

The First Ephesians

The First Ephesians

What a contrast between the two Ephesians.

The first is written the epistle of Ephesians.

What a spiritually rich group of believers.

But on the second: *they left their first love*.

To give you some idea the sickness of the second Ephesians this is the only one the seven churches that Jesus declared He would come and **remove their lampstand**. Oh, my people we do not want our lamp to be removed. Let us learn from the first Ephesian

Paul wrote this great letter to Ephesus from his first imprisonment in Rome in AD 60.

This letter is not so much about Salvation but was about living your life on earth to glorify Jesus Christ. Paul does not even mention our spiritual freedom in Christ as in Gal, "*it was for freedom that Christ set us free*".

Paul emphasized that now that we are Christians, we are not to live our lives as Jews are even as Jewish saints under the Mosaic Law. This caused many Jews to resent Paul and Christianity and this resentment continues today. Today there are two dramatic, different ways toward Jews today. One is '**Replacement theology**' which is where the Church replaces Israel but be sure you know that God has a covenant with Israel and has promised Israel the promise land. If the Church replaces Israel then God is no longer if faithful. Another is that the Jews are essential only when they believe in the Law and circumcision for salvation. Neither of these are important to being a Christian. Jews

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today are as important in the same manner as any gentile, both need to be saved by faith alone in Christ alone. The Mosaic Law is no longer binding on anyone in the Church Age and no one is to be criticized if uncircumcised.

But we are all saved by the same Jewish Savior, Jesus the Christ. And of course there is no place for any rejection of any race in their standing before Jesus Christ. In this new age of the Church all believers were regarded as one, living as oneness. As Paul brings out in chapter 2 that in the church we are made into ‘one group’ – Jewish believers and Gentile believers, there is no male or female Jews or Gentiles, we are all one in Christ. That Jesus made us all into “one new man, thus establishing peace between the Jews and the Gentiles”. People, as you read through the whole Bible, you realize that the Old Testament and the New are built of one corner stone. We read of the Prophets and teachers throughout the OT are all pointing to the glory of the One to all of us.

Now we continue growing in our study of Ephesians. As we study through this great epistle please note carefully that this is from God the Holy Spirit for the benefit of His Word for our lives. No man or woman speaks for God. Let us remain in His word. As we study through this book we have the sufficiency from the Word of God to all the needs of our lives.

Now it has been several months since we have been in our study of Ephesians, so let’s get back in our study of the epistle to Ephesians.

Chpt.1-3 emphasize the wealth that we have in Christ and who we are in Christ. **Chapters 4-6** is that we are now to live in accordance to our wealth in Christ, that we are to walk according to our spiritual wealth and the battle that we live in by the power of the Holy Spirit. So first we

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learn who **we are in** Christ and then we learn how we are **to live in** Christ.

The entire Epistle is about Jesus Christ.

In the short 6 chapters Paul speaks of ‘**in Christ**’ some **35 times**. This is more than any other NT book. It is therefore no wonder that they had such love for Jesus Christ and why the loss of that love became so dramatic to Jesus Christ in analyzing this church in Rev. 2.

He will speak of the declaration of every believer as ‘in Christ’ 1:1 We are redeemed in Him 1:4; we are given hope in Him, 1:12; we are seated with Him 2:6; created in Christ 2:10; brought nearby His blood 2:13; growing in Christ 2:21; given access through faith in Him 3:13. As we study through this great letter on Ephesians it is my prayer that we all will be completely occupied with Jesus Christ and have this love for Him in us. That we are completely aware of our position in Christ, and not with our position of anyone or thing else.

In the study of this book is most interesting in that there are **no imperatives** in the all of chapters 1-3. These chapters are not about how you should live but is saturated with who you are in Christ. Now in chapters 4-6 there is some **35 imperatives**. The first 3 chapters are devoted to who you are in Christ, while chapters 4-6 are occupied with your daily lives here on earth. This epistle is beautifully proclaimed of what God has done for His Son. We are redeemed by Christ, and the Father has choose us and then the Holy Spirit has sealed us.

Chapter one proclaims Special Blessings from God. **Chosen by the Father, Redeemed by the Son** and **Sealed by the Spirit**. The book begins emphasizing the work of the Trinity in our salvation. Grace and peace are from God our Father and the Lord Jesus. Then Paul starts on Blessings to us with every spiritual blessing from Jesus Christ. Then he

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teaches us that we are blessed with redemption through His Blood and forgiveness according to the riches of His Grace. **Then Paul prays** for believers. Please learn about prayer in this Paul's prayer for others. Note his prayer on our being is to strengthen us with power through His Spirit, and the authority of God in the Angelic Conflict.

So I think we can see all the doctrines being presented in Chapter one.

Chapter 2-3: Start reading here-- this on the Church. That is gentiles and Jews. Paul draws attention to the 'position' individually (2:1-10) then in 2:11-3:13 he makes aware of our position 'corporately'. Then Paul goes into prayer once again this time for the complete Church, 3:14-21.

Chapter 4: is about unity in the Church and he begins teaching on **the work** of the church. This is something no believer should ever forget, their unity with all other believers. Explanation of the unity —4:1-3 followed by explanation of God's work in this unity, 4:3-6. Then there is the means and purpose of the unity from God. 4:7-16

Chapter 5-6: Life of every believer.

First Paul covers the life of the believer in the Divine establishments. Life of the believer, according to marriage and home of believers all center on our lives in Christ and in our relationships with one another. Then followed by the believer in full armor of God in the battle.

Now we have just begun on Chapter one being introduced in our study of this great chapter of the work of the Trinity.

Introduction to Ephesians

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The Trinity At Work--in the plan in the Church Age We have the comfortness of the Faithfulness of Christ—People this is the great issue in every person who has believed in Jesus Christ—Faithful of Christ in your daily lives.

We have seen in John 17 how important God the Father is to God and to His plan and everything that Jesus Christ does in His own life.

In Christ: first the place of God then the place of Jesus Christ.

Your Position in Christ---here is the great issue for everyone Elected in Christ

In the following study we saw the importance of Predestination, in the next seven studies.

The doctrine of
Predestination

Understanding
Predestination from Understanding
God

Understanding Predestination – Biblically

Predestination & the Sovereignty of God

Predestination and Divine Decrees

Divine Decrees and Predestination continued

In Love He Predestined Us

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The Sovereignty of God and Free Will of Angels and Man: few people who study the book of Ephesians ever see just important the Angelic Conflict is to the Angelic activity of God's plan.

Sin is so important to the history of man starting with the sin from Adam, and we must be aware of sin in our lives and Plan of God.

Free Will and the First Sin

Results of the First Sin

We studied New Year's night of cause and effect. Here we seen it again; the cause and effect of sin.

Sin Separates From God: sin separates us from God every time we sin, a Mental Attitude Sin or Sin of Tongues or Overt sins. It is very important that we make recovery from sin is to our faith back to God the Holy Spirit.

In Love He Predestinated Us The importance of the Love of God in so many different ways.

Love and Predestination Go Together

We are Predestined from or by His Love.

God's Gift of Adoption: this is so important for every believer to understand and be aware of our condition in Adoption by God. It is difficult for most people to grasp what it means to be Adopted by God. Most people incorrectly think this refers to our being adopted as unbelievers into the family of God, but this is incorrect as per revealed

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by Paul. The simple way to grasp what Paul is saying is from the Roman culture, where when a 'true son' reached the point where that child becomes an adult with all the blessings and responsibilities as adult in the family of the Roman culture. This is how we are viewed to God in everyone in the Church Age.

The Kindness of God The first thing we need to know about the Kindness from God is the question: **are you benefited by His Kindness?** Not everyone benefits from the kindness of God.

God satisfied our needs, sending His Son to the cross bearing the judgment for our sins, but the problem is not everyone receives the gift of perfect Righteousness because not everyone believes in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Therefore they will receive the judgment for rejecting the kindness of God's gift at their rejecting the salvation.

While every member of the human race is loved by God, not everyone benefits from His love because not everyone believes in Jesus as their Savior. This is declared in Romans 2:24 *Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?* (But as we see in verse 5 not everyone is benefited by the Kindness of God). Romans 2:5 *But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart (this is why so many miss out on the Kindness from God) you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,*

This means that many people, including Christians do not want to 'be kind' in life except to poor helpless animals or a very old person who need help. They have this thought that kindness means weakness. But people, **kindness is not weakness but an indication of inner strength.**

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Kindness is a thought and action in order to fulfill a purpose or a desired goal. But of God this is his pleasant disposition and loving care for all members of the human race, who are completely lost, except by our receiving His kindness. And dear people to sit down and meditate on the Kindness of God where it is referred to some 136 times in Psa. 136.

Son ship In Christ: So important and so comfort is that the Sonship of Jesus Christ is the heart of the Gospel which reveals to us our relationship with Christ. Secondly: the proof or seal of Sonship is by the giving of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Third and important in our daily life's by our prayers to God the Father. We have the privilege of addressing Him as our Heavenly Father because we have been adopted into His Son and share the Sonship of Jesus Christ.

Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace!

Grace is one of the most important and gracious words in our vocabulary and is used so 'lightly' as to understand the all importance of every gift we receive from God. Grace is used some 13 times, making sure that we understand the only way of relationship with God is by grace through faith. The great problem with this word, 'grace' is the true meaning of this word. So many preachers, theologians and teachers have different uses of the word grace. We have seen that these words like grace, faith, and love have so many different uses. It is so amazing how many people use the word grace in different ways. Many like to refer to grace for the word 'works' and the word works for the word grace. The point here is that so many who say that it is by grace that God saves us **if** we do some work. Many like to say that it is by grace when you use some system of works like confession or repentance or saying you are sorry of sins in your life. But as long as these people use one of the system of

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works then God does not forgive and does not restores us back to the filling of the Holy Spirit.

We have moved but just five verses in Ephesians 1. And look at all the marvelous things God has done to you and for you.

- 1.** He has sent us apostles to give us the infallible divinely inspired Word of God. (verse 1).
- 2.** Every believer in Jesus Christ is recognized as a ‘saint.’ That is, we are recognized by God as set apart for His glory. And while it is true that not many look like saints or live like saints, before God we are each one a saint. (verse 1).
- 3.** Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior is ‘put in Christ.’ This is your eternal position—positional truth forever. (verse 1).
- 4.** We are each one given grace and peace by God our Father. Whether or not you are benefited by this grace and peace is up to you and your relationship with the Holy Spirit. But He has given to us grace and peace.
- 5.** Every believer is given every spiritual blessing in Christ. (verse 3). Quit comparing yourself to others and take advantage of the advantages God has graciously given to you
- 6.** Once you believe in Jesus Christ as your savior, God the Father ‘elects’ you or chooses you to be ‘in’ His Son. (verse 4) We are not chosen or elected to believe in Christ, but once we do believe in Jesus Christ, God elects us to be in Christ.
- 7.** Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ will be presented to God the Father by Jesus Christ as holy and blameless regardless of how you may live your life as a believer. (verse 4).

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8. In His divine love, He predestinated everyone who believes in Jesus as Savior. (verse 5). We are not predestined to believe in Jesus Christ. But once we make that decision to believe in Jesus Christ, God the Father ‘predestinates us.’

9. At the moment anyone believes in Jesus Christ as Savior he is adopted as an adult son through Jesus Christ. (verse 5).

10. And now the 10th blessing we have in just the first five verses of Ephesians chapter 1 is that we share the Sonship of Jesus Christ. (verse 5).