

# Ephesians 1:1-14

**THE BLESSINGS AND UNITY IN CHRIST**

# Ephesians 1:1

- Apostle by the will of God
- Written to saints in Ephesus
- Audience: predominately Gentiles, now brought near to God
- We live in a Gentile land today → be ambassadors for Christ

# Saints (Hagios)

As a great poet said:

“Inherently, the word (Hagios) means to be holy. We  
know  
we're not holy on our own terms,  
but Christ who loved us makes us  
Holy. So because He satisfied  
The wrath of God, the beef (the problem)  
has been crushed, now we got a new identity;  
Called a saint.”

Lecrae

# 3 Aspect of "In Christ" (vs 1)

1. Union with Him → died, raised, counted righteous
  2. New Identity → redemption & forgiveness
  3. Corporate Reality → one body, family of God
- In Christ = child of God, receiving His blessings

# Practical Anthropology

- 1. Man is fallen and needs a Savior
- 2. Faith in Christ makes us a new creation
- New identity should change how we see the world
- Story: Adopted child learns 'Everything I have is yours'

# Blessings in Ephesians 1:3

- Adjective: God is Blessed (praised)
- Verb: God blesses us (bestows favor)
- Noun: Spiritual blessings (the gift)
- Response: Bless God daily for His blessings in Christ

# Three Sections (Eph 1:3-14)

- Father's Plan (v3-6) → to the praise of His grace
- Son's Work (v7-12) → to the praise of His glory
- Spirit's Seal (v13-14) → to the praise of His glory

**READ EPHESIANS 1:3-14**

# Four Views

1. No clue- you don't get it, or you have never thought of it
2. Tension- you see a tension between God's election and human will and are ok with that
3. Calvinistic- you see God's sovereign work to elect some based on his "good pleasure"
4. Corporate- you see God's sovereign work in a plan that is based "in Christ" to "those who believe."

# The Father's Work (1:3-6)

- Chose believers in Christ before foundation of the world to be holy and blameless
- Predestined for adoption through Jesus
- Purpose: to the praise of His glorious grace

Christ is the Elect One

- Is 42:1
- Luke 9:35
- 1 Peter 2:4
- 1 Peter 2:6
- Luke 23:35

# The Son's Work (1:7-12)

- Redemption through His blood
- Forgiveness of sins
- Revealed the mystery: all united in Christ
- We have an inheritance in Him
- Goal: to the praise of His glory

# The Spirit's Work (1:13-14)

- Sealed with the promised Holy Spirit
- Seal comes when we hear & believe the gospel
- Guarantee (down-payment) of inheritance
- Ensures we receive all blessings in Christ

# Conclusion/Response

- Eph 1:3
  - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
- Psalm 103:1-2.
  - Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
  - Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits