

Background:

AD 60 – 62 about 28 years after crucifixion of Christ.

City of Ephesus became the capital of the region in 27BC. On major east west road artery. Many roads led to Ephesus. Emperor worship had its roots there. Chief Banking area.

The Temple of Artemis (Diana) Fertility god.

One of four prison epistles: Philippians, Colossians, Philemon.

Most impersonal of all his epistles

Doctrine oriented in the first three chapters and Application/Behavior oriented in the rest.

Paul spent 3 years in Ephesus during his missionary journeys.

Chapter 1:1

Acts 9:5 Why persecute me? We are in Christ.

Apostle of God by his will: Acts 9:4-6; 9:11, 15

The original twelve and Matthias who replaced Judas (14 Apostles in all)_

To saints, the faithful in Christ.

Saints GK *hágioi* Holy Ones (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2) All of us who know Jesus as our personal savior are saints.

In Roman Catholic practice, the saints are revered, prayed to, and in some instances, worshipped.

They are also to the best of my knowledge physically dead. There must be proven two miracles done by them to ascend to being a saint.

Acts 9:13 Saints are living. (Ananias – harm Saul has done to the saints in Jerusalem)

JV McGee of Thru the Bible: A saint is not one who has been exalted; a saint is one who exalts Jesus Christ. There are only two classes of people in the world: the saints and the ain'ts.

Ephesians written to believers, not unbelievers.

“in Ephesus” not in the earlier or better manuscripts. Col 4:16 Laodicean letter? Ephesus was 100 miles west of Laodicea, 37 miles south of Smyrna (modern Izmir) and about 3 miles inland from the Aegean Sea in the Roman province of Asia (today western Turkey)

Its thought since Ephesus was the capital, the scribes added the two words.

Chapter 1:2

What is **Grace**? A favorable attitude toward someone. God's grace is unmerited kindness... Its because of his grace we are saved by believing in Jesus' death on our behalf.

Peace? Quietness, rest, security, peace! equivalent of the Hebrew *shālôm*, which, in its highest connotation, signifies spiritual prosperity and completeness. Phil 4:6-7 peace of God which surpasses all understanding... will guard our hearts and minds.

Jesus said in John 14:27, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Chapter 1:3

In GK verses 3 – 14 are one big long sentence!

Praise/Blessed GK: get eulogy Speak of something in favorable terms—‘to praise, to speak well of.’

Adjective: Describes God! Paul is PRAISING God here!

Blessed us: GK: different word, compound: to provide benefits, often with the implication of certain supernatural factors involved—‘to act kindly toward, to bless

In Heavenly Realms with EVERY spiritual blessing (bounty and bountiful) in Christ! Realms and places not in Greek. Eph 2:6 seated with Christ. We are in heavenlies even when bummed.

By Mike Sobol

Ephesians Chapter 1 Verses 1 to 7

In Christ are the blessings. We are blessed when we are in Christ, not the world. Are we living for him or living for us?

Our blessing is a declaration. His blessings are deeds. McGee Thru the Bible

Chapter 1:4

Chose us in him

Before creation of the world

To be holy (same GK as saints in verse 1) and blameless (w/o fault, morally blameless) in his sight. That happened when Jesus died on our behalf.

Chapter 1:5

In Love GK Agape

He predestined (GK: decide ahead of time, determine beforehand) us to be adopted (formerly and legally declare) as his sons. Placing as a son. IE Position. (Heirs and coheirs with Christ.) Eph 1:18 Jesus could have saved us from our sins and that would have been awesome! Having our conscious cleansed from guilt and not be punished in Hell forever is marvelous! But God went farther than that! He made us his son!!! Every spiritual blessing!!!

Audience for this book is SAINTS... Saved people!

D. L. Moody put it in his quaint way. He said, "The whosoeverwills are the elect and the whosoeverwon'ts are the nonelect." It is up to you. The Lord has extended the invitation.

Chapter 1:6

Praise: GK: to speak of the excellence of a person, object, or event.

Glory GK: an opinion including the quality of splendor and brightness like the sun, moon, & stars.

A remarkable appearance!

Freely Given: There is no cost to salvation or anything we must do to earn it. Its all free in Jesus!

Grace: Eph 2:7

Chapter 1:7

Redemption GK: Buying back a slave or a captive for freedom.

Early American Pilgrims – Indentured Servants

Jews offer themselves to servanthood.

His blood. Lev 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Hebrews 9:22 w/o shedding of blood there is NO remission of sin.

Release from bondage or imprisonment. Forgiveness or pardon as if the sin was never committed.

Chapter 1:8

Lavished. Beyond measure. Overly abundant!

Wisdom GK: Broad and full of intelligence.

Understanding/Insight GK: The ability to understand as the result of insight and wisdom.

Ephesians Chapter 1 Verses 1 to 7

Applications to us:

1. We are spiritually rich! We already have EVERY spiritual blessing in the heavenlies. Does this mean we are talking about the prosperity gospel of some preachers? We are all going to be living on easy street being independently wealthy? When we depart this earth for life in heaven for eternity, we will be so overwhelmed by all the blessings! We have a glorious future waiting ahead! We are already positionally seated with Christ in Heaven!
2. We are the kids of the creator of everything! We are heirs and coheirs with the Son of God Jesus Christ! The richest greatest person in the whole universe is our Father!

Do we live like heirs or like we are paupers? Rich people choose to live very misery lives in spite of great wealth to safeguard that wealth.

Our spiritual wealth is never-ending... eternal!

3. We are free from the fear of death and unchained from a guilty conscious. REDEEMED!!

Do you ever feel guilt for something you did in the past? Who is causing the guilt in you? Who is manipulating that guilt? What does that guilt do to your walk in Christ and service for him?

Did you ever wonder why God allows the devil to try to make us feel guilty over forgiven sin? Could it be God is giving us:

- a growth opportunity?
- a faith building exercise to choose to believe him and walk freely or living in fear?