

THE SOURCE OF ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS
EPH. 1:1-6

Introduction:

A. "From"

1. "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ."
2. "by the will of God."
3. apostle = one sent, messenger, ambassador, envoy.

B. "To"

1. "to the saints which are at Ephesians."
 - a. saints = hagios = men who have as their ground of life, Jesus Christ.
 - b. Ephesus = [article]

EPHESUS:

A city of Lydia on the western coast of Asia Minor, at the mouth of the river Cayster, nearly midway between Miletus on the south and Smyrna on the north. Situated at the junction of natural trade routes, and near a far-famed shrine of an Asiatic nature goddess, whom the Greeks identified with Artemis, its growth was assured. In the eleventh century B.C. the town was seized by the Ionians, a section of the Greek race. Ephesus became one of the twelve cities belonging to their confederation, and itself the capital of Ionia. About 555 B.C. the city submitted to Croesus, King of Lydia, whose capital was Sardis, but it soon fell under the Persian domination. When the victories of Alexander the Great overthrew the Persian empire, Ephesus came under Macedonian-Greek rule. Hitherto it had been confined to a low, alluvial plain liable to the flooded.

2. "and to the faithful in Christ Jesus."
 - a. faithful = pistos = trustworthy, one on whom we may rely, sure, certain.
 - b. Not universal church but same as "saints."

C. "greetings."

1. "Grace be to you." and "peace be to you."

- a. Shalom = spiritual prosperity.
3. "from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ"

I. (channel) THE SOURCE OF ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS. V3

A. What is a blessing?

1. bless = eulogeo = to speak well of, to praise.
2. bless = to set in motion, and to endow; "An operation that is powerful, almost irresistible, that will bring something promised to pass."
3. blessings = benefits, perks, something that furthers our cause, gives power to produce.

B. "blessing" does not pertain to emotion.

1. If we bless God, we praise Him.
2. If God blesses us, He does something.

C. "Praise be to God, [eulogy], who is both God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed [endowed, set in motion] us with all spiritual blessings, [benefits] in regard to heavenly things, in Christ."

D. There are three spiritual blessings then mentioned many, many more!

1. The blessing of being "chosen."
2. The blessing of being "adopted."
3. The blessing of being "accepted."

II. THE BLESSING OF BEING HIS CHOSEN ONES. V4

A. God always chooses His servants.

1. Israel= Deut. 14:1,2 "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth."
2. Psalm 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom he hath chosen for an inheritance."

- B. God's choice is not a choice to love and save but a choice to serve.
 - 1. The apostles. John 6:70 "Jesus answered, them, have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil."
 - 2. The church. John 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit."

- C. God loves the world but He chooses His servants.
 - 1. John 3:16 "for God so loved....."
 - 2. Acts 9:15 God speaking to Annias, "he is a chosen vessel unto me to bear my name before the gentiles and kings and the children of Israel."

- D. The Ephesians were chosen.
 - 1. "according as he hath chosen us in him."
 - a. chosen eklego = to pick out, to lay out together, select.
 - b. Same word used previously.
 - c. "in him" the choice is always in him, for the choice is to serve him. 2:10.
 - d. God chose that every one in Christ should serve Him.
 - 2. "before the foundation of the world."
 - a. foundation = katabola = a casting down.
 - b. Before the world was created, God chose all who would be "in Him" as a servant.
 - 3. "that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."
 - a. holy = hagios = holy, sacred, not polluted.
 - b. blame = hamomos = without ridicule or disgrace, without blemish of sin.
 - c. Before God!
 - d. In love!

- E. God loves the world. He chooses those who are in Christ, or those who are His children, those who love Him to serve Him.

III. THE BLESSING OF ADOPTION. V5

- A. God predestinated us.
 - 1. predestinated = proorizo = to set bounds before, to decree, or ordain.
 - 2. "Having predestinated us."

- B. God predestinated our adoption.
 - 1. "unto the adoption of children."
 - 2. adoption = uiiothesia = receiving into the relation of a son.
 - 3. The fleshly birth does not make us a son of God.
John 1:11-13.

- C. God predestinated it, by "Jesus Christ."
 - 1. "by Jesus Christ to himself."
 - 2. Salvation is and always has been by "Him."

- D. God chose this way of salvation and predestinated it because it pleased Him.
 - 1. "according to the good pleasure of His will."
 - 2. I Cor. 1:21 "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

- E. Adoption is another word that shows that we cannot save ourselves. Just as "born again" describes the process, "adopted" shows that God does it all for us.

IV. THE BLESSING OF BEING ACCEPTED.

- A. This is one of the great emotional needs of mankind.
 - 1. Acceptance is a joy.
 - 2. Rejection is our great dread.

- B. "Wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."

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1. accepted = charitoo = to make lovely.
2. He made us as lovely in His sight as His Son, beloved son, Jesus.

C. "to the praise of the glory of His grace."

1. God's glorious grace does it!
2. Praise the glory of His grace!

V. HOW DOES ONE GET "IN HIM"?

A. Know that you are not in Him.

1. "all have sinned and come short."
2. "as in Adam all die."

B. Trust Him. v12,13

1. "trusted" in Christ.
2. v13, trusted = elpizo = to long for and expect a thing, to set one's hope on a thing.

THE REDEPTIVE WORK OF CHRIST
EPH. 1:7-10

Introduction:

- A. We know that we have innumerable blessings.
 - 1. God's declaration of His work for us.
 - a. Psalm 40:5 "many, O lord my god, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward...they are more than can be numbered."

- B. God's blessings flow through Jesus Christ.
 - 1. 1:3.
 - 2. He is God's channel of blessing manward.
 - 3. In Him is our desire!

- C. Redemption is a work of Christ.
 - 1. It is God's way of saving in Christ all that Adam lost in the fall.
 - 2. Redemption is "in him."

I. CHRIST HAS REDEEMED OUR SOULS. V7

- A. "In whom we have redemption."
 - 1. redemption = apolutrosis = releasing on receipt of ransom.
 - 2. We were held in bondage, unable to affect our own release.

Sons of God; born again, translation, redemption, atonement, justification.

- B. "through his blood."
 - 1. The equal gift of the price of redemption was not Jesus, but His blood.
 - 2. Heb. 9:12 "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."