

## EPHESIANS CHAPTER 1

### **Access to All Spiritual Blessings**

Background: Paul wrote the Book of Ephesians while imprisoned in Rome and unsure of what fate awaited him. Clearly, Paul wanted to drive home the point of his imprisonment as he starts Ephesians 3 with “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus” and Ephesians 4 with “As a prisoner for the Lord”. Paul may have been physically imprisoned, but his mind and spirit, as portrayed in the letter, were clearly free.

Book of Ephesians is revealed.

The Book of Ephesians was written to “God’s holy people in Ephesus” (Ephesians 1:1, NIV).

The city of Ephesus was a large commercial port city in Asia Minor (present day Turkey) located at the mouth of the Cayster River near the Aegean Sea. As a large population center on a major trade route and the capital of the Roman province of Asia, Ephesus was considered the “Gateway to Asia”. Additionally, the city of Ephesus was known as a center of pagan worship as the Temple of the Greek goddess Artemis (Roman goddess Diana), considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was located just outside of the city.

Paul starts out his letter to the church of Ephesus by saying,

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 (Eph. 1:3, NKJV).” The words “every spiritual blessing” jumped off the page at me as I read it.

The Greek word for “blessing” is the word eulogia which means “benefit.” These spiritual blessings that Paul referred to weren’t just nice ideas. They were realities to him that were attached to real benefits when he lived in and through them. Ultimately we live in and through them as we live in Christ, but it’s helpful to breakdown what that actually means. Paul goes on to do this for us in verses 4-19 and shares 15 different spiritual blessings we have when we live in Christ. I encourage you to take a moment and read through the entire scripture passage. Let’s look at the 15 Spiritual Blessings Paul declares over you...

#### 1. Chosen Before the Foundation of the World (v.4) Access

To know you’ve been chosen before the foundation of the world is to know that your life matters. Your existence isn’t an accident or by-product of natural selection. God has been thinking about your destiny before He ever said, “Let there be light.”

#### 2. Holy and Blameless (v.4) Accessible

In Christ you are holy and blameless. This means you are fit to serve Him and worship Him

despite your shortcomings. God enjoys you when you approach Him and He gladly moves through your life to touch others, not because of your own righteousness, but because of the righteousness of Christ that has been imputed or attributed to you.

### 3. In His Love (v.4) Accessible

In Christ you stand in agape or unconditional love. You cannot earn it. Today, you are unconditionally loved in Christ. Have you received it? Make the following confession today, "Jesus, I receive your unconditional love."

### 4. Predestined to Adoption (v.5) Accessible

God has predetermined to call you His own in Christ. He has selected you to be His son or daughter. You are a part of His family. He is your Father. Many times when parents adopt a child, they go through a selection process for making a decision on who they will adopt and who they won't adopt. God already went through His decision-making process about you a long time ago and decided to adopt you as one of His children.

### 5. Accepted in the Beloved (v.6) Accessible

You are not rejected. You are not an outcast. You are not unworthy of approval. The Creator of the universe accepts you in Christ. You have been relationally reconciled in Christ and are pleasing to God. You might not have health in all of your relationships right now, but, in Christ there is nothing between you and God today.

### 6. Redemption through His Blood (v.7) Accessible

Outside of Christ you were a slave to sin and eternal death. You couldn't buy or earn your way out of it. The price for your freedom was the precious blood of Jesus. Jesus wasn't a slave. Jesus was already free. Jesus paid for your freedom anyways.

### 7. Forgiveness of Sins (v.7) Accessible

In your life you have turned your back on God morally. You have consciously rebelled against His law in your heart. You have ignored His wisdom and thought yourself to be the wiser many-a-time. In Christ, you are forgiven today.

### 8. Riches of His Grace Abound To You (v.7-8) Accessible

Grace means "unmerited favor." Abound means "to have in abundance." In Christ, there is an abundant measure of unmerited favor flowing to your life like a river that will last from here into the never-ending depths of eternity.

### 9. Made Known to You the Mystery of His Will (v.9) Accessible

In a fallen world of war, suffering and disease; a sinful world where bad things happen to good people; God has revealed His solution to us. He wrapped-up every answer to every aspect of

the human condition in Christ and He gave it to us.

#### 10. Obtained An Eternal Inheritance (v.11) Accessible

Revelation 21:4 describes Heaven in the following manner: And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

#### 11. Heard the Word of Truth (v.13) Accessible

God's truth is a light in darkness. We are not without counsel. We are not left in the dark. We have heard His good news and discovered the path of life.

#### 12. Sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise (v.13) Accessible

The Promise of the Holy Spirit that was prophesied about by Isaiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Joel, John the Baptist and Jesus has been made available to you in Christ today!

#### 13. You Know the Hope of His Calling (v.18) Accessible

His calling over your life is the basket you can put all of your eggs in. It's an anchor. It's a rock. It will never end in vain.

#### 14. You are the Riches of His Inheritance (v.18) Accessible

You are of great value to Jesus. As Christ brought you back to God, God gives you back to Jesus as His inheritance. You are valuable in Christ, you are the righteousness of God in Christ. You are His eternal reward that He cherishes.

#### 15. The Exceeding Greatness of His Power (v.19-20) Accessible

Conclusion: Accessible

Paul says the exceeding greatness of His power is toward you who believe.

A: What kind of power of this? It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead!

B: It is the same power that conquered sin, death and hell.

C: In Christ, this same power is present in your life today!

Accessibility To All Spiritual Blessings

**Sunday 14 October 2018**  
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