

The Epistle to the Ephesians

God is Father (1)

(Ephesians 1)

Christ Jesus is the Theme of the Gospel; God Chooses His Ministers

1 Paul, an apostle of **Christ Jesus** by the will of **God**, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in **Christ Jesus**:

God is Gracious (1); Jesus Christ is Gracious (1)

2 Grace to you and peace from **God our Father** and the **Lord Jesus Christ**.

God Deserves Blessing; God is Father (2); Jesus Christ is God's Son; God Has Blessed the Saints with Every Spiritual Blessing in the Heavenly Places

3 Blessed be the **God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in **Christ**,

God Decided Those in Christ would be Holy and Blameless Before Himself; God is Loving

4 just as **He** chose us in **Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before **Him**. In love

God Makes the Saints Mature Sons Through Jesus Christ; God is Kind(1); God Exerts His Will

5 **He** predestined us to adoption as sons through **Jesus Christ** to **Himself**, according to the kind intention of **His** will,

God is Gracious (2); God Loves Those in Christ; The Father Loves the Son

6 to the praise of the glory of **His** grace, which **He** freely bestowed on us in the **Beloved**.

God Deserves Glory (1)

Jesus Redeemed the Saints Through the Blood Shed at His Death; Jesus Christ is Gracious (2); God is Wise (1); God is Insightful

7 In **Him** we have redemption through **His** blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of **His** grace

God Revealed His Will; God is Kind (2); God Showed His Kindness Through Christ

8 which **He** lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

Christ is the Universal Bond of All Things

9 **He** made known to us the mystery of **His** will, according to **His** kind intention which **He** purposed in **Him**

10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in **Christ**, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In **Him**

God Ensures His Purposes are Fulfilled

11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to **His** purpose who works all things after the counsel of **His** will,

12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in **Christ** would be to the praise of **His** glory.

The Holy Spirit is the Seal of God's Promise to the Saints

13 In **Him**, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in **Him** with the **Holy Spirit** of promise,

The Holy Spirit is the Pledge of the Saints' Inheritance; God Deserves Glory (2)

14who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of **God's** own possession, to the praise of **His** glory.

God is Powerful (1)

15For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord **Jesus** which exists among you and your love for all the saints,

16do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

Jesus is United to God; God is Father (3); God is the Source of Glory; God Can be Known

17that the **God** of our Lord **Jesus Christ**, the **Father** of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of **Him**.

God Calls Mankind; God Promises the Saints a Rich and Glorious Inheritance

18I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of **His** calling, what are the riches of the glory of **His** inheritance in the saints,

God Exerts His Power On Behalf of Those Who Have Faith in Christ; God Revealed His Power Through Christ; God Raised Christ from the Dead; God Seated Christ at His Right Hand; God Seated Christ Far Above All Rule Now and in the Age to Come; God Seated Christ Far Above all Authority Now and in the Age to Come; God Seated Christ Far Above all Power Now and in the Age to Come; God Seated Christ Above All Dominion Now and in the Age to Come; God Seated Christ Above All Names Now and in the Age to Come

19and what is the surpassing greatness of **His** power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of **His** might

20which **He** brought about in **Christ**, when **He** raised **Him** from the dead and seated **Him** at **His** right hand in the heavenly places,

21far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

God Put All Things under Christ's Feet; God Made Christ Head Over the Church

22And **He** put all things in subjection under **His** feet, and gave **Him** as head over all things to the church,

Jesus Reveals Himself Through the Church

23which is **His** body, the fullness of **Him** who fills all in all.

(Ephesians 2)

God is Gracious (3)

1And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

2in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

3Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

God is Merciful; God is Loving (2); God Loves Mankind Even While They are Sinners

4But **God**, being rich in mercy, because of **His** great love with which **He** loved us,

God Made the Church Alive in Union with Christ

5even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with **Christ** (by grace you have been saved),

God Raised the Saints Up in Union with Christ; God Seated the Saints in Heavenly Places in Union with Christ

6and raised us up with **Him**, and seated us with **Him** in the heavenly places in **Christ Jesus**,

God is Gracious (4); God is Kind (3)

7so that in the ages to come **He** might show the surpassing riches of **His** grace in kindness toward us in **Christ Jesus**.

God Influences Mankind Toward Salvation; God Gives Mankind the Gift of Faith

8For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of **God**;

9not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

God is Creating a Church that will Do Good Works

God Determined Beforehand the Good Works the Saints Would Do

10For we are **His** workmanship, created in **Christ Jesus** for good works, which **God** prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

11Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands--

12remember that you were at that time separate from **Christ**, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without **God** in the world.

Jesus Redeemed the Saints Through the Blood Shed at His Death

13But now in **Christ Jesus** you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of **Christ**.

Jesus United Jews and Gentiles Through His Death

14For **He Himself** is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

15by abolishing in **His** flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in **Himself He** might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,

16and might reconcile them both in one body to **God** through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

17AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;

Christ is the Way to the Father; The Spirit is the Agent of Accessibility to the Father

18for through **Him** we both have our access in one **Spirit** to the **Father**.

God is the Father of the Saints (1)

19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of **God's** household,

Christ Jesus is the Cornerstone of God's Household; Christ Jesus is Fitting the Members of the Church Together

20having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus Himself** being the corner stone,

21in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

The Spirit is the Agent of the Construction of the Church

22in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of **God** in the **Spirit**.

(Ephesians 3)

Christ Jesus is the Saviour of Both Gentiles and Jews

1For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of **Christ Jesus** for the sake of you Gentiles—

God Influences His Ministers (1)

2if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of **God's** grace which was given to me for you;

3that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

4By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of **Christ**,

The Spirit Spoke to God's Chosen Apostles; The Spirit Spoke to God's Chosen Prophets

5which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to **His** holy apostles and prophets in the **Spirit**;

6to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in **Christ Jesus** through the gospel,

God Influences His Ministers (2); God is Powerful (2)

7of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of **God's** grace which was given to me according to the working of **His** power.

8To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of **Christ**,

God Created All Things

9and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in **God** who created all things;

God is Wise (2); God Manifests His Wisdom Through the Church

10so that the manifold wisdom of **God** might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

God Carried Out His Purposes Through Christ Jesus

11This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which **He** carried out in **Christ Jesus** our Lord,

12in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in **Him**.

God Desires to Fill the Church with Himself

13Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.

God is Father (4)

14For this reason I bow my knees before the **Father**,

God Grants Those Who Have Faith in Christ Moral Strength; The Spirit of God is the Agent of Moral Strength

15from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

16that **He** would grant you, according to the riches of **His** glory, to be strengthened with power through **His Spirit** in the inner man,

Christ Dwells in the Hearts of the Those Who have Faith in Him

17so that **Christ** may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

Christ is Loving (1)

19and to know the love of **Christ** which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of **God**.

God is Able to Do More Than We Can Ask; God is Able to Do More Than We Can Think

20Now to **Him** who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

God Deserves Glory (3)

21to **Him** be the glory in the church and in **Christ Jesus** to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

(Ephesians 4)

1Therefore I, the prisoner of the **Lord**, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

The Spirit is the Agent of Unity

3being diligent to preserve the unity of the **Spirit** in the bond of peace.

The Spirit is the Only Spirit of the Saints

4There is one body and one **Spirit**, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

The Lord is the Only Lord of the Saints

5one **Lord**, one faith, one baptism,

God is Father of the Saints (2)

6one **God and Father** of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Christ Gives the Saints the Spirit

7But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of **Christ's** gift.

8Therefore it says,

"WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,
HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

9(Now this expression, "**He** ascended," what does it mean except that **He** also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Christ Descended From Heaven; Christ Ascended Back to Heaven; Christ Fills All Things

10**He** who descended is **Himself** also **He** who ascended far above all the heavens, so that **He** might fill all things.)

Christ Provided Ministers to Equip the Saints for the Work of Service; Christ Provided Ministers to Build Up the Church

11And **He** gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

12for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of **Christ**;

The Son of God Can Be Known; Christ Desires to Fill the Church with Himself

13until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the **Son of God**, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of **Christ**.

14As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

Christ is the Head of the Church (2)

15but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into **Him** who is the head, even **Christ**,

16from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

17So this I say, and affirm together with the **Lord**, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

God is the Source of a Genuine and Blessed Life

18being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of **God** because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

19and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

Christ can be Known to the Point of Permeating the Soul of the Saint

20But you did not learn **Christ** in this way,

Christ Speaks; Jesus Teaches the Saints in the Context of Fellowship with Him; Jesus is the Truth

21if indeed you have heard **Him** and have been taught in **Him**, just as truth is in **Jesus**,

22that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

23and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

God Gives the Saint a Virtuous Character Through the Gospel; God Gives the Saint a Pious Character Through the Gospel

24and put on the new self, which in the likeness of **God** has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

25Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another.

26**BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN**; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

27and do not give the devil an opportunity.

28He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

29Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

The Spirit Desires to Fill the Saint with Himself

The Holy Spirit can be Grieved; The Holy Spirit is the Seal of the Final Liberation of the Saints

30Do not grieve the **Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

God has Forgiven all Those in Christ

32Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as **God in Christ** also has forgiven you.

God is Father of the Saints (3); God is an Example to the Saints

(Ephesians 5)

1Therefore be imitators of **God**, as beloved children;

Christ is Loving (2); Christ Sacrificed Himself as an Offering to God for Mankind

2and walk in love, just as **Christ** also loved you and gave **Himself** up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to **God** as a fragrant aroma.

3But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

4and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

**Christ Rules a Kingdom;
God Rules a Kingdom**

5For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of **Christ** and **God**.

**God Expresses Anger
Toward the Disobedient**

6Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of **God** comes upon the sons of disobedience.

7Therefore do not be partakers with them;

**The Lord is the Agent of
Saving Wisdom**

8for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the **Lord**; walk as children of Light

9(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

The Lord Can be Pleased

10trying to learn what is pleasing to the **Lord**.

11Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

12for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

13But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

14For this reason it says,

"Awake, sleeper,
And arise from the dead,
And **Christ** will shine on you."

15Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

16making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

**The Lord Reveals His
Desires and Will**

17So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the **Lord** is.

18And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the **Spirit**,

19speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the **Lord**;

God is Father (5)

20always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord **Jesus Christ** to **God**, even the **Father**;

Christ Deserves Reverence

21and be subject to one another in the fear of **Christ**.

22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the **Lord**.

Christ is the Head of the Church (3); Christ is the Saviour of the Church

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as **Christ** also is the head of the church, **He Himself** being the Savior of the body.

24 But as the church is subject to **Christ**, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Christ Loves the Church; Christ Sacrificed Himself for the Church

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ** also loved the church and gave **Himself** up for her,

Christ Sanctified the Church by the Word of His Promise

26 so that **He** might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Christ Places the Sinless Church at His Side

27 that **He** might present to **Himself** the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

Christ Nourishes the Church; Christ Cherishes the Church

29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as **Christ** also does the church,

Christ is United with the Church

30 because we are members of **His** body.

31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to **Christ** and the church.

33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

(Ephesians 6)

1 Children, obey your parents in the **Lord**, for this is right.

2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),

3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the **Lord**.

Christ Deserves Obedience (1)

5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to **Christ**;

Christ Deserves Obedience (2); God Revealed His Will

6not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of **Christ**, doing the will of **God** from the heart.

The Lord Deserves Obedience

7With good will render service, as to the **Lord**, and not to men,

The Lord Rewards Good Deeds of the Saints

8knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the **Lord**, whether slave or free.

The Lord is Master of the Saints; The Lord is Impartial

9And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with **Him**.

God Provides Greater Power than Mankind can have on His Own

10Finally, be strong in the **Lord** and in the strength of **His** might.

God Provides Spiritual Protection for the Saint (1)

11Put on the full armor of **God**, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

God Provides Spiritual Protection for the Saint (2)

13Therefore, take up the full armor of **God**, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

14Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH**, and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**,

15and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**;

16in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

The Spirit Subdues the Impulses of the Flesh; God Promised Salvation

17And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the sword of the **Spirit**, which is the word of **God**.

The Spirit Motivates Prayer; The Spirit Guides Prayer

18With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the **Spirit**, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

19and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

20for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

The Lord Chooses His Ministers

21But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the **Lord**, will make everything known to you.

22I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

God is Father of the Saints (4)

God is a God of Peace; God is the Author of Love Joined with Faith; Jesus Christ is the Lord of Peace; Jesus Christ is the Author Love Joined with Faith

23Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from **God the Father** and the **Lord Jesus Christ**.

Jesus is Gracious to Those Who Love Him

24Grace be with all those who love our Lord **Jesus Christ** with incorruptible love.