

Ephesians 1: 1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God's holy people in Ephesus,^[a] the faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he^[b] predestined us for adoption to sonship^[c] through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he^[d] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen,^[e] having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.



7 Churches of Asia

Every spiritual blessing in Christ

V3, is the great theme of this chapter, *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms **with every spiritual blessing in Christ.***

- ❑ There is the work of the Father, **V3-6.**
- ❑ Work in relation to the Son, **V7-12.**
- ❑ The work of the Holy Spirit, **V13-14.**

These are all available to us in the realm that Paul calls “the heavenly”.

The heavenly realm

The realm of **invisible reality** in which the Christian lives now, **in contact with God,** and **in the conflict with the devil** in which we are all daily engaged.

Our inner experience

God chose us

God chose us to experience the spiritual blessings in Christ before the world was created.

V3-4, ³ *Praise be to the **God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.* ⁴ *For **he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.***

- **Starting point is always God the Father.**
- The aim of the work of God is to bless us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. His goal is to bring about a world, a universe, filled with blessing.

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

1. V4, *He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*
2. V5-6, *He^[b] predestined us for **adoption to sonship**^[c] through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.*

We are members of the family of God.

3. V7-8, *In him we have **redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins**, in accordance with the riches of God's grace⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,*

Our guilt has been removed, think about that!

4. V9-10, *He^[d] **made known to us the mystery of his will** according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*

We have been taken into the secret councils of the Almighty. We have been told something of the details of this plan.

5. V11-12, *In him we were also chosen,^[e] having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.*

God has appointed us to be a demonstration of all great truths for the praise of His glory.

6. V 13a, *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation.*

We are in a position to get the truth from the real source.

7. V13b-14, *When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.*

In Christ

All this comes to us in Christ, in the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Himself.

Locality

Paul refers to it in **2 Cor. 4: 18**, *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

Do you remember the story in the OT about Elisha and his servant?

2 Kings 6:15-17, *When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.*

¹⁶ *“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”* ¹⁷ *And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

Or even the message that the apostle John had to write to the angels of the churches in Asia, Revelation 1: 4, 11; 2:1, 8, 12, 18?

Or in **Eph. 6: 12**, *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*