Chapter 1 includes a brief introduction (<u>Ephesians 1:1-2</u>) followed by two key sections. First, Paul describes the spiritual blessings which believers have in Christ (<u>Ephesians 1:3-14</u>). Second, he focuses on thanksgiving and prayer for his readers (<u>Ephesians 1:15-23</u>).

The introduction (<u>Ephesians 1:1-2</u>) offers Paul's standard greeting, beginning with the author and information about him. It also mentions his audience: the Ephesians and perhaps other churches in the area. This is followed by a greeting: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (<u>Ephesians 1:2</u>).

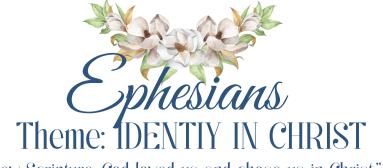
The first section (<u>Ephesians 1:3–14</u>) begins with a word of blessing to God, beginning a long sentence in the original Greek which continues for several verses. Paul emphasizes predestination (<u>Ephesians 1:5</u>), which is the idea that God knew before creating that He would choose certain people to be His followers (<u>Ephesians 1:4</u>). Paul also highlights the importance of grace (<u>Ephesians 1:6</u>). Further, Paul reminds his readers of the redemption through the blood of Christ (<u>Ephesians 1:7</u>), noting the revelation of God's mystery through Jesus as a fulfillment of the plan of God (<u>Ephesians 1:9–10</u>).

Paul further describes the inheritance of believers (<u>Ephesians 1:11</u>) which results in the glory of God (<u>Ephesians 1:12</u>). Paul's readers shared in this inheritance when they heard and believed in the gospel (<u>Ephesians</u> <u>1:13</u>) and were sealed with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the guarantee of the believer's future heavenly hope (<u>Ephesians 1:14</u>).



Predestination is a clear theme in this section, noted directly twice (<u>Ephesians 1:5</u>, <u>11</u>). God chose "us"—Paul's readers specifically, and Christian believers in general—for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ" (<u>Ephesians 1:5</u>). He also "predestined" believers for certain purposes (<u>Ephesians 1:11</u>). The salvation believers receive is "sealed" by the Holy Spirit (<u>Ephesians 1:13</u>) as a guarantee of the believer's future heavenly home. These words strongly support the teaching of eternal security. This is the doctrine that a person who truly believes in Jesus for salvation can never be separated from the love of God (<u>Romans 8:37–39</u>).

The second section (<u>Ephesians 1:15–23</u>) highlights Paul's thanks and prayers. He thanks God for his readers in his prayers (<u>Ephesians 1:16</u>), asking the Lord to give them wisdom and knowledge (<u>Ephesians 1:17</u>). His words extend into praise of God for His great might (<u>Ephesians 1:19</u>), a description of the resurrection (<u>Ephesians 1:20</u>), Christ's exalted status (<u>Ephesians 1:21</u>), Christ's authority (<u>Ephesians 1:22</u>), and the significance of the church (<u>Ephesians 1:22–23</u>).



Key Scripture: God loved us and chose us in Christ." (Eph. 1:4)

Our Position In Christ	Practical living	
What God has done for us (Eph. 1:3–23)	Our new unity (Eph. 4:1-16)	
Emphasis: Sovereignty	Our new walk (Eph. 4:17–6:9)	
What Christ has done in us (Eph. 2:1–10) Emphasis: Grace	Our new strength (Eph. 6:10-20)	
What Christ has done between us (Eph.		
2:11–3:21)	Lead a life worthy of your calling." (Eph.	
Emphasis: Reconciliation	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	

Prayers		
Paul's prayer for	Paul's prayer for	Christians' prayers
the Ephesians	the whole church	for one another
(Eph. 1:15–23)	(Eph. 3:14–21)	(Eph. 6:18–20)

## Jesus Christ Is the Source

Jesus is the source of every spiritual blessing, the cornerstone of the church, and the standard of spiritual maturity (Eph. 1:3; 2:20; 4:11-16).



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