

EPHESIANS 1:1-3

LESSON 02

All Spiritual Blessings

1. Introduction

- a. Ephesians has been called the greatest revelation of Christ.
- b. *That revelation is the mystery of Christ – you in the body of Christ, and Christ in you*
- c. Eph 1-3 – Doctrine (standing-position-riches-calling) – God’s glory in the church
 - i. Union with Christ (1), separation from vanity (2), the mystery and love (3)
- d. Eph 4-6 – Duty (state-practice-responsibility-walk) – Our ministry in the church
 - i. Union with Christ (4), separation from vanity (5), love for one another (5-6), stand against the devil (6)

2. Ephesians 1:1-2 – Paul’s Apostleship

- a. *“Paul”* – as he starts every epistle with his “Christian” name – Acts 13:9
- b. *“an apostle of Jesus Christ”* – not one of the twelve, but one to Gentiles – Ro 11:13
- c. *“by the will of God”* – which is the mystery revealed -Ep 1:9, Ro16:25, 2Ti1:11
- d. Paul’s apostleship was to preach the gospel of grace - Act 20:20-27, 1Co 9:17
- e. Here nothing is because of Paul, but of God: His will, His purpose, His counsel
- f. *“to the saints”* – Gentiles at Ephesus – Eph 2:11, 3:1, 3:8, 4:17
- g. *“Grace to you and peace”* – What God is doing every day instead of judge/war

3. Ephesians 1:3 – We Are Blessed!

- a. Paul in prison in bonds and the first thing he says is “Blessed!”
- b. He is talking about “all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” ← Col 3:2
- c. A saint is one set apart, here we are set apart sitting in heavenly places – Eph 2:6
- d. *“blessings”* = riches (6x), inheritance, fullness, Eph 1:18-19, Eph 2:6-10, 3:8,
- e. *“heavenly places”* ... are real, and a new revelation mentioned 5x in Ephesians
- f. *“in Christ”* – mentioned dozens of times in Ephesians, and Phil 4:19
- g. *“spiritual”* – as opposed to physical/fleshly/earthly like in Deu 28:1-13
- h. God’s intervention is tied to these blessings – no wonder people get frustrated.

4. What are the Blessings?

- a. 1:3 - *“God and Father of our Lord...”* – a testimony of the Godhead.
- b. The blessings are throughout ch.1-3, but in 1:1-14 are separated by Fath, Son, HS
- c. Find the word “us” or “we” – chosen us(4), predestinated us (5), made us accepted(6), redeemed and forgave us (7), abounded toward us (8), made known unto us (9), we have inheritance (11), we are made to be his glory (12), we are sealed (13), we have a hope of glory (14)

“In his writings alone we find the doctrine, position, walk, and destiny of the church.”

– C.I. Scofield notes on Ephesians 3:6

“The highest and most glorious revelation, which the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has been pleased to give, He has given through the Apostle Paul. The two prison Epistles to the Ephesians and Colossians embody this completion of the Word of God. The Ephesian Epistle holds the place of preeminence. The revelation which is given in this Epistle concerning believing sinners, whom God has redeemed by the blood of His Son, and exalted in Him into the highest possible position, is by far the greatest revelation.”

– A.C. Gaebelein in his notes on Ephesians