

EPHESIANS 1

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

The introduction ([Ephesians 1:1-2](#)) 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" ([Ephesians 1:2](#)).

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

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

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Predestination is a clear theme in this section, noted directly twice ([Ephesians 1:5, 11](#)). God chose "us"—Paul's readers specifically, and Christian believers in general—for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ" ([Ephesians 1:5](#)). He also "predestined" believers for certain purposes ([Ephesians 1:11](#)). The salvation believers receive is "sealed" by the Holy Spirit ([Ephesians 1:13](#)) 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 ([Romans 8:37-39](#)).

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



Ephesians

Theme: IDENTITY IN CHRIST

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

Our Position In Christ

What God has done for us (Eph. 1:3-23)

Emphasis: Sovereignty

What Christ has done in us (Eph. 2:1-10)

Emphasis: Grace

What Christ has done between us (Eph. 2:11-3:21)

Emphasis: Reconciliation

Practical living

Our new unity (Eph. 4:1-16)

Our new walk (Eph. 4:17-6:9)

Our new strength (Eph. 6:10-20)

Lead a life worthy of your calling." (Eph. 4:1)

Prayers

Paul's prayer for
the Ephesians
(Eph. 1:15-23)

Paul's prayer for
the whole church
(Eph. 3:14-21)

Christians' prayers
for one another
(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).

