

EPHESIANS – CHAPTER ONE (1)

VS 1

Greeting

Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus – versus – an Apostle of the Church

*Eph 2:20; Acts 1:4-9; Rev 21:14 versus Acts 14:14
(with vs 1-7, Paul was the only “Apostle” present)
Acts 13:1-4*

...by the will of God

1. Acts 13:36
2. Rom 1:10; 15:32
3. 2 Cor1:1; 8:5
4. Eph 1:1; Col 1:1
5. 2 Tim 1:1

What does this mean?

He did not choose his career.

Behind his decision was the prior decision of God in Christ.

God’s will always takes precedence over the will of His creature!

...to the saints

Set apart by the action of God 1 Cor 1:2

...residing in Ephesus

...faithful in Christ Jesus

NOTE: The children of God *1 Jn 3:1 are called:*

1. believers 50 times

EPHESIANS...Chapter 1 continued.....

- 2. brethren 180 times
- 3. christian 3 times
- 4. saint – never indicates personal character or worthiness –
but – position

Vs 2 THE SALUTATION

Grace and Peace (always in this order)

Supernatural, not psychological *Phil 4:7*

2 Cor 13:14

2 Pet 1:2-4

Vs 3-14 Forms the longest sentence in the Bible (in the Greek)

In scope it covers the entire work of Saving, from God's election to its consummation in the receiving of our Inheritance.

All three Persons of the Godhead are involved and their individual works are "to the praise of..."

Vs 3 spiritual blessing – relates to the believer's new nature and position

in the heavenlies (1:3,30; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12) – In this realm Christ is supreme 1:20

Three of the blessings: Election, Redemption, Completion

God and Father of Jesus who is our Lord Jn 20:17

Vs 4-6 Election – Chosen

In love He predestined us to....according to...His will

*See Handout Notes on Sovereignty–Election–Predestination

EPHESIANS...Chapter 1 continued.....

Vs 5 Adoption as sons Gal 4:1-7
made reality "through Jesus Christ"
the outworking of His "free will"

1. not motivated by anything in man Rom 9:8-11, 21
nor anything outside God, Himself NOTE: It was an act of His own goodness
toward those whom He chose and beyond this there is no revelation!
To argue that some who were not chosen should have been or that
some that should not have been were, is to misunderstand "Total
Depravity". Eph 2:1-3; Rom 3:9-20

Vs 6 To the praise of "the glory of His grace"

which He freely bestowed on us (active/passive)

in the beloved - a descriptive title (name) for Christ Col 1:13

Vs 7,8 Redemption Col 1:14

CONCEPTS

that must be kept in mind
if we are to understand the subject being taught

The nature of Christ's death for believers is multifaceted: Forgiveness,
Regeneration, Justification, Sanctification, etc.

There were three "works" accomplished when Christ died which were for the
benefit of the unsaved.

We refer to them as "the finished work of Christ" Jn 19:30.

They are: Propitiation, Reconciliation, and Redemption These three works
were committed to Him by the Father and were

CONCEPTS continued....

accomplished while He was on Calvary's Cross.

Propitiation (Satisfaction) – Godward – A vindication of God's righteousness

1Jn 2:2 and 4:10; Rom 3:25 In Heb 9:5 the word "propitiation" is translated "mercy seat". Whatever the mercy seat of the tabernacle was to the Israelite, Christ is to the believer and to God.

Reconciliation – manward – 2Cor 5:18–19; Eph 2:13–16 By the death of Christ, God changed completely, the position of the world in its relationship to Himself.

Redemption – sinward – an act of God by which He, Himself pays, as a ransom, the price of human sin, which the outraged holiness and government of God requires.

Lk 1:68; Rev 5:9; Gal 3:13

Rom 3:24; 8:23

1Cor 1:30

Eph 1:7,14; 4:30; Col 1:13–14

In the Old Testament

1. Israel is redeemed as a nation, out of Egypt

Ex 6:6–7

2. One animal could be redeemed by the death of another.

Ex 13:13

3. A lost estate could be redeemed by a kinsman.

Lev 25:25–26

This practice became a "type" of Christ's redemption

a. The redeemer must be a near kinsman

Heb 2:13,15,17; Phil 2:6–7

b. He must be able to redeem, being free from that which occasioned the need for redemption

CONCEPTS continued....

Heb 4:15; 7:26–27; Lk 1:35

c. The price of redemption must be paid

1Pet 1:18–19; Acts 20:28

d. He must be willing to redeem

Ruth 4:2–11; Heb 10:4–10

In the New Testament

1. All are in need of redemption

Rom 7:14; 1Cor 12:2; Eph 2:1–3; Jn 3:18; Rom 3:19; Gal 3:10

The price needing to be paid was paid in full 2Cor 5:14–21; 1Pet 2:24; Rom 3:23–26; 1Jn 2:2; Rom 8:34

Once redeemed, the emancipated one never returns to his former position.

The redeemer will not sell a slave which He has purchased

Jn 10:28

2. Once redeemed – they are free

Jn 8:36; Rom 8:20–25; Gal 4:28–31; 5:13

A freed slave may submit himself to the One who purchased him as his slave

The Redeemer will not own a slave who is not one by choice

1Cor 9:19–23; Ex 21:1–6

EPHESIANS...Chapter 1 continued.....

Vs 9 Another act of grace directed at the believer – “make known to us His will” – which has been a mystery prior to the present revelation

Eph 3:3–6; Rom 11:25; Col 1:15–20

To understand God’s prophetic program is to receive a gift, which was not made known to the pre–Christ world, and also was not understood by the world, in general

Knowledge of how the world will progress to its end is a gift from God!

This plan of God’s is said to be:

1. according to His kind intention
2. which He, God the Father, purposed in Christ

Vs 10 ...with a view – to an administration (Dispensation)
suitable to the fullness of time – when all things will be
“summed up” in Christ

This time began with the First Coming of Christ – Gal 4:4

and will ultimately become complete when: 1Cor15:28

1. “the end of the ages” 1Cor 10:11
2. “the last hour” 1Jn 2:18
3. “last days” Heb 1:2

God has a plan for the universe and it will be fully accomplished
through Christ. Rom 8:19–22

EPHESIANS...Chapter 1 continued.....

Vs 11 also

“also” follows what?

We were chosen

We were adopted
We were redeemed
We were enlightened
In addition to these “spiritual blessings”, we were made heirs!

We have obtained an inheritance as part of the plan that God
predestined us to experience.

NOTE: Alternative Translation:

“we were made His inheritance”

OR

“were made a heritage”

Deut 4:20; *9:29; 32:9

God predestined us in harmony with His “Eternal Purpose” Eph 3:11 This
means God had reasons for creating and for the place each and every human
filled in His plan.

Predestination has reasons for its outworking – God knows them
and man doesn’t!

“Works all things after the counsel of His Will”

Rom 9:11,16,18 Lk 22:22; Acts 2:23; Phil 2:12–13;
2Thes 2:13; Phil 1:6

EPHESIANS...Chapter 1 continued.....

Vs 12 “to the end” – God’s ultimate purpose which determines
His choices

“We” (must be different group than “you also”, vs 13)

“the first to hope in Christ” – Jewish Christians?
“result in the praise of His glory”

We will be holy and faultless vs4
sons of God vs5
glorifying Him forever vs6,12,14

This is certain!
It is part of a universe-embracing plan.

Vs 13–14 That which the Father has done
That which the Son has done
That which the Holy Spirit has done

“In Him

you also

heard the message of truth – Rom 10:4
hearing is necessary so faith can be exercised,
resulting in salvation

the good news of our salvation – Rom 10:13
having also believed – Rom 1:16

you were sealed

with the Holy Spirit of promise

Jn 14:16–17; 15:26; 16:13; Acts 1:4; 2Cor 1:22

EPHESIANS...Chapter 1 continued.....

given

a pledge of our inheritance

with a view to

the redemption of God’s own possession”

He both made it and bought it!

1Cor 6:19-20; Rom 14:8; 2Pet 1:5-11

Vs15 For this reason I too...do not cease giving thanks for you...
while...

For this reason - knowing:

1. God's choice of them vs 4
2. God's plan for them vs 5
3. God's redemptive work for them vs 7
4. Their end with God vs 12,14
5. The outward expression of their faith
6. Their love for all the saints Gal 5:6; 1Jn 4:7-21

I, too - their response to the Gospel is known by many throughout
the region. Col 1:3-8

Vs16 do not cease giving thanks for you - Rom 1:8
(a church's reputation impacts both the community it sits in the
midst of, and, other believers who are aware of them)

EPHESIANS...Chapter 1 continued.....

Vs17-18 Paul prayed specifically that
the "God of our Lord Jesus Christ" - as the second Adam,
Christ maintains a "human" relationship with the Father.
(also see: 2Cor 1:3; Eph 1:3; 1Pet 1:3; Rom 5:15-19)

1. May give to you a spirit of wisdom

May give to you a spirit of revelation both centered in the knowledge of Him
(a growing supply)

3. May give the “eyes of your heart” enlightenment
that you will:

a. know what is the hope of His calling

Heb 6:13–20

what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance (specifically “in the saints”)

an inheritance that will be possessed by the
entire family – not just me!

what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe

NOTE: The “Heart” in Scriptures

Matt 12:34; 15:19; 22:37; Jn 14:1; Rom
10:10;

Prov 4:23; 1 Sam 16:7

EPHESIANS...Chapter 1 continued.....

Vs19 All of the above – in accordance with the working of the strength
of His might – (brought about by) means of
the resurrection of Jesus Christ – and His being
placed in His present position

If we are to “possess our possessions” it will take
God’s power to make it happen!

God's focus is us, not all

- Vs20–21 seated Him at the Father's right hand
Rom 8:34; Mk 16:19; Acts 7:54–60
1. far above all
 - a. rule
 - b. authority
 - c. power
 - d. dominion
 - e. names that will ever be named
- Vs 22 The Father
1. put all things in subjection under His feet
 2. placed Him as Head over all things
 3. to the church
- Vs 23 The church being
1. His body
 2. the fullness of Him who fills all in all