

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

Ephesians 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 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [*to be*] saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Note the term "in Christ" a term used over 30 times in the book of Ephesians and found throughout the New Testament. How do we get in Christ? Cf:

Romans 6:3-6 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [*in the likeness*] of [*his*]

resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Ephesians 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* – CARE-is) is the common Greek gentile greeting while peace (in Hebrew shalom) is the common Jewish greeting.

Ephesians 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.

Ephesians 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 and those people are called the Churches of Christ in the Bible. cf:

I Peter 1:19-20 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

I Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

II Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Ephesians 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:

“... the foundation of the world ...” Before the foundation of the world ... All attempts to get rid of the plain meaning of this phrase have been futile; for, as Bruce said:

Whatever be the interpretation of Genesis 1:1 it is certain that [Bara Hebrew & kata-bole Greek] can mean nothing but "laying down" in the sense of "establishing" or "founding"; the phrase used here and in ten other New Testament passages is unambiguous and denotes the creation of the universe

“...holy and without blame before him in love” Holiness is the proof that we are in Christ or in Him.

Colossians 3:1-3 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.¹ 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [*which is*] your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [*is*] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God

Ephesians 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.

Theologians have tried for ages to make something hard out of predestination; but the meaning is not difficult. God designed the whole creation to accomplish the fulfillment of the plan which existed before creation. That is a simple definition of it. It applies to human beings, planets, galaxies, everything God ever made. Regarding people, God's purpose in creating man was that he might become a Son of God through Jesus Christ. That is the destiny God intended for every man ever born on earth. Stars and galaxies may not oppose or thwart their intended destiny; but with people, there is another factor, the freedom of the

human will, enabling people to hinder or even prevent the fulfillment of God's purposes in their lives

Ephesians 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.

Ephesians 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 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Ephesians 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.

Ephesians 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.

Ephesians 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 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

It is also known as the last days, cf:

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [*his*] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

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.

Ephesians 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 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

The inheritance 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 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Genesis 22:15-18 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only [son]: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which [is] upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

II Samuel 7:12-16 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took [it] from Saul, whom I put away before thee. 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

II Timothy 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Galatians 3:26-29 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye [*be*] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Ephesians 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.

Ephesians 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 And, being assembled together with [*them*], commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, [*saith he*], ye have heard of me.

Acts 2:38-39 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, [*even*] as many as the Lord our God shall call.

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.

Ephesians 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.

Ephesians 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.

Ephesians 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.

Ephesians 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 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

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.

Ephesians 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 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

'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 To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Ephesians 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 *kratos* – CRA-tus meaning vigor, strength and dominion. The great knowledge of everlasting life, our glorious inheritance.

Ephesians 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 A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. 2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. 3 Thy people [*shall be*] willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. 4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou [*art*] a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [*our*] profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [*we are, yet*] without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 8:1 ff X

Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Ephesians 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 Angelistic beings, either good or bad.

Ephesians 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 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Christ is made the head of the church, not just the ruler, but the head of the body, which gets life from the head.

Ephesians 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.

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, B.W. Johnson, Clark and Coffman Commentaries