

Ephesians

God's Provisions for His Church

Section I

Our Possessions In Christ

Chapters 1 thru 3

INTRO: Recap

1. Ephesus noted for commerce and the Temple of Artemis (Diana)
2. 2nd largest city of Asia Minor (Turkey) 250K
3. Ephesians was a “Captivity” letter, probably a circular letter intended for several churches, written from Rome about 62 AD
4. Paul visited Ephesus on 2nd and 3rd missionary journey (Acts 18 & 19)
5. The book divided in two sections: Ch. 1-3 Doctrine, our wealth in Christ, and Ch. 4-6, Behavior, the Christian’s walk in Christ

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Part I

Our Blessings from the Father

Ephesians 1 : 1 thru 6

SALUTATIONS

Chapter 1:1 & 2

A. Paul, an Apostle of Christ by God's will

1. Original name, SAUL (Acts 7:58)
2. Apostolos (gk) "Sent out one"
3. By the will of God

B. To the Faithful Saints.... (in Ephesus)

1. Saints (hagios gk) holy one who has been set apart
2. Not Dead, but Alive...addressed readers
9 times by title, 1:1,15,18; 2:19; 3:8,18;
4:12; 5:3, & 6:18
3. Stained Glass Window

HAGIOS

It is used of men and things in so far as they are devoted to God. Indeed the quality, as attributed to God, is often presented in a way which involves Divine demands upon the conduct of believers. These are called *hagioi*, "saints," i.e., "sanctified" or "holy" ones.

This sainthood is not an attainment, it is a state into which God in grace calls men; yet believers are called to sanctify themselves (consistently with their calling, **2 Ti 1:9**), cleansing themselves from all defilement, forsaking sin, living a "holy" manner of life, **1 Pe 1:15; 2 Pe 3:11**, and experiencing fellowship with God in His holiness.

The saints are thus figuratively spoken of as "a holy temple," **1 Cor 3:17** (a local church); **Eph 2:21** (the whole Church), cp. **Eph 5:27**; "a holy priesthood," **1 Pe 2:5**; "a holy nation," **1 Pe 2:9**. "It is evident that *hagios* and its kindred words... express something more and higher than *hieros*, sacred, outwardly associated with God;... something more than *semnos*, worthy, honorable; something more than *hagnos*, pure, free from defilement. *Hagios* is... more comprehensive... It is characteristically godlikeness"

“Vines Expository Notes of the NT”

C. “In Christ Jesus...”

1. Phrase and titles used 164 X in Paul’s writings. 27 X in Ephesians alone
2. Gal. 3:26-28, Col 3:3

D. Grace and Peace to you...

1. Grace...Charis, (gk)
2. Peace...Shalom, (heb), Eirene, (gk)

E. From God the Father and Jesus Christ

1. The eternal beneficiary of all that we have in Christ



When we meet some people we know immediately and instinctively that they are different. We are anxious to learn their secret. It is not the way they dress or talk or behave, although it influences these things. It is not that they have affixed a name tag to themselves and proclaimed themselves the adherent of a particular religion or ideology. It's not even that they have a strict moral code which they faithfully follow. It is that they know Jesus Christ, and that he is a living reality to them. They dwell in him and he dwells in them. He is the source of their life and it shows in everything they do.

These people have an inner serenity which adversity cannot disturb; **it is the peace of Christ.** They have a spiritual power that physical weakness cannot destroy; **it is the power of Christ.** They have a hidden vitality that even the process of dying and death cannot quench; **it is the life of Christ.**

To use Biblical expressions, “The peace of Christ rules in their hearts,” “the power of Christ is made perfect in their weakness,” and “the life of Christ is made manifest in their mortal flesh.”

To be **“in Christ”** does not mean to be inside Christ, as tools are in a box or our clothes in a closet, but to be organically united to Christ, as a limb is in the body or a branch is in the tree. **It is this personal relationship with Christ that is the distinctive mark of his authentic followers.**

Dr John R.W. Stott

GRACE

Grace is not a dormant or abstract quality, but a dynamic, active, working principle: "The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation...and instructing us" **(Titus 2:11-12)**. It is not some kind of ethereal blessing that lies idle until we appropriate it. Grace is God's sovereign initiative to sinners **(Ephesians 1:5-6)**

Grace is not a one-time event in the Christian experience. We stand in grace ([Romans 5:2](#)). The entire Christian life is driven and empowered by grace: "It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods" ([Hebrews 13:9](#)).

Peter said we should "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"
(2 Peter 3:18)

Thus we could properly define grace as *the free and benevolent influence of a holy God operating sovereignly in the lives of undeserving sinners.*

That is the good news of the gospel! God has acted to set us free from sin — not just the consequences, but it's very power and presence. One day we will never know the experience of temptation, a stray thought, a misspoken word, a false motive. Guilt will be gone, and with it shame, and "so we shall always be with the Lord"**(1 Thessalonians 4:17)**