

Ephesians

Chapter 1:1-5

- I. **Ephesians 1:1-2** ¹Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace *be* to you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. An apostle
 - I. **Apostle- Greek word *apostolos***- Strongs Con. From G649; a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ ("apostle") (with miraculous powers):—apostle, messenger, he that is sent.
 - II. **The twelve were sent to Israel first**
 1. **Luke 6:13** ¹³And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;
 - a. **Acts 28:19-20, Acts 1:8**
 - III. **Sent Paul to the Gentiles**
 1. **I Corinthians 9:1-2** ¹Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? ²If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.
 2. **Romans 11:13** ¹³For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:
 3. **Galatians 2:7-9** ⁷But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as *the gospel* of the circumcision *was* unto Peter; ⁸(For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of

the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)⁹ And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we *should go* unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

4. **I Timothy 2:7**⁷ Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

5. **II Timothy 1:11**¹¹ Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

a. **If Paul's apostleship is by the will of God, then what is it that people are questioning when they question Paul's apostleship.**

b. Saints

I. **Saint- Greek Word *hágios***- Strongs Con. G40 sacred (physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated):—(most) holy (one, thing), saint.

1. **Colossians 1:2**² To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **I Corinthians 1:2**² Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

3. **Philippians 1:1**¹ Paul and Timothy, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

a. **This is by position.**

- II. Specifically, in this letter, Paul mentions Gentiles in 2:11, 3:1, 3:6, 3:8, 4:17 (other Gentiles).
- III. The term “Jew” or “Jews” is never mentioned in this letter. Israel is mentioned once in Ephesians 2:12 to contrast with Gentiles.

c. Faithful in Jesus Christ

- I. **I Corinthians 4:1-2** ¹Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

- 1. A Person is either “In Christ” or “In Adam”

- a. **I Corinthians 15:21-22** ²¹For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

- b. **Romans 5:12** ¹²Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

- c. **II Corinthians 5:21** ²¹For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

- d. **The moment that we believe, the Holy Spirit takes us out of Adam and places us in Christ (I Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 1:13).**

d. Grace and Peace

- I. **Paul uses this in every letter; Romans 1:7, I Corinthians 1:3, II Corinthians 1:2, Galatians 1:3, Ephesians 1:2, Philippians 1:2, Colossians 1:2, I Thessalonians 1:1, II Thessalonians 1:2, Philemon 1:3**

- II. The nature of our riches in Christ is purely by grace, it is unmerited. Paul is the apostle of the dispensation of grace. It is a reminder in every one of these references that we are not under the law but grace.
 - III. The result of what has been afforded to us is a peace that passes understanding. It gives the idea that a conflict is ended and that we are now at rest. This is only possible because of what Jesus Christ has done on our behalf.
- II. **Ephesians 1:3** ³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:
- a. Blessings
 - I. **Not material blessings like Israel**
 - 1. **Deuteronomy 28:1-2** ¹And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: ²And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.
 - 2. **Deuteronomy 11:26-28** ²⁶Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; ²⁷A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: ²⁸And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.
 - II. **Spiritual Blessings**
 - 1. **Hath blessed us**
 - a. **For those in Christ**

2. All blessings

- a. **Not just some, but all. Ephesians mentions some of these blessings over the rest of chapter 1, but it is not an exhaustive list.**

III. **Ephesians 1:4-5**⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

- a. **These verses are some of the favorite proof texts of Calvinism. If one hadn't already been preconditioned to words then the common reading wouldn't lead you there.**

- b. According

- I. **This word is used in verses 4,5,7,9,11 and is referencing the purpose of God's Will.**

- c. Chosen

- I. **Never used in accordance to salvation but purpose of service.**

- II. **John 15:16** ¹⁶Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

- III. **Luke 6:13** ¹³And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

- 1. **Luke 6:16** ¹⁶And Judas *the brother* of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

- a. **Was Judas saved?**

- IV. **I Peter 2:4** ⁴To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

- 1. **Christ was chosen of God. Did He need to be saved?**

V. **A word closely associated and even translated as chosen in places is the word “elect”, which is the Greek word Elektos and means picked out and chosen.**

1. **Isaiah 42:1** ¹Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

a. **Christ is the “elect” in this verse. He was chosen and is called a servant.**

2. **Matthew quotes this verse and uses “chosen”.**

a. **Matthew 12:17-18** ¹⁷That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, ¹⁸Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

3. **Isaiah 45:4** ⁴For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

a. **Israel is the “elect” in this verse - chosen and set apart for God’s purpose (Romans 9-11).**

4. **Colossians 3:12** ¹²Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

5. **Titus 1:1** ¹Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

a. **The Body of Christ is the “elect” in these verses.**

6. But what about II Thessalonians 2:13? Doesn't that teach chosen for salvation? No, it doesn't. Let's look at the context.

a. II Thessalonians 2:13 ¹³But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

i. Context

1. Rapture vs 1

2. Day of Christ vs 2-3

3. Antichrist 4-9

4. Delusion to believe a lie vs 10-12.

a. Saved from those events.

7. As far as the chosen and elect, where in scripture has God chosen someone for the purpose of hell?

a. Ezekiel 33:11 ¹¹Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

i. See also Ezekiel 18:23

b. II Peter 3:9 ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

c. I Timothy 2:4 ⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

d. Before the foundation of the world

I. This idea is very Pauline and is part of the mystery kept secret before the world began.

1. Ephesians 3:2-9, Colossians 1:25-26, I Corinthians 2:7-8

2. This is compared to Luke 1:70, Matthew 25:34 and Acts 3:21 that state “since” the world began.

e. In Him

I. Remember from above...how and when is someone “In Him”? The very moment that one believes, they are sealed with the Holy Spirit in spirit baptism as they are taken out of Adam and placed into Christ.

1. See Ephesians 1:13, I Corinthians 12:13, Romans 6:3, Romans 5:12, II Corinthians 5:21.

2. We don’t become “In Him” until that very moment. If we were chosen to be “In Him” before the world began, then there would have to be an event to take us out of Him in order to be put back in.

f. Holy and without blame

I. This is the purpose in accordance with the mystery kept secret before the world began that those “In Christ” should live holy and without blame.

II. We will see this in Ephesians 2

1. Ephesians 2:10 ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2. Colossians 1:22 ²²In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

a. See also Colossians 1:28, 3:12. Also, Titus 2:11-14.

g. Predestinated to the adoption of Children

- I. **Predestinated just means to set up destination beforehand. In this case, it's the adoption of children to those in Christ.**
- II. **Other places this word is used Romans 8:28-30, Ephesians 1:11.**

h. Adoption of Children

- I. **Galatians 3:26**²⁶For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
- II. **Romans 8:15-17**¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.
- III. **In Greek and Roman culture, a son was adopted into inheritance status once he came of age. In Judaism, this is celebrated as a Bar Mitzvah. Paul uses this in Galatians 3 to explain that once a child has become a son, he no longer needs a tutor or governor. This was the illustration of Israel being under the schoolmaster (law), but the body of Christ have bypassed the schoolmaster and are sons by faith. Thus we are not under the law today.**