

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

CHAPTER 1:1-6

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TITLE:

"WE ARE BLESSED OF GOD" - PART 1

THEME:

EPHESIANS 1:3

**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,
IS GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE FOR HIS CHILDREN - THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST WHICH IS IN CHRIST**

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of the Text

Prayer

THE CITY OF EPHESUS

- In 61 ad. was a sprawling metropolis of Asia Minor (today being modern day Turkey)
- With a population in excess of 300,000 it was the major business trade center of the Ancient world.

THE WORSHIP OF EPHESUS

- Science has provided for us the fact that the Seventh wonder of the world was there - The Great Temple of Diana - THE center of pornography and cultic worship most lewd and sensual type.
- The Goddess (statue) of Diana was an extremely gross object and it was at the feet at that idol that her worship would take place, heterosexual, homosexual, and bestiality was practiced there - and they loved it all
- It was known for its violence and its wealth

THE BACKGROUND OF EPHESUS

- It is to this type of city, and to these types of people that the Gospel came through the Apostle Paul - in Acts Chapter 18 & 19:23-34

This is where Christianity Always Goes - and Goes the Best!

Romans 5:20

But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, (NKJ)

BACKGROUND OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

- Paul writes this letter 10 years after visiting there - at the age of sixty, he is in his first imprisonment located in the Praetorian Guard's house.
- He will write from here what is known as the Prison Epistles. The book of Galatians, EPHESIANS, Philippians, Colossians.

INTERESTING SIDE NOTE

- Jesus Himself wrote a letter to this church in the book of Revelation, Chapter 2
- The Apostle John and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are both buried here in Ephesus and you can visit their graves today.

A WARNING, WITH A TONGUE IN CHEEK

“It is not so much a question as to what we will do with this book... but what this book will do with us”

The Book's Division is simple because its application is greatly needed in our lives

1. Chapters 1-3 (The Wealth of the Believer)
2. Chapter 4-5 (The Walk of the Believer)
3. Chapter 6 (The Warfare of the Believer)

It was intended to be read in all the churches in all
ages - today

The sender

- * **Paul** **GRK** **Paulos (pow'-los)**
A little one, or something small
- * **apostle** **GRK 652 apostolos (ap-os'-tol-os)**
A delegate; an ambassador, someone who's been commissioned by Christ . One who's sent.

BY THE WILL OF GOD

- * **Will** **GRK 2307 thelema (thel'-ay-mah)**
A determination, a choice made. A decree

IN JOHN'S GOSPEL 15:1-7 (16)

JESUS LAID DOWN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDINATION INTO THE MINISTRY

The Receiver

#1 THE BELIEVER

- * **Saints** **GRK 40 hagios (hag'-ee-os)**
From hagos (an awful thing) to a sacred, pure, blameless.
one who's ceremonially, and positionally cleansed - hag - I - os = saint.

#2 THE LOCATION

- * **In - Ephesus** **GRK 1722 en (en)**
Those fixed in a place, a time or a state), an intermediate place

God has placed us in the geographical

Locations that we are in for His Glory and for the promotion of His Gospel.

Chino Hills, Frankfurt, Saint Petersburg, Russia

* Faithful GRK 4103 pistos (pis-tos')
those trustful are those who are trusting. believe (-ing, -r), faithful (-ly), sure, or true.

#3 THE POSITION

* In - Christ GRK 1722 en (en)
Those fixed in a place, a time or a state, an intermediate place

How Does it Happen?
How are we placed in Christ?

When Jesus came He said...

John 12:32
But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."
#1 Demanding Acknowledgment #2 Delivering Redemption

Ezekiel 36:26
"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. :27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

When Does This Happen?

1 Corinthians 12:12-14
For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. :13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

2 Corinthians 6:1

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. :2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Why Does This NEED TO Happen?

John 14:16-18

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- :17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. :18 "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

What does this position "In Christ" do for us NOW...

2.) *It Guarantees Our Blessed State In Life*

vv. 2

If you haven't noticed,
Life is not easy - Life, in Fact is hard!!!

Christian or not - Life is not fair

But for the Christian and the Christian alone - Life can be victorious
IN CHRIST

#1 Consider the Origin of Blessings

**It's From God - the Father
&
It's From the Lord - Jesus Christ**

What is implied is Grace came from the Father - by sending us His Son

* **Grace** **GRK 5485 charis (khar'-ece)**
God's divine influence upon the heart of His child,
producing an acceptability, a position of favor, of gifting, of pleasure!
a gratifying of your total being.

What is implied is Peace comes from "The Lord Jesus Christ"

* **Peace** **GRK 1515 eirene (i-ray'-nay)**
An internal quietness of the soul, a deep and resilient rest
to be set at one with (nature NOT - God YES)

Him Being the LORD of your Life - will result in Peace

John 10:30
"I and My Father are One."

John 17:1-3
Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, :2 "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Colossians 3:15
Let the peace of God rule (reign) in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; - and be thankful.

Yielding to Him as Lord, Governor, ruler,
controller, Master is a difficult thing to do - for
some people...

3.) *Receiving What He has Provided*

vv. 3

#2 Anticipate the Blessings to be Experienced

When we say...

“WE ARE BLESSED OF GOD”

What is it that we mean? - What does it do for me Now as a Christian?

Has Blessed Us

IT HAS BEEN GIVEN - IT'S AVAILABLE - NOW

Every Spiritual Blessing

ALL THAT WILL EVER BE NEEDED - NOW

OUR CURRENT POSITION IS IN CHRIST!

BECAUSE THAT'S A FACT

YOU & I LITERALLY HAVE HIS BLESSINGS NOW

AND A LOT OF US ARE FAILING TO ENJOY THEM

GRACE & PEACE!