> In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

# Predestination (5, 11)

- What does it mean? How is predestination different from election?
- Does Predestination mean we have no free will and are destined to heaven or hell?
- Does it mean evangelism is of no use since destiny has been decided by God?



# Predestination (5, 11)

What does it mean? How is predestination different from election?

- **Election** focuses on initial choice
- **Predestination** refers to the destination or culmination or purpose of election ... what happens after?
  - We are **adopted** into the family of God (5)
  - We obtain **inheritance** (11)
  - We are **conformed** to the image of His son ([Romans 8:29](#))
  - We are **glorified** ([Romans 8:30](#))

# Predestination (5,11)

**God's foreknowledge** (God is not bound by time, He knows everything, He knows the end from the beginning; He knows who will accept the gospel and who will reject)

- All things work together for good (what is the good that God has in mind? ... read 29/30) ... Romans 8:28
- For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified (Romans 8:29-30, God')

# Predestination (5,11)

Predestination also shows God's sovereignty and control over all things. God has mapped our life from creation to salvation to glorification. Once we are born-again, he guides us to our eternal destiny!

He which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6)

# 3. Redemption (7)

In whom we have **redemption** through his blood,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
according to the riches of his grace;

# Redemption

- What do we mean by Redemption?
- What are we redeemed from?
- What was the price for our redemption? Why such a costly sacrifice? Could there have been a substitute?
- What is an appropriate response to such redemption?

# Redemption

**Meaning:** To buy back or obtain deliverance from

**Price of redemption:** precious blood of Christ (I Peter 1:19)

**Quality of Sacrifice:** Jesus was sinless (II Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15, I Peter 1:19, I Peter 2:22)

**Redemption prophesied:** Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 53, Galatians 4:4-7

# Redemption ... a great blessing!

**Fruit of Redemption:** our SINS are FORGIVEN

**Sinner redeemed/rescued from curse and consequence of sin**

darkness to **light** (Colossians 1:13, Ephesians 5:8),

bondage to **freedom** (John 8:36)

children of wrath to **children of God** (I John 3:1),

death to **life** (Ephesians 2:4, I Corinthians 15:55)

destination changed from hell to **heaven**

# Redemption response

## Did we deserve to be redeemed?

- No
- It shows the generosity or riches of His grace (8)

## Appropriate response?

- Be Thankful and Worship
- Offer your life as a “living” sacrifice ([Romans 12:1](#))



# 4. Revelation of Mysteries (8-12)

What is a Mystery?

What are some mysteries revealed in NT?

Is any mystery still left to be revealed?

# Mystery

## Spiritual secrets revealed only to believers (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

- God desires to share all mysteries with us through His spirit and through his messengers
- Part of the mystery ... to gather all saints in the fullness of time (10)

## Purpose of Revelation

- Praise of His glory (12) by both believing Jews (12) and gentiles (13)

# Future Revealed

**End times Sequence** (nobody knows the timing, except the Father, Mark 13:32):

- Rapture
- Great Tribulation
- 1,000 year reign
- Great White Throne Judgement
- New heavens & new earth

- **Saints will rule with Christ** (1,000 years, Revelation 20:4, and rest of eternity, Revelation 22:5) ... our glorious future and we are assured of this future because of predestination.

# Some of the mysteries revealed in New Testament

- Mystery of Christ in you (Colossians 1:26-27)
- Mystery of God (Colossians 2:2-3)
- Mystery of Godliness (I Timothy 3:16)
- Mystery of Gentiles & Jews being Joint heirs (Ephesians 3:6)
- Mystery of Church (Ephesians 5:32)
- Mystery of salvation of Israel (Romans 11:25-26)
- Mystery of Rapture (I Corinthians 15:51-52)

# Sealed with the Holy Spirit (13-14)

<sup>13</sup> In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,<sup>14</sup> Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

# Sealed with the Holy Spirit (13-14)

When is the Holy Spirit given?

What does the seal represent?

# Gift of the Holy Spirit

## Gift of the Holy Spirit is received at Salvation

- After **hearing** (word of Truth ... gospel of salvation)
  - **Trusted** and believed
  - **received** the Holy Spirit (13)

**Sealed with the Holy Spirit (13)** ... Seal is mark of ownership (we belong to Him, **1 Corinthians 6:19, Ephesians 4:30**)

- Holy Spirit is the down payment ... Full redemption will take place in the future when we claim our inheritance as joint heirs with Christ (**Romans 8:17**)

# Redemption of Purchased possession (14)

**Who did Christ redeem?:** Individuals/Church

**Physical Body Redeemed:** Our soul and spirit redeemed at salvation ... our bodies transformed and redeemed when Christ returns (Romans 8:23, Philippians 3:21, I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

**Church Redeemed:** Glorious Church without spot or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:27)



# 6. Worship

Worship God for who He is

Worship God in spirit and in truth

Worship God with understanding & experience

# Spiritual blessings & Worship

Understanding of Spiritual Blessings enriches our worship

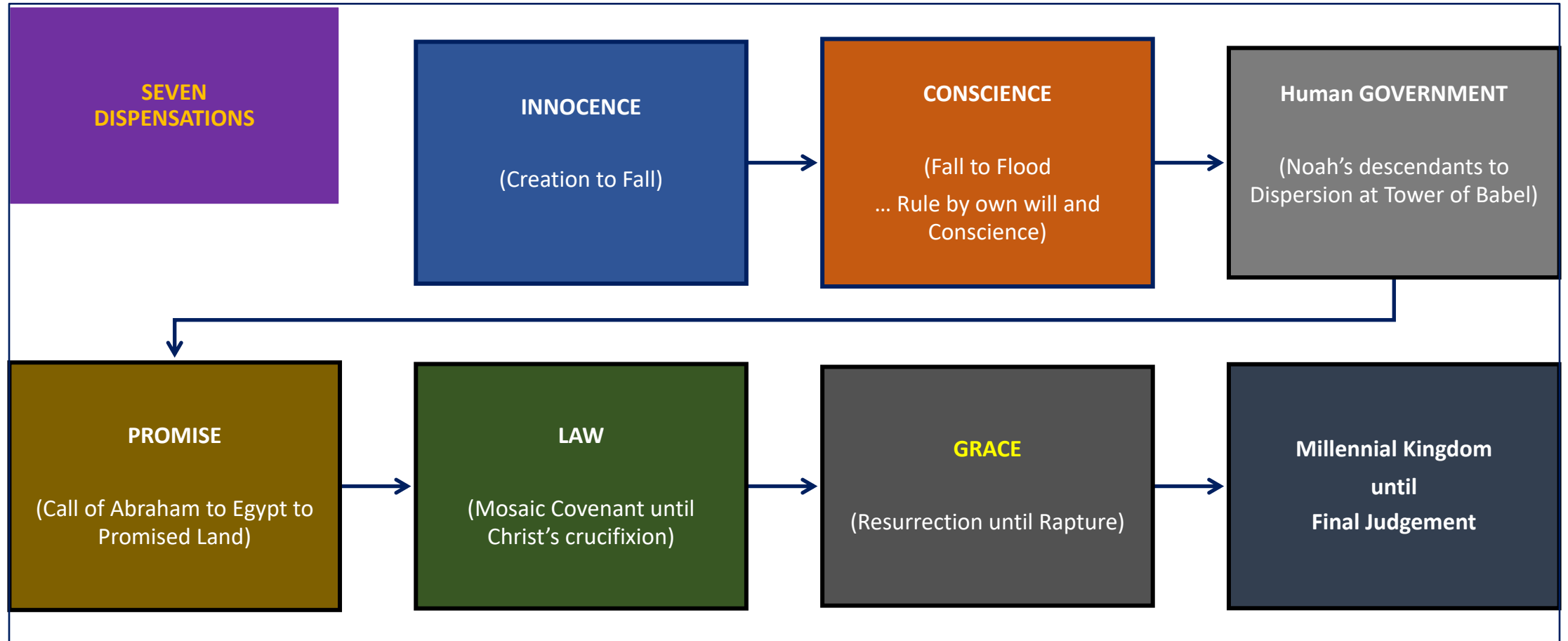
Paul **Begins** with worship, 3

**Pauses** for worship, 6 & 12

**Ends** with worship, 14

Let us also begin, pause, and end our day/life with worship!

# Dispensations (1:10) ... way to organize the time periods in scripture (no right or wrong answer) (reference: [Compellingtruth.org](http://Compellingtruth.org))



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