

# **Ephesians 1**

**The doctrine of the Church is taught in Ephesians 1:1 – 4:13 and right living and righteousness are the main themes for the remainder of the epistle. The beginning emphasis is the supremacy of the Church of Christ as God’s predestinated, foreknown plan, His eternal purpose and manifold wisdom.**

**Predestinated is like going to school where the plan and rules are outlined from the beginning. You must have a grade of 70% to pass the course. What gives you this minimum grade is not works of righteousness we have done but being in Christ. Following our baptism into Christ we are to remain in a state of believing obedience. This does not mean we will be perfect and never sin again but rather we will repent and confess our sins for the remainder of our life.**

## **Ephesians Chapter 1**

**Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:**

**Ancient written form had the authors name first. Opposite of today where our signature on a letter is last. Paul affirms his**

**apostleship and states it is by the will of God. Every Christian**

**was called a saint (holy one) in the early Church. The article**

**“the” is not found in the Greek therefore the sentence should read: “ ... to the saints which are at Ephesus faithful in Christ Jesus.” So saints are those who are faithful in Christ Jesus or sanctified. Cf: I Corinthians 1:2 Note “in Christ” a term used over 30 times in the book of Ephesians and found through out the New Testament. How do we get in Christ? Cf: Romans 6:3-6 & Galatians 3:27.**

**Eph 1:2 Grace *be* to you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**This is the common New Testament greeting that God will bestow unmerited favor and peace upon them. Grace (in Greek charis) is the common Greek gentile greeting while peace (in Hebrew shalom) is the common Jewish greeting.**

**Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:**

**Blessed is the word we get eulogize from it means praise. All spiritual blessings means all blessings came from God, He withheld none. 'In heavenly' means The Kingdom of Heaven or The Kingdom of God which is the church of Christ.**

**Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:**

**Chosen us does not mean He has chosen us and rejected others but rather God chose a plan which is to have a people for Himself which is the Church of Christ cf: Titus 1:2. Holiness is the proof that we are in Christ or in Him.**

**Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,**

**Predestinated means that God foreordained the plan that the church should be made up of those people adopted as His children. God is sovereign and this plan made up the pleasure of His sovereign will.**

**Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

**Adopting us as children results again unto His praise who made it all possible in the beloved, the church.**

**Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;**

**We are sold into bondage to sin, Christ redeemed or bought us back from sin and the price He paid to buy us back was His blood. Cf: I Peter 1:19**

**Eph 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;**

**His wisdom and prudence is fully shown in His Grace and Mercy.**

**Eph 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:**

**Having made known to us, all of His adopted children, the mystery which is something beyond human comprehension until it is revealed.**

**Eph 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:**

**Fullness of time is the last age beginning at the birth of Jesus cf: Galatians 4:4. It is also known as the last days, cf: Hebrews 1:1-2, or the last dispensation. The mystery is that He has gathered together all things, both Jew and Gentile. They are gathered together in one family and united as a body under one head which is Christ, who is over all things, angels and humans.**

**Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**

**Inheritance, cf: I Corinthians 2:9, is everlasting life which fits in the predestinated plan that the church is made up of His adopted children. This was brought about by God's own power working throughout the ages, cf: Genesis 3:15, 22:15-18, II Samuel 7:12-16, II Timothy 2:8, Galatians 3:16 & Galatians 3:26-29.**

**Eph 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.**

**The 'we' is the Jewish believers who first trusted before the Gentiles came to know of Christ and His church.**

**Eph 1:13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,**

**The 'ye' is Gentiles who trusted and became believers. By trusting, obedience, or faith, God sealed us with the Holy Spirit of promise. Cf: Acts 1:4 & 2:38-39. Just like a calf is branded as proof of ownership. A seal is placed upon a document to authenticate the document and the Holy Spirit is placed upon us to authenticate our adoption as His children.**

**Eph 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**

**Earnest money is a down payment to seal a bargain. The Holy Spirit is a small part of the future whole that God gives us as proof that we have been adopted as His children. The final redemption is our resurrection from the grave and the purchased possession are the children purchased by Christ's blood.**

**Eph 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,**

**Paul has been updated about the church in Ephesus. He left in the Spring of 57AD and he is writing this book some 4 to 5 years later in about 62AD.**

**Eph 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;**

**Because he had received such a good report, he is giving prayerful thanks.**

**Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:**

**The Father is the source of all glory. The spirit of wisdom was one of the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit. Cf: I Corinthians 12:8. Knowledge is to know, wisdom is to put into practice what you know. The revelation is God's plan for redeeming mankind in Christ Jesus which is also known as the church, or the church of Christ.**

**Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,**

**God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. Cf: I John 1:5. 'Know' is to have a full understanding of the hope of His calling which is everlasting life. The riches are the heavenly inheritance. Cf: Colossians 1:27.**

**Eph 1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,**

**Power in Greek is krat-os meaning vigor, strength and dominion. The great knowledge of everlasting life, our glorious inheritance.**

**Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,**

**If a dead Savior can save us from our sins, how much more powerful is a living Savior seated in the heavenly places at God's own right hand making intercession for us in the Kingdom of Heaven, the church. Cf: Psalms 110:1-4, Hebrews 4:14-16, Hebrews 8:1 ff and Mark 16:19.**

**Eph 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:**

**Far above all kings, princes, magistrates, and Angelis tic beings, either good or bad.**

**Eph 1:22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,**

**Christ has been given all authority and power cf: Matthew 28:18. Christ is made the head of the church, not just the ruler, but the head of the body, which gets life from the head.**

**Eph 1:23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

**The church is His spiritual earthly body living and united in union with the head. The fullness of Him is the visible manifestation of the fullness of Him living from the dead and fills all in all with His glory, majesty and power.**

**The last four verses describe Christ's glorious resurrection.**

**His exultation to God's own right hand.**

**His supreme dominion over all things.**

**His being the head of the church, which is His body on earth.**