

## Ephesians 1:1-14

The Christians in Ephesus and the region were facing much of what Christians here and around the world were facing. This book was to strengthen the believers, to give them hope in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They were being isolated from society as we are seeing that today here in Canada. Persecution followed... are we ready? Let's immerse ourselves in these great truths of Ephesians, that we may be able to be firm in God and His Word... that we would know "whom we have believed"!!

Questions: **OB** = observation questions **INT** = interpretive questions **APP** = application questions  
(sometimes application questions can be very personal, so share only as you feel comfortable)

### Greeting:

**V1** Paul was an apostle-a special messenger, personally chosen- of Jesus.

INT Look up when he became an apostle. (Acts 9:1-19)

OB What do we observe how a saint (set apart one) is identified? (Note: not just those in Ephesus)

INT Who is the source of that faithfulness?

APP What does being 'faithful' mean to you? How has God been faithful to you? Chappell: "God's work is not dependent on human strengths but fully on His faithfulness. Ps. 96:13 (August devo)

**V2** OB Where does Paul say our grace and peace come **from**?

INT Define GRACE and PEACE as a believer. **J I Packer: The peace of God is a new relationship of forgiveness and acceptance. We are no longer at war with God. He is for us, forgives us, and accepts us. Christ has made that possible.**

### Homework begins

*\*\*\*Before you start, please spend time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you dig deeply in the passage. You **may not get some of the questions, which is just fine.** Also, feel free to ask your own questions. Sometimes, we need to live with "I don't know" and move on. Being in a group of other believers can help in the process.*

*Ice breaker: What are three things you wish you could stop complaining about? OR Are there any things that others would like you to stop complaining about?*

**Before you begin verse by verse, please read through this chapter at least three-four times. As you read through: Circle all the "IN CHRIST, IN HIM, THROUGH Jesus Christ, IN THE BELOVED". Paul's emphasis is very clear. Also pay attention to how the Trinity is represented through these first 14 verses.**

*(Note: in the original, verses 3-14 is one long sentence)*

**V3** INT How do we BLESS God? (Ps. 110:1,4; 145:3; 103:2; 96:2-3) Can you find other verses?

OB Why do we bless/praise Him?

APP **He blesses us...** How would you define *being blessed by God*? Define the word BLESSED and then discuss how you have been blessed by God.

OB What are those spiritual blessings? Look through verses 3-14 and write down words or phrases that you notice could be blessings. (we will discuss the details more but just what do you see are blessings) 2 Peter 1:3

(Much discussion on “heavenly places” -MacArthur: God’s complete heavenly domain where all blessings come)

**V4** We will see the pronouns “HE” and “HIM” quite a bit. We need to be clear who they are referring to.

INT first HE (John 6:44) = in HIM = before HIM =

OB When were believers – US – chosen?

OB Why were we chosen?

INT How would you define HOLY and BLAMELESS?

OB Why would God do that?

**V5** OB Who is this “HE” ?

Predestined: Now is a good time to review the extra sheet on Predestination and Adoption.  
[gotquestions.org/Christian-adoption](http://gotquestions.org/Christian-adoption) (**more discussion next time we meet**)

OB Who is “Himself”... who are we sons of?

OB How did we get to be sons... children of God? (verse 7 is coming)

OB Whose purpose or pleasure was this to adopt us?

**V6** OB Whose glorious grace and why did He do this?

Oh! Let’s praise God right now!!

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

INT Who is this Beloved of God? (Luke 3:21-22; John 10:17) Again... what is GRACE??

**V7** OB How do we receive redemption?

INT Who is HIM and HIS? (Hebrews 9:22)

## What is the meaning of Christian redemption? Isaiah 43:1 (43:1-15 – soo good)

**Answer:** Everyone is in need of redemption. Our natural condition was characterized by guilt: “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. (Romans 3:23) Christ’s redemption has freed us from guilt, being “justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”. (Romans 3:24)

The benefits of redemption include eternal life (Revelation 5:9-10), forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7), righteousness (Romans 5:17), freedom from the law’s curse (Galatians 3:13), adoption into God’s family (Galatians 4:5), deliverance from sin’s bondage (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:14-18), peace with God (Colossians 1:18-20), and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). To be redeemed, then, is to be forgiven, holy, justified, free, adopted, and reconciled. See also Psalm 130:7-8; Luke 2:38; Acts 20:28.

The word *redeem* means “to buy out”. The term was used specifically in reference to the purchase of a slave’s freedom. The application of this term to Christ’s death on the cross is quite telling. If we are “redeemed”, then our prior condition was one of slavery. God has purchased our freedom, and we are no longer in bondage to sin or to the Old Testament law. This metaphorical use of “redemption” is the teaching of Galatians 3:13 and 4:5. Related to the Christian concept of redemption is the word *ransom*. Jesus paid the price for our release from sin and its punishment (Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:6). His death was in exchange for our life. In fact, Scripture is quite clear that redemption is only possible “through His blood”; that is, by His death (Colossians 1:14).

The streets of heaven will be filled with former captives who, through no merit of their own, find themselves redeemed, forgiven, and free. Slaves to sin have become saints. No wonder we will sing a new song—a song of praise to the Redeemer who was slain (Revelation 5:9). We were slaves to sin, condemned to eternal separation from God. Jesus paid the price to redeem us, resulting in our freedom from slavery to sin and our rescue from the eternal consequences of that sin.

INT Define TRESPASSES (see other translations on BibleGateway.com)

Whose trespasses did God forgive? (Matt. 26:28; Acts 13:38-39)

APP Think through how rich God’s grace is to us. Why would God send His Beloved Son to pay the penalty of our sins? Truly this is a time of praise and worship.

**V8** OB What did God lavish (look up the word- ) on us?

INT How would you describe WISDOM and INSIGHT? (see other translations; look up the words)

**V9** A mystery is that “which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets”. [gotquestions.org/mystery-of-God](http://gotquestions.org/mystery-of-God)

INT Whose purpose? (Romans 8:28)

INT What was the mystery about? Whose will?

**V10** INT What was the plan? (Phil. 2:9-10; Gal. 4:4-7) IN HIM = \_\_\_\_\_  
Packer: to ponder... “that God has loved us from eternity past to eternity future”

**V11** OB IN HIM = \_\_\_\_\_. How have we obtained (received) an inheritance?

INT What is this inheritance? (1 Peter 1:3-5; Matt. 6:19-21) (**more will be discussed in the next lesson**)

INT Whose purpose? Of HIM = \_\_\_\_\_

INT What does God do? (Romans 8:29) Counsel=plan (Grammar Note: **works**... called the simple present -used to show that something that is a fact, repeated. Example: He brushes his teeth.)

APP What do you know about God through this verse?

**V12** INT Who were these to first hope in Christ? (Gen. 3:15; Deut. 7:6-9) (again...some differences on this)

OB Why were they chosen? (whose glory?)

**V13** OB Who also were called ...you = \_\_\_\_\_ and how? IN HIM = \_\_\_\_\_

OB What did the Gentiles hear? (Romans 10:17)

What did they do? (John 1:12) IN HIM = \_\_\_\_\_

INT Because they did, what happened?

Look up SEALED. (John 10:27-30)

INT Verses on the promise of the Holy Spirit: John 15:26; Matt. 3:11-12; John 7:37-39; Acts 1:4-5

**V14** OB What does the Holy Spirit do? (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

For how long? (John 6:40; 1 Peter 2:9)

INT What is our inheritance? (Matt. 6:19-21; 1 Peter 1:4-7; Romans 8:17)

Why?

**APP How has the gospel changed your life? (1 Cor. 15:1-8)**

*\*\*\*\*\*An important note: At the top of page 6 of the book, where verse 5 is covered, the question is missing. You'll see this: "Paul tells us in verse 5 that God 'predestined us for adoption'. In saving us, God adopts us as His very own children." **Here is the question that should appear at the end: "What does this truth indicate about God's heart toward His people?"***

*Also, as you think about the Trinity, what does it mean that now you can call God –OUR Father... the perfect Father – that has adopted us into HIS Family?*

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/ephesians-proclaimed/> I really enjoyed this sermon series by Bryan Chappell.