

In Christ
Spiritual Blessings
April 12, 2015
Ephesians 1

Overview of Ephesians:

- Written by the Apostle Paul (1:1a): Formerly, "Saul of Tarsus", the persecutor of the church - Ac 9:1-2 But who became the "apostle to the Gentiles" - Ac 9:15 He was an apostle by the will of God. Ga 1:1 He knew it was by the grace of God that he had been so called - Ep 3:8a His charge? To "preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" - Ep 3:8b
- Paul's Ministry in Ephesus: First, for a short stay - Ac 18:19-21 Then for over two years, one of his longer periods of service in one place - Ac 19:1-10 He also met with the Ephesian elders at Miletus - Ac 20:17-38
- Paul wrote this letter from prison: He was awaiting trial in Rome - cf. Ep 3:1; 4:1; 6:20 This epistle was written about the same time as Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon, approximately 60-62 A.D., during the time period briefly described in Ac 28:30-31
- Written to the "Saints" in Ephesus (1:1b): The word "saint" means "one who has been set apart". It is related to the word "sanctified" which means "set apart".
- Historical background concerning the work in Ephesus can be found in Ac 18:19-28; 19:1-41; 20:17-38
- Character of the people in Ephesus: They are "faithful in Christ Jesus"; that is, they trusted in Him for their salvation - Ep 1:13 They were "faithful" in another sense, also, in that they were trustworthy in their stand for the truth - Re 2:1-3, 6 However, they were to be later rebuked for leaving their "first love" - Re 2:4-5

I. Released from our past (v.1-10)

- A. Holy and Blameless
- B. Redemption
- C. Adoption is Complete

II. Sealed for our future (v.11-14)

- A. Heard and Believed
- B. Gift of the Holy Spirit
- C. Sealed Inheritance

III. Thankful for the present (v.15-23)

- A. Love towards Saints
- B. Spirit of Wisdom
- C. Walking with God

* - Have questions about today's message? Earl would love to talk to you!

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"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 1:3)

Memory Verse for April:

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32 ESV)