

# The Book of Ephesians

## The Setting

- ❖ Paul wrote this letter as a prisoner at Rome immediately after writing Colossians
  - Colossians written to address specific issues in that Church
    - Doctrinal (Christ preeminent) Col. 1
    - Polemical (warned against error) Col. 2
    - Practical (Christian life) Col. 3
    - Administrative Col. 4
  - Ephesians written without same focus but expanded upon to help us see our proper relationship with Christ
- ❖ Note that about 30 or so years later, John would write about this same Church in Rev. 1. Notice the change in their state. What happened?

## CHAPTER 1

### *Greeting*

- ❖ Not just those at Ephesus but to the faithful (pistos: trustworthy)

### *Spiritual blessings*

- ❖ Vs. 3: God is worthy to be praised for many reasons. One of which is that He has equipped and empowered us spiritually in Christ
  - We must know where our ultimate benefits are: in heavenly places – Phil. 3:20; Heb. 4:14; Col. 1:5; 1 Pet. 1:4; Mat. 6:20-21; Col. 3:1-2
- ❖ What our perspective should be:
  - Our spiritual blessings are as sure as He has chosen us **in Him** – Rom. 8:28
    - I must abide in Christ – John 15:4-9
  - Our election was before the foundation of the world – 1 Pet. 1:2; Psa. 90:2
- ❖ What we should be about – vs. 4
  - Holy – Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 2:9; 1 Pet. 1:15
  - Without blame – Eph. 5:27; above reproach: Acts 25:7; 1 Pet. 3:16; Col. 3:7-10; 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7
  - Before Him in love – Heb. 4:12-13; Gal. 5:16; 1 Cor. 13:2
    - We often struggle because we forget who we are really in front of – God and not man

### *The Blessing of Predestination – Vs. 5*

- ❖ True believers have been predestined by Christ (marked off and called out before)
  - How? Because of His Foreknowledge – Rom. 8:29-31; 2 Tim. 2:19
- ❖ We were predestined to adoption (method) of children by Jesus Christ to Himself

- Adoption to sons and daughters – Rom. 8:15-29

## *The Power of Our Adoption – Vs. 5-6 (cont'd.)*

- ❖ Sonship – Gal. 4:7
- ❖ This is not a forced adoption – Rom. 1:12
- ❖ God adopted us because it pleased Him – Gal. 1:13-16; Col. 1:21
- ❖ We have a right to the cry of the adopted – Rom. 8:15
- ❖ We should praise Him and be a praiseworthy example of His Grace – vs. 5; vs. 12
- ❖ We have been made “accepted” (charitoō: highly favored – see Luke 1:28)

## *Some Benefits of Adoption – Vs. 7*

- ❖ Verse 7:
  - Redemption (to liberate with ransom) – Heb. 9:12-14; Rom. 3:23-25; Gal. 3:13
  - Forgiveness (aphesis – freedom, pardon: - deliverance, forgiveness, liberty) – John 8:36
  - With the Blood of Christ – 1 Pet. 1:17-19
- ❖ Vs 8: Wisdom and Prudence
- ❖ Vs. 9: Revelation of the mystery of His Will
  - Mat. 13:11; Rom. 11:25; Rom. 16:25-27; 2 Tim. 1:9-10
- ❖ Vs. 10: The Gathering of all in Christ – Rom 8:18-22; Rev. 5:13
- ❖ Vs. 11: An inheritance – Mat. 19:29; Luke 10:25; 1 Pet. 3:9
  - By faith we receive – Acts 26:15-18; Not law – Rom. 4:14-16

## *What We Should Be About – Vs. 12*

- ❖ Verse 12: Praise & Glory to God
  - Psa. 150; Psa. 103:2; 2 Cor. 2:13 (for salvation)

## *Steps to The Sealing of The Holy Spirit (vs. 13)*

- ❖ Coming to faith – Rom. 10:17
- ❖ After hearing the word of truth – John 1:17
  - The gospel of your salvation – Mark 10:45; Rom. 5:8, 6:23, 8:1, 8:32; 2 Cor. 5:21
- ❖ And after believing – Rom. 10:10
- ❖ Then the sealing – vs. 13; Mat. 25:3; John 6:27; Isa. 42:1; 2 Cor. 5:5; Eph. 4:30

## *Earnest and Redemption (vs. 14)*

- ❖ The seal of the Holy Spirit is the down payment until we are redeemed
  - Read Rom. 8:23
- ❖ We have been purchased and are His possession – Acts 20:28
  - Purchased with Christ blood – 1 Cor. 6:20
- ❖ We will be redeemed to Him – 1 Pet. 2:9; Eph. 1:7; Mar. 10:45; Tit. 2:14

## *Prayer for Knowledge and Understanding (vs. 15-23)*

- ❖ Note that Paul prays even fervently after they had come to faith – vs. 15
  - Continuous prayer – 1 Thes. 5:16-17; Rom. 12:12; Phil 4:6; Col. 4:2
- ❖ What to pray for believers?
  - Wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him – Col. 1:9
  - A Spiritual awareness – vs. 18; Acts 26:18
  - Knowledge of purpose – vs. 18; Eph. 2:12-16
  - Surety of heaven – vs. 18; 1 Cor. 2:2
  - That we will know the Power of God available to us – vs. 19
    - Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:22-23; Heb. 7:25; 1 Cor. 10:13; Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Cor. 9:8-10; Eph. 3:20-21
  - That we will know our proper position according to Christ's – vs. 21-23
    - Deut. 28:13; Luke 10:19; Eph. 1:21; Gen. 1:26