



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Ephesians, Chapter 1 (Part-I)

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 ... a credible messenger

- Saved by the Lord ([Acts 9](#))
- His 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)

⁴ 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?

- 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?

- 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)

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
- Our responsibility/privilege ... to share the gospel to lost (Mark 16:15-16)

God's choice

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.

⁷ 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: Chosen 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)

God's choice

by Grace,

through Christ,

before the world began!

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?

If you are chosen,
what is your destiny?

God Knows ... discover in Part II ...