

# Discover the New Testament – Ephesians 1

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## Background

- Author of the book of Ephesians was Paul
- Written around 60 A.D. to the Christians in Ephesus
- Ephesus was a principal port on the west coast of Asia Minor, situated near present-day Turkey.
- Paul spent more than two full years in Ephesus and developed a deep relationship with the Ephesians.
- Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians while imprisoned in Rome awaiting trial.
- Theme of the book: “The Glorious Church”
- Paul reveals the “mystery” of the church & the process by which God is bringing the church to its destined purpose in Christ.
- Epistle is divided into two sections:
  1. The Believer’s Position (Chapters 1 – 3)
  2. The Believer’s Practice (Chapters 4 – 6)

**Ephesians 1:1–2** – <sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus (Cranberry, Zelig, Mars, Beaver), and faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

**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.

- Past Tense – it is already accomplished
- Spiritual Blessings = divine privileges and resources available to us now

**Ephesians 1:4-6** - <sup>4</sup> just as He **chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having **predestined** us to adoption as sons **by Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of **His grace**, by which **He made us accepted** in the Beloved.

Benefits that have already been made available to us:

**Ephesians 1:7–9** – <sup>7</sup> **In Him we have** redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which **He made** to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, <sup>9</sup> **having made** known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself.

**Ephesians 1:11** - **In Him** also **we have obtained** an inheritance, being **predestined** according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of **His will**.

**Ephesians 1:13** - In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Verses 16 – 23 are known as one of the “Ephesian Prayers.”

**Ephesians 1:16–23** - <sup>16</sup> (I) do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power <sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, <sup>21</sup> far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come, <sup>22</sup> And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**Ephesians 2:1-2** – <sup>1</sup> **And you He made alive**, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.

Not any longer: II Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

**Ephesians 2:4-6** – <sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), and **raised us up together**, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* **in Christ Jesus**.