

Ephesians

Author- Paul the Apostle, a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin and a Pharisee, who learned under the teaching of Gamaliel. He was converted by Christ on the road to Damascus and made an Apostle by direct appointment of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul was further instructed by direct revelation of Christ Himself (Gal 1:12). Paul wrote this letter while imprisoned (3:1, 4:1, 6:20).

Purpose and Theme - Unlike other Pauline epistles, Ephesians was not written primarily to correct some doctrinal error or heresy, but rather to reveal many great truths concerning salvation and God's eternal purpose for the church. Many profound and spiritual realities are spoken of with clarity and conviction. The first half of the book, chapters 1-3 is doctrinal in nature, dealing with positional reality. The second half of the book, chapters 4-6 is primarily instructional, dealing with the practice of the faith. Chapters 1-3 teach us of our riches in Christ. Chapters 4-6 teach us how to use them.

Themes present in Ephesians:

- RICHES OF GRACE– 1:7, 1:18, 2:7, 3:8, 3:16
- IN CHRIST or IN HIM –
1:1,1:3,1:9,1:12,1:13,1:20,2:6,2:7,2:10,2:13,3:6,3:11,3:21,4:32
- MYSTERY – 1:9. 3:3, 3:4, 3:6, 3:9, 5:32, 6:19

The book reveals profound mysteries concerning Christ and the church. The terms “in Christ” or “in Him” are used 21 times in this book, to describe our tremendous and glorious position in all that Christ has accomplished. In speaking of the realities of what the Father has granted us in Christ, the supernatural world is opened and revealed to our understanding as we are presented with one glorious blessing after another that we have already received. We are further enlightened to the angelic conflict and how it interrelates to God's purpose in the church.

The book also gives clear and precise instruction on practical Christianity. Who we are in Christ, how we are to live, act, think, and speak as Christians is given in simple instruction. The marriage, family, children, and servants relationships are addressed. It further gives a revealing look at spiritual warfare and how it is played out in daily Christian life.

Ephesians 1:1-2 - 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and who are faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. NASB

- A. by the will of God – Here Paul affirming that his calling is the work of God and not of man. He affirms several times in Ephesians that he was “given” this ministry of preaching the “mystery” of the gospel.
- B. to the saints who are at Ephesus, and who are faithful in Christ Jesus – Here the church is referred to as “saints” which, literally means holy ones. Ephesians stresses the holiness of God's people, a divine gift which has been imparted to them by the work of Christ.
- C. Grace to you and peace from God – Here the heart of God the Father and Jesus the Son are expressed to us. His desire is for our peace and grace! What marvelous heavenly blessings God gives to us! This grace and peace are major themes in

Ephesians as we shall see.

Ephesians 1:3 - 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, NASB

A. blessed us with every spiritual blessing – First notice the source of these blessings, God. God has blessed us and for this Paul “blesses God.” Consider though; how many blessings are our in Christ? EVERY! And also the nature of these blessings, they are SPIRITUAL! We have EVERY SPIRITUAL blessing in Christ! These spiritual blessings are *unseen and eternal* and would consist of forgiveness, grace, peace, adoption, holiness, redemption, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, joy, to name just a few but certainly not limited to these but rather we possess the “*riches of His grace*” v-7 which have been “*lavished on us*” v-8. What profound and truly wonderful bliss is our in Christ! Could human language describe the immensity of such blessing? Could 10,000 tongues in 10,000 years praise God enough for such riches which have been lavished on us? Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

2 Corinthians 1:20 - 20 For **as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes;** wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. NASB

2 Corinthians 4:18 -18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things **which are not seen;** for the things which are seen are temporal, but **the things which are not seen are eternal.** NASB

B. in the heavenly places – The word “places” is not in the original and the meaning is better rendered things. In regard to heavenly things we have been blessed in Christ. Of course these are the blessings or riches that we possess in Christ. Even here and now in our earthly experience, we have the blessings of the heavenly realm or place which are the blessings or things we possess in Christ. This does NOT mean that the blessings are far off in heaven and unavailable to us, but rather that we experience them here and now in Christ. They “have been” given to us and we now possess them.

C. in Christ – All of these blessings that we possess are “in Christ”, that is, we have them because they belong to Christ and we are “in Him.” These have become ours because Christ purchased them for us, and made them available to us when He died once for all to bring us into union with Himself. All these riches of God have become ours “because of Christ.” They are the “*unfathomable riches of Christ*” and have been given to us in Him.

Ephesians 3:8 - 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the **unfathomable riches of Christ.** NASB