

## EPHESIANS CHAPTER 1

### I. PAUL'S GREETING - vs. 1, 2

#### A. Vs. 1a - Paul's credentials

1. "an apostle" - Gr. "*apostolos*" - lit. *from to send* - one sent forth, messenger, engaged to carry out a commission
  - used of Jesus (Heb. 3:1), the twelve disciples (Luke 6:13), Paul (I Cor. 9:1), and in a lesser sense (Barnabas, Andronicus, Junias, Epaphroditus, etc.)
  - Paul is claiming full apostleship (I Cor. 15:8-10)
  - What are the marks of full apostleship?
2. "of Jesus Christ" - sent by Christ Himself (Acts 9:13-16)
3. "by the will of God"
  - Note: not all accepted his claim. Galatians 1:1-2:14; I Cor. 9:1-5
  - Are there Apostles today?

#### B. Vs. 1b - Paul's addressees

1. "to the saints" - from the Gr. "*hagios*" - lit. *the separated* - those devoted, set apart for God, sanctified in calling and practice.
2. "in Ephesus" - Only the heretic Marcion favored deleting the location of the receiving church. Only 2 manuscripts and 1 fragment delete it. The church fathers accept it, as does logic. Chapter 1:15 and 3:2 are mentioning those in the church who had newly come to faith since his departure, along with those in other churches who would also read the letter.
3. "and faithful . . ." - Are these "faithful" on a different tier than the "saints?"
4. "in Christ Jesus" - the truth that our union with Christ as Author and Finisher of our faith, the Head of the church, is the indispensable foundation for claiming to be a Christian.

#### C. Vs. 2 - "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." - What do you think of when you hear the words "grace," and "peace"?

1. "God our Father" - we could not call God Father before Grace.
2. "and the Lord Jesus Christ" - noting deity. Only God can bring divine Grace and Peace. Colossians 1:20, "[Christ] made peace through the blood of the cross."

## II. OUR BLESSINGS IN CHRIST vs. 3-14

- A. Vs. 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."
1. God's exaltation - Paul begins a 7-blessing doxology in a long, continuous sentence of praise.
  2. How can we "bless" God?
  3. "Eulogetos" and "Makarios" compared. "Eulogetos" used of God only. Definition: to be adored, lifted up, praised. "Makarios" is used of God and man. Definition: state of God-conferred benefits, both material but mostly spiritual, as in the Beatitudes.
  4. "God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" - Why does Jesus, who is God Himself, call His Father His God? - Matthew 27:46; John 20:17.
  5. "who has blessed us" - the Church, and ultimately individual believing, faithful saints. Not a future only blessing, but a past, present and eternal enjoyment of grace, mercy and sonship.
  6. "with every spiritual blessing" - not just a sprinkling, but a perpetual fountain of God's love lavished upon those who have found mercy through Christ.
  7. "in the heavenly *places*" - see chapter 2:4-7 and Phil. 3:20. These blessings are "heavenly", they come from heaven. They fit us for heaven. We are children of the Kingdom.
  8. "in Christ" - Christ is the cornerstone of our salvation, and Paul emphasizes and reemphasizes this 12 times in his letter.
- B. Vs. 4, "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love . . ."
1. "Just as He chose us in Him"