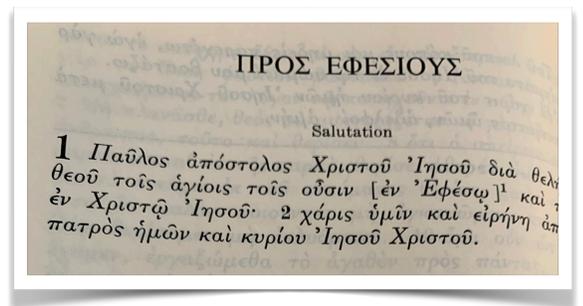


Paul's Letter to the CHURCH AT EPHESUS



INTRODUCTION TO EPHESIANS

Ephesus was on the west coast of modern day Turkey at the mouth of the Meander River. It was also the end of the major land trade route that crossed at least as far east as Babylon and India. From Ephesus goods went by ship all over the Mediterranean basin. Therefore, it was an important and wealthy Greco-Roman city.

Acts 18 tells of the first time Paul preached the Gospel here in a synagogue to an interested audience, but it isn't until later (Acts 19) that Paul returns to evangelize the city in earnest, climaxing in the riot in the theater. After establishing the church in Ephesus, Paul spread the Gospel throughout the province of Asia (western Turkey), probably including the "Seven Churches of Asia" in the book of Revelation.

Paul left Timothy in Ephesus at one point in his ministry to administer the organization of the church: elders, deacons, widows, worship decorum, financial support of some in the congregation, and obligations of the rich, and the importance of keeping to the pattern of the Lord for doctrine.

In Acts 20 Paul calls upon the elders of Ephesus to meet him to charge them to follow his example and be faithful, because some among their own number would arise as wolves among the sheep.

We last hear about the church in Ephesus in Revelation, which says that although they had not wandered away in immorality or false teaching like some of the churches of Asia had, they had left their first love.

EPHESIANS 1.1-23

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:

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

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,

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

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- To whom is this letter addressed?
 - What is the wish for grace about here?
 - What is the wish of peace about?
 - What is a doxology?
 - What things are being praised here?
 - What phrase do we hear in these verses (and book) over and over?
 - What is the point?
 - What does it mean to be chosen?
 - What is God's plan for His chosen people?

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

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

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

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

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

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.

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also

- What does it mean to be predestined?
- What does it mean to be adopted as sons?
 - What were God's intentions?
 - What is the obvious response to such grace?
- What is redemption?
 - How was it paid for?
 - What other benefit is there to redemption?
 - What did we do to earn this?
- What does it mean to lavish?
- What was the mystery of His will?
 - In whom was this to be accomplished?
 - What's the "long game" in God's will?
- What is this inheritance?
 - How are we heirs?
- Who is Paul talking about when he says "we who were the first to hope in Christ"?
- Who is the "you" in v.13?

believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who 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.

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

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

17 that 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.

18 I 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,

19 and 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 **20** which He brought about in Christ, when He raised

- What does Paul call the Holy Spirit?
 - What is the inheritance, again?
- What is **this** "redemption" speaking of in v. 14?
 - Who or what is His possession?
 - How does this glorify God?
- What had Paul gotten a report about concerning the Ephesians?
 - _____ (explain)
 - _____ (explain)
- What had this prompted Paul to do?
- What was Paul's prayer for them?
 - Spirit of _____ (explain)
 - revelation in the _____ of Him (explain)
 - eyes of your _____ be enlightened (explain)
 - to know the _____ of His calling (explain)
 - the riches of the glory of His _____ (explain)
 - the surpassing greatness of His _____ (explain)
- What is this power spoken of here?
 - in accordance with what?

Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

21 far 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.

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

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

- demonstrated in _____ Christ from the dead
- _____ Him at the right hand in the heavenly places
- far _____ all rule and authority and every _____ (what are these things?)
- putting all things in subjection to Christ
 - giving _____ head over _____ things to the church
 - the church is _____ body
 - What does it mean that the church is “fulness of Him who fills all in all”?