

## Spiritual Blessings

### Ephesians 1:1-6

#### I. Intro

##### A. Ephesians facts:

1. Written 60 or 62 ad
2. Writer: Paul from prison in Rome
3. Structure:
  - a) Chapters 1-3 explain the Doctrines of the Church: (All God has done for us in Christ)
  - b) Chapters 4-6 describe the practice of these doctrines: (How we respond to what God has done)
  - c) The Verbs in the first 3 chapters are in the indicative: SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE
  - d) Then it turns to the Imperatives: Action Required...Do this in the power of Christ.
  - e) Divine Indicative and Divine Imperative:
    - (1) God's sign or indication of what has been accomplished
    - (2) The Divine Imperative then comes from God based upon the foundation that has been taught.
    - (3) 41 commands in Ephesians, 40 of those come in chapters 4-6.

##### B. Mood:

1. Paul was very familiar with this church
  - a) He spent 3 years with them, and then met with the leadership again in Miletus before heading to Jerusalem (Acts 20:17-38)
  - b) A letter to strengthen the church, not to confront a specific problem
  - c) Timothy was left in Ephesus to continue the work, this letter would have been in his hands.
2. This letter would probably also be one that would be passed around from church to church

##### C. Key Verses:

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

##### D. Purpose:

1. General instruction regarding God's redemptive work, and the effect that has on the church.
2. The book of Ephesians explains how the Church comes to full spiritual maturity in Christ.

##### E. Theme: Christ has reconciled all of creation to Himself.

##### F. The Intended Result:

1. Hope
2. Assurance
3. Security

#### II. Text

##### A. Verse 1

1. Paul
2. An apostle by the will of God
3. To the church in Ephesus,
4. Faithful followers

##### B. Verse 2

1. Grace to you
  2. And peace
  3. From God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ
- C. Verses 3-6:
1. Chosen by God
  2. Established in Him
- III. Points: Spiritual Blessings
- A. Gospel Identity:
1. By the Will of God
    - a) Paul is placed in the role of Apostle by the “WILL OF GOD”
    - b) God’s will intersected with the plans of man, and God’s will prevailed.
  2. Paul’s will was not the same after he met Jesus, and your will is different after you met Jesus.
  3. Simply put: You were changed when you met Jesus.
  4. You are chosen by God to become HOLY and BLAMELESS before HIM!
    - a) Holiness and without blame can only come through Jesus Christ
    - b) Your identity IN CHRIST is HOLY and BLAMELESS
    - c) Your identity without faith in Christ is DEAD in TRESSPASSES and SINS
- B. Gospel Effect:
1. Grace and Peace
  2. Definition: Free and Unmerited favor
    - a) Free: without cost or payment
    - b) Unmerited: not deserved or earned
    - c) Favor: approval, preference for
  3. Paul is opening with “Grace to you”
    - a) This is the effect of the gospel: GRACE TO YOU
    - b) I know God’s Grace is a gift given to us!
  4. The price was paid by Christ, the atonement was secured by the blood of Jesus, and our salvation was gifted to us by the sovereign plan of God.
- C. Gospel Security
1. Do not run from the doctrine of Election, or the security that comes from it.
  2. God chose us, and established us before the foundation of the world
  3. One of the greatest spiritual blessings is knowing that we are secure in Christ.
  4. Two Truths that shape us in thought and theology:
    - a) God is sovereign and chooses us, awakening us to grace.
    - b) Man has responsibility to believe and respond to the truth proclaimed.
    - c) I cannot fully explain the doctrine of election and man’s responsibility to believe, but I cannot deny either truth.
    - d) I do not believe this doctrine was meant to divide us, but to give us hope in our secure relationship with Holy God!
  5. Our faith is secure because:
    - a) God chose us to be HOLY and BLAMELESS before the foundation of the world
    - b) IN LOVE HE CHOSE US
- IV. Close
- A. Close with a beautiful word: Adoption
- B. Adoption into the family is a relationship that is secure, not because we bring something to the adoption, but because He chose us!

There are 41 commands in Ephesians, 1 of which is found in chapters 1-3. That command is found in 2:12 – “remember”. Contrasted to that are the 40 commands Paul gives them in chapters 4-6 (thanks to Dr. Oster for initially pointing that out to me). If you look at 4:1 it serves as a great transitional statement between the two major sections of the letter, “As a prisoner for

the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” The calling they have received was what Paul was describing in Ephesians 1-3 and the way to live the life that is worthy of that calling is what Paul lays out in Ephesians 4-6. Chapters 1-3, then, are the things one needs to know to live that life and chapters 4-6 is what one needs to do to live that life. Paul starts with “why”...before all the commands and “to do’s” he tells them why it is necessary because what we do is driven by what we know.