

Outline of Ephesians 1

Stark Road Gospel Hall Bimonthly Bible Reading
January 19, 2019

<i>Chapters 1-3</i>	<i>Chapters 4-6</i>
• Doctrine	• Duty
• Our Riches in Christ	• Our Responsibilities in the Lord
• Our Position in Christ	• Our Practice in the Lord
• The Unity of the Church Positionally	• The Unity of the Church Practically
• Key Verse is 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."	• Key Verse is 4:1, "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."
• Key Word: <i>Blessings</i>	• Key Word: <i>Walk</i>

I. Greetings/Salutation [1:1-2].

- A. *Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God.*
- B. *To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus* (the disputed phrase "in Ephesus" suggests a circular letter).
- C. *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

II. Preface: Why God Should be Blessed for the Blessings of His Grace—Our Spiritual Possessions in Christ [1:3-14]. The Goal: The Glory of God and the Headship of Christ (note "the praise of His glory" in 1:6, 12, and 14).

- The Source of our Blessings: The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ [1:3].
- The Scope of our Blessings: Blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing [1:3].
- The Sphere of our Blessings: The heavenlies [1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12].

A. Blessings Planned by God the Father in Eternity Past [1:3-6].

1. The Father *blessed us in Christ* with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies [1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12].
2. The Father *selected us in Christ* [21x in Ephesians] to be holy and blameless before Him [1:4].
3. The Father, in love, *predestined our placement as sons* [1:5].
4. The Father *graced us in the Beloved* [1:6].
5. Praise His glorious grace! [1:6].

B. Blessings Purchased by God the Son in the Historical Past [1:7-10].

1. The Son *redeemed us through His blood and forgave our trespasses* because of God's lavish grace [1:7-8].
2. The mystery of God's will: a plan for the fullness of time *to unite and head up all things in Christ* [1:9-10; cf. 3:3-9; 5:32; 6:18-20.]
3. God *predestined us to obtain an inheritance in Christ* [1:11].

4. God gave us hope in Christ [1:12].
5. Praise His glory! [1:12].

C. Blessings Provided in God the Spirit in our Personal Past [1:13-14].

1. God sealed us with the Holy Spirit when we heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation, and believed in Christ [1:13].
2. The Spirit is the Guarantee of our inheritance [1:14].
3. Praise His glory! [1:14].

III. First Prayer, for Enlightenment, for Knowledge to Realize God's Purpose and Power, and to Understand the Church's Positional Unity [1:15-23].

A. The Content of the Prayer [1:15-19].

1. Thanksgiving for the believers [1:15-16].
2. A spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory [1:17].
3. To have the eyes of our hearts enlightened to perceive [1:18-19].
 - a. God's calling: the hope to which He has called you [1:18].
 - b. God's riches: the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints [1:18].
 - c. God's power: the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe [1:19].

B. The Immensity of God's Resources [1:20-23].

1. The power God used to raise Christ He now exerts for us [1:20].
2. The plan God has to exalt Christ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion forever, as Head over all things to the church, which is His body... the fullness of Him who fills all in all [1:21-23].

Occurrences of "in Christ" and Equivalent Phrases in Ephesians:

1. [1:1] Saints who are faithful in Christ Jesus.
2. [1:3] The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ blessed us in Christ.
3. [1:4] He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.
4. [1:6] He has blessed us in the Beloved.
5. [1:7] In Him we have redemption through His blood.
6. [1:9] His purpose set forth in Him.
7. [1:10] Plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in the Christ.
8. [1:11] In Him we have obtained an inheritance.
9. [1:12] We the first to hope in the Christ.
10. [1:13] In Him you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.
11. [1:20] God's power worked in the Christ.
12. [2:6] Seated with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
13. [2:7] Grace and kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
14. [2:10] Created in Christ Jesus for good works.
15. [2:13] In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near.
16. [2:22] In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God.
17. [3:6] Gentiles are partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus.
18. [3:11] God's eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.
19. [3:12] In Him we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.
20. [3:21] To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus.
21. [4:32] God in Christ forgave you.