

Study on Ephesians, chapter 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ **by the will of God**, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: **2** Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. **3** **Blessed** be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

BLESSED: [eulogētos](#) [G2128](#)

This adj. ending in **-tos** makes the word to mean "inherently worthy to be praised," and is **in all instances ascribed to God the Father and also to Christ ([Rom 9:5](#)), for no one else is inherently worthy of such praise.**

4 According as **he hath chosen us** in him (in Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: **5** **Having predestinated us** unto the **adoption of children by Jesus Christ** to himself, according to the **good pleasure of his will**, **6** To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

*We did not choose God; God chose us before the foundation of the world for the purpose of adopting us as His children by Jesus Christ, and He **PREDESTINATED** ([Romans 8:29-30](#)) us for this purpose, according to His own Will (not according to our choice). This purpose of having children that would be Holy, spotless and without blame ([1 Peter 1:16](#)), having being made perfect in Love ([Ephesians 5:27](#)), is a purpose that brings God **GOOD PLEASURE**; when God exercises His will to fulfill this purpose, it gives Him PLEASURE, GOOD PLEASURE, which reveals to us that those chosen by Him have great value in His Sight ([Psalm 8:4](#)). Our acceptance is by Grace, not our works, and just as Jesus is accepted, we too can have the confidence, and the assurance, that we too, are equally accepted by God our Father.*

7 In whom we have **redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace;

Redemption of the Soul comes through Faith in Jesus Christ, and means the forgiveness of sins, because He has redeemed or purchased our Soul by His own Blood. Redemption of the whole person will be completed at the Second Coming of The Lord Jesus Christ when His chosen will receive their immortal bodies.

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; **9** **Having made known unto us the mystery of his will**, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: **10** That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: **11** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: **12** That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

The mystery of the Gospel is that through Christ, not only would the children of Israel be Saved, but also the Gentiles, and that in the fulness of times (after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ), all Believers who will have been Saved by Grace will be gathered together in ONE (Christ Jesus), and fitted as members of His Body, whether they be Israelites or Gentiles. So, God's Purpose from before the foundation of the World has been to create for Himself a Body, with Jesus as the Head, and all the other members having been Predestinated to be chosen for the body, and fitted into the Body according to His own Plan and Purpose, and for His own Pleasure.

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, **14** Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Faith in Jesus Christ (and thus in God who raised Jesus from the dead), makes it possible for believers to receive the Holy Spirit, and this is how God gives us not just The Comforter and Teacher to guide us and help us grow in the Spirit, while we are yet in this mortal body but the Holy Spirit dwelling in us is a guarantee that God's Promise of Salvation of our Soul, and later Redemption of our body is a certainty if we continue to Believe in Jesus, and do not be overcome by the temptations of this world, and cares of this life. Each member of the Body of Christ is a reflection of God's Glory, which results in Praise to Him from all Creation.

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, **16** Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; **17** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of **wisdom and revelation in the knowledge** of him:

Knowledge is Information; Knowledge of God is Information about God. **Wisdom is applied Knowledge;** how we apply the Information that we receive. **Revelation is understanding of Information; it literally means 'NOW I SEE';** like a student working on a math problem, which a teacher helps him to solve, and once the student has understood, he says, 'Now I See'! Revelation means uncovering of something previously hidden; the Bible is a sealed Book, and the Information contained in its pages is not Revealed, does not become Revelation without Faith. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher, who alone can reveal the mysteries of the Word of God, The Holy Spirit alone can bring us Revelation, or Understanding of the Knowledge and Information that is contained in The Bible. It is The Holy Spirit in us that brings us The Knowledge of God, Reveals God to us; reveals Jesus Christ to our Inner Man, and since Jesus is the Express Image of God, He reveals God to us ([Hebrews 1:3](#)). Many people read The Bible, without having Faith in Jesus, and therefore the Information hidden in its pages is never Revealed to them; they never get any Revelation. The apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesians that they would not merely read the Word of God, but God but would be revealed to them by The Holy Spirit as they studied The Word of God.

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

*The word **ENLIGHTEN** has a meaning closely related to the Word Revelation; it means spiritual understanding. It literally means an entrance of Light into the Inner Man. Since God is Light (**1 John 1:5**), and Jesus is the Light of the world (**John 8:12**), a man can only be **ELNIGHTENED**, when God and Jesus dwell in that man. How does Light enter into Man? How does Man Get Enlightened? **Psalm 119:130: The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.** The Word of God is God, and God is Light, so when The Word of God enters Man's heart and mind through Faith in Jesus Christ, Light enters the Man, and thus the Man becomes Enlightened. There are many false teachers out there in the New Age movement and such that offer Enlightenment, but without God and Jesus who are Light, the Enlightenment offered by such deceivers is in reality Darkness. They darken the Mind; they do not Enlighten it.*

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, **20** Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, **21** Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: **22** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, **23** Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

*The Power of God is demonstrated throughout His Creation; the Sun does not fail to arise in the morning; seasons continue as God said they would in Genesis; rain falls and waters the Earth, which brings forth all that Man and beast require for their bodily sustenance. The heavenly host, which include all stars and heavenly bodies, function according to God's ordinances (**Job 38: 31-35**). So, those who believe not the lies of this world, but believe in the Creator all things, see His Power everywhere. However, God's Creative Power is not to be compared to The Power of His Love, which He demonstrated on The Cross by Himself incarnating in a Man's Body, and shedding His Blood for Mankind, and then defeating the greatest enemy ever known in Creation, the enemy that is Death. When Christ Jesus, who is God in the flesh arose from the dead, the greatest enemy in Creation, an enemy whose power was equal to the Power of Love was defeated, and it is The Power of Love that God exercised in The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead that now works in us. Death is an enemy equal in power to Love, as written in **Song of Solomon 8:6**: Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for **love is strong as death**; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. God had to show to Man, to demonstrate to Mankind, that His Power of Creating the heavens and the Earth is not the type of Power that revealed what He is on the Inside. That which makes God God is that which He is on the Inside; **God is Love (1 John 4:8)**. So, that which God is on the Inside, the Inner Person of God could only be revealed through a demonstration of His Love, for which it was necessary to bring an enemy into existence that would be equally powerful, but the exact opposite of Love. That enemy is Death, which is the final consequence of Evil; Evil always leads to Death, and this is why Evil*

*had to exist in God's Creation, so that God could use Evil to demonstrate His Love, and having done so to destroy Evil and Death at the same time. The apostle's wonderful Prayer in this passage is for God's people to not just understand this Plan of God, formed from before the foundation of the world, but to have an experience of this power in their lives, the very same Power of Love that defeated Death on the Cross of Jesus Christ. Those to whom this Power is revealed are transformed into the very Image of Christ, who is the Image of God, and when that process, which begins when a Believer first becomes a Believer through Faith in Jesus Christ, and is Born Again, will be finished, the Believer will have been transformed from **Mankind to God-Kind, and God alone will be ALL IN ALL.***

John 3:16 For God **so loved the world**, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *This Scripture reveals the Love of God that was demonstrated on the Cross of Christ.*

Hebrews 2:14

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death**, that is, the devil;... *Death is the power of Evil (personified in the devil), and Love is the Power of God; **when Love and Death collided on the Cross of Christ (God Incarnate), it was LOVE THAT arose victorious, and Death was destroyed!***

1 Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. **55** O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? **56** The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. **57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*As prayed by the apostle Paul for the Ephesians, I too pray for myself, and for all that read and study God's Word that **God will be ALL IN ALL, in all of us.** Amen.*