

Series "Our Riches In Christ"
"Heavenly Blessings"
Ephesians 1:1-3
Study-1

The book of **Ephesians** is a book of **Doctrine**. The term "**Doctrine**" is used **9X in the NT**. The term simply means "Systematic, thorough approach to teaching, instruction."

Ephesians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1, 7

The Thought Of The Passage: "All Spiritual Blessings Are Given Through God The Father And Are Experienced Through Jesus Christ."

1. Verse 1 – The Author

2. Verses 1-2 – The Recipients

3. Verse 3 – The Theme

1. Verse 1 – The Author:

Ephesians 1:1

The Author: "Paul" – 1:1; 3:1 – Though his name only appears twice, 1st person pronouns are used 30 times. "An Apostle" – 1:1; "A Prisoner" – 3:1; 4:1.

"Paul" – "small" – the author of the Epistle (letter) is Paul. This was his Roman name. He was a son of a Jew, but was also a Roman citizen. We first meet him as a young man by the name of Saul in Acts 7:58.

Saul – meant "proud;" His Jewish name; The name no doubt was taken from Israel's first King named Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, which was the same tribe that Paul was from, 1 Samuel 9:2.

Saul had an encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. He was driven by his zeal to wipe out the Church.

Acts 9:3-5

When you hear the name Paul, the word "miracle" should come to mind; A man totally changed by an encounter with Jesus.

Acts 9:23-25

2 Corinthians 11:33

“apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,” – term “apostle” – “chosen, called, one sent, a messenger, an ambassador.”

“of Jesus Christ by the will of God” – This was a position that had been given to Paul; was by God Himself.

When Written: Probably written in late 61 AD, or early 62 or 63 AD.

Where it was Written: This is a “Prison Epistle.” Paul was sitting in a prison in Rome, about 60-63 AD, writing this letter. Ephesians 3:1 – “I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles–” (4:1). Paul wrote 4 Epistles or letters – Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, and Ephesians. Even though he was in prison, he knew he was called to be an apostle, Galatians 1:15-16.

2. Verses 1-2 – The Recipients:

Ephesians 1:1 – “To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:”

Written To: “saints” – “set apart ones, Holy ones.” The term is used 66X in the Bible.

Exodus 19:5-6

- 1. They are not some elite class of Christians!** 1 Corinthians – Paul writes to the saints of Corinth. There was immorality, lack of love, selfishness, and divisions. These were still saints that were living far below God’s calling for the saint.
- 2. Must have performed at least 2 miracles.** A saint is a living miracle, a life saved out of darkness.
- 3. Saints are always dead before they are recognized as saints.** Paul was writing a letter to the living not the dead. The term saint is always in the plural “Saints.”

1 Peter 2:9

“at Ephesus” – literally, “Desirable;” But this was one wicked city. Historically, this was one of the largest cities of the Mediterranean world. In NT times, the population was 250-500,000 people.

The City of Ephesus: Established in 1100 BC in Western Turkey – “Asia.”

Political capital of Asia.

City of culture, art and philosophers.

Had Olympic Games.

Great Trade Center: Seaport – River there – Cryster. 3 main roads convened there to link it up to the world.

Had one of the 7 Wonders of the World – Temple of Diana (Roman); Artimas (Greek). Temple was erected to the god of fertility. It included prostitutes and physical violence.

Paul came to Ephesus on his second missionary Journey, Acts 18:19-21. He then returned on his third missionary and spent 3 years there, Acts 19:20:1, 17-38.

Ministered to by some of the greatest 1st Century Christians: Paul, Aquilla, Priscilla, Apollos, Timothy & John.

“who are faithful in Christ Jesus.” – **This means 2 things:**

- 1. Christian is always one who puts their faith in Jesus; they are not relying on self or man.**
- 2. Because of putting their faith in Jesus, they are now faithful; become trustworthy because of a changed heart.**

“in Christ Jesus.” – The term “in Christ, in Him, in Jesus Christ” or the equivalent is used over 20X in this book.

Ephesians 1:2

“Grace to you and peace” – The usual greeting of the classical Greek was “Rejoice.” You would meet someone on the street and you would say, “Rejoice!” Paul, knowing that the Christian has something much better to offer, changed it to “grace.”

“Grace” – is unmerited favor.

Grace and Peace – Are mentioned in almost every Epistle; they are always in this order.

“from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” – We see God the Father and Jesus Christ joined together; deity, equal.

3. Verse 3 – The Theme:

Ephesians 1:3

This is the key verse for the book and gives us the theme.

“Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us” – Some praise and give to God in order to get.

The trinity is mentioned in this verse – Father, Jesus, spiritual blessing; literally, “Blessings of the Spirit.”

“with every spiritual blessing,” – “spiritual, as opposed to natural, material or temporal; every kind of.”

“in the heavenly places” – 5X 1:3, 20, 2:6, 3:10, 6:12.

“in Christ” – 12X – Every person has an identification; either they are in Christ, or they are in Adam.

Purpose:

1. To remind the Ephesians of the spiritual blessings they have in Christ Jesus, 1:3.
2. To encourage them through his prayers on their behalf, 1:15-23; 3:14-21.
3. To show them the nature of the Church, 1:22-23; 2:11-22.
4. To challenge them to live as Christians, 4:1-3.
5. To prepare them for spiritual battle, 6:10-24.

Theme: “Our Riches In Christ” – “The Wealth Of The Believer.”

Key Words: Grace – 12X; Works – 8X; Saved/Salvation – 4X; Riches – 5X; Heavenly places – 4X; Walk – 7 times; Church – 9X; Body – 9X, All – over 50X (God over all, working all things, created all things).

Key Phrases: The term “in Christ, in Him, in Jesus Christ” or equivalent is used over 20X in this book. It is telling the Christian what he has in a relationship with Jesus.

Key Chapter: Ephesians 6 – The Christian has been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ; he still is in spiritual warfare every day.

Key Passage: Ephesians 1:3.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Outline: Suggested outlines for Ephesians:

1-3 – Doctrine; 4-6 – Duty.

1-3 – Wealth of the Christian; 4-6 Walk of the Christian.

1-3 – Sit; 4-5 – Walk; 6 – Stand.

1-3 – Wealth; 4-5 – Walk; 6 – Warfare.

Application:

1. All Spiritual Blessings Are Given Through God The Father And Are Experienced Through Jesus Christ.
2. The Letter To The Ephesians Reveals That Every Believer In Christ Has Been Blessed With Spiritual Blessings – Ephesians 1:3 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing” – “spiritual as opposed to natural, material or temporal, every kind of.”
3. A Study In Bible Doctrine Is Extremely Important Because It Will Bring Stability And Maturity. Some Christians are constantly questioning God’s love for them; Some Christians are questioning whether or not they are truly saved; Some Christians live a life controlled by sin; Some Christians get caught up into false teaching, Ephesians 4: 14-15.