

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



1. The Inheritance of God's People

Introduction

Many people receive an inheritance from their parents. This is usually given to them when their parents die. Jesus died, and has secured an inheritance for us! This inheritance isn't in the form of money or material things, but a spiritual inheritance that is of greater worth than anything money could buy. We will read about it in a moment.

The Book of Ephesians can be divided into 2 main sections. Chapters 1 to 3 speak about what God has done for us through the Lord Jesus Christ, and chapters 4 to 6 tell us how to live the Christian life. The Apostle Paul wrote this letter, while he was in prison, to the Christians in Ephesus, but it is relevant for believers in every generation. Let's begin with Ephesians 1:1-14.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:1-14

† What are the spiritual blessings the Father gives us through the Lord Jesus Christ? See v4, 5, 7, 9, 13

- (v4 *He has chosen us.*
- V5 *He predestined us to be adopted as his sons (and daughters)*
- V7 *He has redeemed us through his blood.*
- V7 *He has forgiven us.*
- V9 *He has made known to us the mystery of his will.*
- V13 *We are included in Christ.*
- V13 *We are marked with a seal, the Holy Spirit.)*

† Why did God do these things for us? What does it reveal about the kind of God he is? v4, 5, 7, 9, 13

- (v4 *Because of his love.*
- V5 *For his pleasure and will.*
- V7 *Because of his grace.*
- V9 *His good pleasure.*
- V13 *So we can bring him praise.)*

† The phrase 'in Him' or 'in Christ' is used many times in these verses. What do you think it means?

(We are in a covenant relationship with God because we belong to Christ. He lives in us and we live in him.)

† God has a purpose in giving us these blessings. What is that purpose? V4, 11, 12

- (v4 *That we will be holy and blameless.*
- V11 *He has a plan for our lives.*
- V12 *We will live to the praise of his glory.)*

† What does it mean to 'live to the praise of his glory'? See v12 How can we do this according to Matthew 5:16, 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Hebrews 13:15?

(Matthew 5:16

1 Corinthians 10:31

Hebrews 13:15

By the good works we do.

In everything we do, we do it for God's glory.

Our words are to please the Lord.)

Conclusion

What a privilege to be 'in Christ'. We have been chosen by God to be his sons and daughters. He has redeemed us, forgiven us and given us the Holy Spirit. This is the greatest inheritance anyone can receive. Let's in return live holy lives, set apart to God that will bring praise and glory to Him. Amen!