

“The Epistle to the Ephesians is a complete Body of Divinity. In the first chapter you have the doctrines of the gospel; in the next, you have the experience of the Christians; and before the Epistle is finished, you have the precepts of the Christian faith. Whosoever would see Christianity in one treatise, let him ‘read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest’ the Epistle to the Ephesians.” (Spurgeon)

[Study Guide for Ephesians by Chuck Smith \(blueletterbible.org\)](#)

EPHESIANS 1: THE BELIEVER'S PLACE IN CHRIST

v. 1 The theme of this book is that we are in Christ Jesus ([John 15](#)).

v. 4 The first blessing we have in Christ is that we were chosen by God.

Just as He chose us in Him: Our possession of **every spiritual blessing** is as certain as our being chosen by Him and chosen **before the foundation of the world**. We dare not diminish what Paul writes here. Believers are chosen by God, and they are chosen before they have done anything or have been anything for God. The great light of this truth casts some shadows; namely, in trying to reconcile human responsibility with divine sovereignty. Yet the purpose of light is not to cast shadows but to guide our steps. The light of God’s selection gives us assurance to the permanence of His plan and His love towards us.

v. 6 The second blessing is that God has accepted us through Jesus Christ. God will not and cannot accept us apart from Jesus.

Our thanks are due to God for all temporal blessings; they are more than we deserve. But our thanks ought to go to God in thunders of hallelujahs for spiritual blessings. A new heart is better than a new coat. To feed on Christ is better than to have the best earthly food. To be an heir of God is better than being the heir of the greatest nobleman. To have God for our portion is blessed, infinitely more blessed than to own broad acres of land. God hath blessed us with spiritual blessings. These are the rarest, the richest, the most enduring of all blessings; they are priceless in value.” (Spurgeon)

v. 7 The third blessing is that we've been redeemed by the shed blood of Christ and that our sins have been forgiven

Redemption always implies a price being paid for the freedom that is purchased. It uses the ancient Greek word *loutro*, which means, “to liberate on the receipt of a ransom.” (Gaebelein) Here the price is **His blood**, showing that the blessing from the Father and the Son comes not only from a divine decree, but it also comes according to His righteousness and holiness. He cannot bless in opposition to His righteousness and holiness.

v. 9-10 The fourth blessing is that God has made His will known to us: that Christ may be the center of all.

Having made known to us the mystery of His will: Part of what belongs to us under the *riches of His grace* is the knowledge of **the mystery of His will**, God’s great plan and purpose which was once hidden but is no

v. 11 The fifth blessing is that we've been given an inheritance in the Kingdom of God.

v. 19-23 What a vast source of power God is, but how little of His power we appropriate in our lives.

Ephesians 1.1-23

1. Present Possessions

A Present Possession A **quantity of life (John 10:28)** used with reference to believer's future destiny (John 3:36, 5 :29, 12:25). A **present qualitative aspect (John 10:10)** Jesus has life in himself and is a source of life to others (John 5:21, 24, 28). Christ grants eternal life as a present possession to those who believe.

Christians have present possessions in Christ which are ours for the taking. According to Ephesians 1, beginning with verse 17, it is possible for us to experience the *"exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe"* (v. 19). This is the key to entering into the blessing of the possessions we have in Christ by faith. Christ holds these in trust for us, and we claim them not *from* Him but *in* Him. Christ is all these things to us. We cannot have anything from God apart from having Christ Himself. God provides us nothing except as we find it in the Lord Jesus Christ. All His power, authority, and spiritual blessings are in Christ.

There is a great deal of difference between getting something *from Christ* and having these things *in Christ*. He is the One who is become to us wisdom and strength and sanctification and redemption. Knowing we are united to Him; all we need we find in Him. He is our strength. For this reason, we are called on to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. God has nothing for any of us except as we find it in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ, God has given us everything. When we have Christ, we have everything. All is ours, for He has blessed us with all spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. This is held in trust for us and is bestowed upon us as we by faith claim it.

[The Christian's Present Possessions in Christ | Bible.org](#)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" Eph 1.3

The first three chapters of the Ephesians deal with doctrine; the last three chapters, with duty. In the first half Paul explains the riches of God's grace; in the last half he exhorts the recipients of God's grace.

Paul designates himself as "an apostle of Jesus Christ." He was alike Christ's possession and His representative. The risen Lord having both saved and sent him, Paul became God's minister to the Gentiles. Having completely surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ, his learning, zeal, and teaching ability were all consecrated to the service of his Master. He was truly an apostle **"by the will of God."**

"By the will of God" gives additional authority to Paul's position as an apostle. When a man is sent by the will of God, then his hearers will do well to heed his message. Right here we might notice that the will of God is mentioned four times in this first chapter (verses 1, 5, 9, 11). The will of God reaches far back into eternity past, long before the foundations of the earth were laid.

The letter is addressed **"to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus."** The word for "saint" is *hagios*, and it means a holy one. Paul usually applied this term to the true child of

God. The primary meaning of the word is separated or set apart. **It is God who sanctifies us. He sets us apart; we do not consecrate ourselves.** “Saint” suggests no personal merit on man’s part, but a condescending act of Almighty God in setting apart those who believe in His Son.

H. A. Ironside has said: “We do not become saints by saintliness, but we should be characterized by saintliness because we are saints.”

The letter, moreover, is intended for “the faithful in Christ Jesus.” The “faithful” are not mere professors but those who demonstrate their sainthood by their saintliness. Faithfulness to Him whose name is held, bears witness to others of God’s calling. Faith in Christ is much more than intellectual assent; it includes a surrender of the intellect, the heart, and the will to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. The name and fame of a church and its testimony will remain only so long as its members are “faithful in Christ Jesus.” When a man truly has faith in Christ he will keep faith with Christ. If one is not true to Christ, then he has exercised no faith in Christ.

The typical Pauline salutation continues with the words: **“Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ” (1:2).** Paul combined the two forms of salutation used by the Greeks and the Hebrews to send his Christian greeting. Here is a twofold blessing from two persons. **The Father sends His grace and peace; the Son says: “Give them Mine, also.”** It could not be otherwise, since the Son shares the exalted position with the Father “in the heavenlies.” God and Christ are One, thus they are the one source of “grace and peace.” The gospel that Paul preached is always known as the gospel of grace, the gospel of the unmerited favor of God.

Notice that God will not offer peace apart from grace. Nor can any man have peace before he accepts God’s grace. These two words form no mere conventional courtesy, as the Greeks and Hebrews might use them, but rather are they a rich Christian blessing. Ephesians will unfold for us “the riches of His grace” (1:7). **Twelve times in this one epistle Paul uses the word “grace.” May each of us lay claim to our possessions.**

All of the following blessings are ours because of grace:

- 1) salvation (Eph. 2:8)
- 2) justification (Rom. 3:24)
- 3) victory over sin (Rom. 5:20)
- 4) power to testify (Rom. 12:3, 15:15; Col. 4:6)
- 5) strength for service (II Tim. 2:1; Heb. 12:28)
- 6) a spirit of generosity (II Cor. 8:7)
- 7) sweetness in singing (Col. 3:16)
- 8) ability to stand (I Pet. 5:12)
- 9) strength in suffering (II Cor. 12:9)

[Claiming Our Possessions in Christ \(ccbch.com\)](http://ccbch.com)

How few Christians claim all of God’s provision for them today. We claim salvation. We have come out of Egypt and have a ticket to heaven. But there are vast spiritual possessions in Christ which we so often fail to claim. What a sorrow this is to the heart of God. In spite of Calvary, in

spite of the resurrection of Christ, in spite of the giving of the Holy Spirit, so many Christians are saved yet so as by fire.

2. Future Possessions

Ephesians 2.6 -7, And hath raised us up together, and made us **sit together in heavenly places** in Christ Jesus

That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.

- We're not that far from heaven.
- We're not that far from the angels.
- We're not that far from our loved ones in heaven.
- We're not that far from God.
- We're not that far from Jesus himself.
- Heaven is a real place, where Jesus is now, and it's not far away from us.

[Position, Possessions, Privileges \(knowing-jesus.com\)](http://knowing-jesus.com)

The short simple phrase 'In Christ' has become the essence of the book of Ephesians. These two little words 'In Christ' have an enormous weight of meaning. God has given the believer an immeasurable wealth of riches in the Lord Jesus. God has blessed believers with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies – 'In Christ'. All I am and have and will be eternally is deposited in Christ, for me – and for you. All Christ's church is, and has, and hopes for, and will be is eternally secured in Him.

[In Christ Jesus \(knowing-jesus.com\)](http://knowing-jesus.com)

There is no more compelling and meaningful expression for a believer than 'in Christ'. This powerful, positional phrase pronounces our great and **eternal union with Christ**. This summary-statement publishes abroad our **present and perpetual position in Him**.

Permanent Relationship

When we first believed in Jesus we were placed in a permanent relationship with Him. The old former life in Adam was forever replaced with our new, eternal life in Christ. We who were dead in trespasses and sins were made **fully alive and given His life**.

Union with Christ

We are positioned in Christ the moment we trust Him as Redeemer and Saviour. We are placed in union with Christ the moment our hearts declare 'I believe'. God looks on the heart and He knows!! He became our life by means of the **supernatural work of the Holy Spirit**.

Body of Christ

The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the Body of Christ – i.e. He places us IN CHRIST. The moment we believe we are born again... regenerated – made one with our Lord.

Sanctuary of God

The Holy Spirit also immediately and permanently indwells us – filling us with Himself. Whether we feel something or not, the Spirit immediately takes up residence within. Whether or not we have an experience – we become the sanctuary of God. These and many other acts of the Spirit take place to position us IN CHRIST. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts... as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. see 2 Corinthians 1:21–22

Life of Christ

Forgiveness at the cross is the first of numerous acts of the Spirit in a new believer... but from the beginning, we are placed in Christ. From the start, we have union with Christ. From our new birth, we are one with Him. We share in the LIFE of Christ, and this is the testimony... God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. 1 John 5:11-12 Faithful is the saying - For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. 2 Timothy 2:11

Righteousness of Christ

We share in the RIGHTEOUSNESS of Christ. God made Him, Who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Sonship of Christ

We share in the SONSHIP of Christ... He came to His own appointed position, and His own people did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. John 1:11-12

Destiny of Christ

We share in the DESTINY of Christ He raised us up together, and seated us together in the heavenlies – in Christ Jesus, Ephesians 2:6

Heirship with Christ

We share in a joint-HEIRSHIP with Christ, reserved in the heavenlies that'll never fade God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again

unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, uncorrupted, and unfading - kept in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:4-5 And the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ - provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. Romans 8:17

Priesthood of Believers

We share in His PRIESTHOOD – Jew; Gentile; slave; free; male; female – for all are one. Having been made perfect, Christ became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him. Hebrews 5:8-10 We are all living stones, being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5 We have been made a kingdom of priests to the glory and power of God His Father, forever and ever! Amen. Revelation 1:6

Divine Nature of Christ

We share in His DIVINE NATURE and have received His precious promises. His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him Who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world. 2 Peter 1:3

sayings of the prophecy of this book" ([Revelation 22:6-7](#)).

[185. Heavenly People by F.E. Marsh \(blueletterbible.org\)](#)

I. COR. 15:48

ISRAEL is God's earthly people. The Church is God's heavenly people. They are-

1. **Born** with a heavenly birth ([John 1:13](#)).
2. **Seated** in heavenly places ([Eph. 2:6](#)).
3. **Blessed** with heavenly blessings ([Eph. 1:3](#)).
4. **Called** with a heavenly calling ([Heb. 3:1](#)).
5. **Kept** for a heavenly inheritance ([1 Peter 1:4](#)).
6. **Belonging** to a heavenly citizenship ([Phil. 3:20](#), R.V.)
7. **Represented** by a heavenly High Priest ([Heb. 9:24](#)).

[Inheritance, The by Charles Inglis \(blueletterbible.org\)](#)

The Possessions of the Believer

Lesson 7

THE INHERITANCE.

HOW it is obtained — by birth 1Pe 1:3

The BEAUTY of it — incorruptible 1Pe 1:4

The PERFECTION of it — undefiled 1Pe 1:4

The CERTAINTY of it — reserved 1Pe 1:4

The DURATION of it — eternal Heb 9:15