

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS:

WE WILL BEGIN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!

**PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NEW MEETING NUMBERS AND WEB LOG INS FOR THE MON NIGHT AND TUES MORNING MEETINGS.
NO PASSWORDS NEEDED**

New Meeting Numbers:

Type in the <https://> for the meeting you want to attend -just below in **blue**: If you have any trouble with logging in on the website – download the Zoom.us app from the internet, sign in, hit “join meeting” and enter the meeting number **87858644763 for Monday night; 85309150746 for Tuesday morning.**

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS: (This is new and different from previous meetings)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763> for Monday night 7pm meeting # 878 5864 4763; hit join, then when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

7 AM TUESDAY MORNING MEETINGS: (This is new and different from previous meetings)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746> for Tuesday morn 7am meeting # 853 0915 0746; hit join, when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

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7 pm Mon Meeting ID: 817 880 051 7 am Tues Meeting ID: 444504400
Find your local number: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/817880051>

OPENING PRAYER

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Ephesians Chapter 1:1-7*

- **Ephesians is addressed to a group of believers who are rich beyond measure in Christ Jesus yet living as beggars because they are ignorant of their wealth.**
- **Blessed with every Spiritual Blessing in the Heavenly Places in Christ!**
- ***“in Him,” “by Him,” or “through Him”* – God’s glorious blessings are wrapped up in Christ, by Christ and through Christ.**

IN CHRIST ALONE – *Keith & Kristyn Getty (4:39)*

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song. This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled when strivings cease! My comforter, my all in all Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe! This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Til on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied For ev'ry sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again! And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death This is the pow'r of Christ in me from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand 'Til He returns or calls me home Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand... No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand 'Til He returns or calls me home Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Ephesians – This whole letter emphasizes the truth that all believers are united in Christ because the church is one body of Christ.

Divided into Two Sections –

Chapters 1-3 – Doctrinal, the Heavenly Calling of the Church

Chapters 4-6 – Practical, the Earthly Conduct of the Church

Chapter 1 – The Church is a Body; Chapter 2 – The Church is a Temple;

Chapter 3 – The Church is a Mystery; Chapter 4 – The Church is a New Man

Chapter 5 – The Church Will be a Bride; Chapter 6 – The Church is a Soldier

Chapter 1:

vs. 1-2 Introduction

vs. 3-6 The Will of the Father - God the Father Planned the Church

**vs. 7-12 The Work of the Son - God the Son Paid the Price for the Church
(redemption - His blood)**

vs. 13-14 The Ministry of the Holy Spirit - God the Spirit Protects the Church

Ephesians Chapter 1:1-7

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

Eph 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:3 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,

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Eph 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Greeting vs. 1-2

Eph 1:1 Paul (put your name here), ***an apostle*** (Paul's authority; put your calling here) ***of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints*** (to be set apart, separated by God in Christ for God's use – every Christian is a saint; every saint is a Christian) ***who are in Ephesus*** (likely a circular letter to many churches), ***and faithful*** (full of faith) ***in Christ Jesus:***

- God has given each of us gifts and callings according to His will. Where and who are you by the will of God? What is it that He has called you to do? That is important because it is extremely hard to try to be something you are not. Ask God to show you who you are according to His will. Then go for it with all your heart.
- Notice two addresses – in Ephesus and in Christ Jesus (first three chapters in Christ Jesus – doctrinal; where we sit; The last three chapters in Ephesus – practical; how we walk). You cannot walk the right way until you are convinced of who you are in Christ.
- The theme of this book is that we are in Christ Jesus.

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

Eph 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and (co-equal) ***the Lord Jesus Christ.***

- ***Grace*** (“God’s riches at Christ’s expense; getting more than I deserve) always before ***peace*** (to bring things together)! We cannot have the peace of God on any basis other than His grace, undeserved favor, on what He has done and not anything of myself.
- Remember that "***Lord***" is a title, not part of the name of ***Jesus***. "***Christ***" is His distinction, for He is the Messiah.

Spiritual Blessings in Christ vs. 3-14

One sentence, about 260 words in the original Greek – “a magnificent gateway; a golden chain of many links; a kaleidoscope of dazzling lights and

shifting colors” describing numerous blessings that God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ has given us!

*Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has (past tense) **blessed us with** (in) **every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places** (Christians anywhere even now are spiritually seated with Christ on high!) in Christ, (2Cor 1:3) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,**

- Right at the beginning, Paul bursts out in praise for the God who chose him before the foundation of the world. There must be a work of God in our lives before we can do something for Him. We need to see our position in Christ, seated with Him in heavenly places, before we can learn to walk the Christian walk. What vast treasures of grace! What astounding blessings!
- He is telling us that all these blessings have already been fulfilled, not a promise to be fulfilled but a present gift to be received, not based on human activity, but on God’s love and grace.
- God’s blessing is only something that God can do, something He has already done. All progress in the spiritual life comes by understanding a truth that is already true. It is available to us the moment we open our hands to receive it.
- **Blessed** (Eulogize - speaking of a person’s character, nature; to praise or commend) **be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ** - The duty of all creatures is to praise God for all that He has done for us!
- **who has blessed us** (Jews and Gentiles) – This is in the past tense. Paul, writing from a Roman prison, put there unjustly, finds something to be thankful for. The Romans could imprison Paul, but they could not imprison the spread of the Gospel!
- **With** (or in) **every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ**, has been given to us by our Father and Savior, so that our joy may always be full, not in our circumstances, but in the fact that He has already given us not just “some” blessings but “**every**” **spiritual blessing**, impossible to number or completely comprehend!
- No matter what situation we are in, the greatest trial or whatever, these blessings **are always ours in Christ!** You never are going to shorten the list and be only partially blessed! All these blessings are yours, are mine, all the way, until we are face to face with the Lord!
- Every Christian should consider themselves the richest, wealthy person in the world because of all these spiritual blessings, given to us simply because of having faith in Christ!
- He is going to list nine blessings and they are always ours!

He has chosen us – to be holy and without blame!

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, Eph 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Eph 1:4 just as (according to) **He** (The Father) **chose us in Him** (Christ Jesus) (*Joh 15:16*) *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*

- **Just as** – according to His perfect divine will, **He has chosen us in Him**, as Christians. Notice the starting point! So appropriate! He **chose** that we would believe in Him before the foundations of the world. He does not start with anything in the time of this world, but with something that has been done by God the Father before the foundation of the world!
- It is most fitting to start with what God has done with the salvation of men! This is so consistent in keeping with the revelation given to us by the whole Bible – what God the Father has done about the salvation of man!
- Believers who enjoy the spiritual blessings from God do so because they have been chosen by God and of God to do so. We enjoy these blessings because just as He has chosen us in Him before the foundations of the world.
- **God has chosen you in order that He might make you holy and without blame** It means that your life has been changed. If there is no evidence of change, then you are not of the chosen. He wants us to live lives which are not marked or spotted with sin. He has made every provision to absolve us from all blame. (*1Jn 2:1-2*) *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. [2] And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*
- Being chosen by God – often referred to as Predestination/Election of God (loving choice on God's part). Simply by the good pleasure of God's own will, not by anything we have done or could do!
- Many theologians have great difficulty between God's predestination/ election of us to be saved by God and man's free moral agency, or the fact that man has the freedom to choose to be saved or not, thereby having man responsible for the decision that he makes.

- When we give our lives to the Lord as Christians, we trust in Jesus for our salvation. It is always to discover at that moment that we have chosen Him only because He has chosen us.
- One of the great mistakes in building a whole belief in the predestination and the election of God is to neglect or exclude man's free moral agency and his responsibility for the decision that he makes. The error comes from making the human conclusion that if God has chosen those who will be saved, He must not have chosen those who will be lost.
- The Bible does not teach that! The subject of predestination/God's election is never taught concerning the unbeliever, only concerning the saved!
- The Bible says those who are saved have been elected. They have been predestined. They have been chosen. That is what He tells us. Those are the facts. Do not take it one inch beyond His revelation. Do not speak into His silence. We are not smart enough to do that!
- We must understand that God has predestined us as Christians to be saved, but it does not minimize our ability to choose Him or reject Him and our personal responsibility. God holds us personally responsible for that choice.
- Consider free moral agency, man's choice, as Jesus told Nicodemus, who came to Jesus, asking what he must do to be like Him. Jesus said, he must be born again and believe: (*Joh 3:15, 16,18*) **that *whoever believes in Him*** (personal responsibility, Nicodemus) *should not perish but have eternal life. [16] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life.. [18] "He who **believes in Him** is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.* Jesus here in pure evangelism is indicating 100% personal responsibility and free moral agency!
- On that last day of the Feast, (*Joh 7:37b-38*) *Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If **anyone** thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. [38] He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*
- At the end of the Bible - (*Rev 22:17*) *And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. **Whoever** desires, let him take the water of life freely.*
- There is a beautiful balance. Whenever the Scriptures are talking to those that are not saved, it is all free moral agency! It is all personal responsibility. You need to believe! "**whoever; whosoever, if anyone, he who**" (*2Pe 3:9*) *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.***

- But when the Scriptures talk about **election, predestination**, they talk about those subjects to **those who are already saved**.
- Both truths are needed. If you take the first one away, the Christian is going to be shortchanged in the fullness of what God has provided for them.
- If you take the other away, then you are going to shortchange what is important for the non-Christian to hear, that they have personal responsibility for the decision they make with Christ.
- There is no conflict between these two doctrines from heaven. They are completely compatible. It is like there is no need to reconcile good friends! They are perfect together! They get along great.
- A little boy was asked, “Have you found Jesus?” He answered, “Sir, I didn’t know He was lost. But I was lost, and He found me!” We didn’t find Jesus. He found us. He’s the One who went out after the lost sheep and He is the One who found that sheep!

before the foundation of the world, (1Pe 1:2) elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

- His choosing of us supplies us with security of our salvation. To know that when we trust in the Lord Jesus, we have now become involved in a salvation that not only reaches all the way through the glory of heaven, but a salvation that reaches all the way back to before the foundations of the heavens and the earth. It is God way of saying to Christians, your salvation is sure!
- The fact that we have eternal security, shows that our salvation is a sure salvation! However, it should never result in a Christian choosing to live a sloppy, sinful, life! We should never use the truth of eternal security within our lives as an excuse to live however I want. No, no, no!
- We have the basis for how we can enjoy these spiritual blessings in the heavenly places because we have been chosen in Him before the foundation of the world! All the other things that follow originate from here in which He has chosen us! This is known as predestination, God’s election, His loving choice for us!

that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love (Luk 1:74-75) To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, [75] In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

- The first blessing we have in Christ is that we were chosen by God. God has chosen us as Christians to become believers in Him, choosing us before the foundation of the world ***that we should be holy and without blame before***

Him in love The fact that we have the assurance of eternal security, should never be used to justify casual, sinful lives in in any way!

He has adopted us into His family!

Eph 1:5 (In love - agape) having predestined (loving choice on God's part) ***us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,***

Eph 1:5 (In love,) having predestined us (Rom 8:29) *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, (Joh 1:12) *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*

according to the good pleasure of His will, (1Cor 1:21) *For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.*

- Then blessing number two! ***Having predestined us in love, to adoption as sons by Christ Jesus*** – Eleven times in these 14 verses, “*by or in or through Christ Jesus*” all of these blessings are “*in Him*”! ***having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,***
- Not only has He chosen us to be saved, but He has adopted us! In Roman culture, to be adopted was a very serious step. When a slave was adopted, that person took on all the full rights of child who was born into the family! Rome made sure that the adoption carried those kinds of rights. Your life would be radically transformed from that point on! Everything changes – your past, your present and then your future! When we are adopted into Christ's family! It all changes.
- Not only does He choose us, but He makes us a part of His family! Just like today, there is a screening process to make sure the parents have the resources to make sure that that child is impacted by the wealth now of the family – financially, stability – that they have the personal resources to be able to take this child on. Just think, every single day, all around this world, there are millions taken on by Him. Yes, God has the resources. His supply is inexhaustible.

He has accepted us – in the Beloved!

Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted (Rom 3:24) being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

in the Beloved. (Mat 3:17) And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Mat 17:5) While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

- The third blessing is that we have acceptance ***in the Beloved***. We see the threefold work performed by God the Father. He ***chose us in Christ***. He ***predestined us to the place of sonship***. He has made us ***accepted in the Beloved*** (the One He loves – Jesus Christ, the Beloved Son). It is all to the praise of the glory of His grace. He is the One who gets the praise. He is the One who did it all!
- In ourselves, we are not acceptable to God, but in Christ, ***in the Beloved***, we are ***“made accepted.”*** God has accepted us through Jesus Christ. God will not and cannot accept us apart from Jesus. ***(Joh 17:23-24) I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. [24] "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.***
- As we look around us, it is sad that people are working and trying so hard to do so many things to be accepted! Look at our young people, what they are willing to pierce, what they are willing to wear. Same thing when we were kids. Trying so hard to be accepted! Trying hard to be different, but they all look pretty much the same.
- It is all the people, working so hard, trying to overachieve, every day, just trying to get accepted by a group of people. We see them just killing themselves to find acceptance. Even sadder, is when a Christian does it, when they are already accepted by God in the Beloved!
- Our faith means so much to the Father. When you believe in His Son and trust in His Son, the privilege is all ours. But from the vantage point of heaven, overall, God’s gift to mankind is ignored and spit upon and blasphemed every single day, as much as the time of the cross.
- When a person comes and says, God, I believe You and I accept Your Son and I trust in Him for the forgiveness of my sins. Something great happens in the Father’s heart when we do that! It is something tremendous! It is the one great thing that we can give Him, is our faith! So, we are accepted!
- If you are a Christian do not ever think you have to earn God’s approval. I have got to dress a certain way, read so many chapters from the Bible, pray

for hours, do this thing and that thing. And it is all being done, driven to be accepted by God, stop! Take a deep breath. Your acceptance is spoken of in the past tense. Stop trying to earn it! You already have it! God has accepted you! We cannot do anything to improve our acceptance that He has not already done!

He has redeemed us! He has forgiven us!

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace,

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, (Heb 9:12) Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

according to the riches of His grace (Rom 3:24-25) being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

- We are chosen. We are adopted. We are accepted in Him. We have ***redemption*** (to buy back, ransom), blessing number four. ***Redemption through His blood*** means that we have been paid for. A price has been paid for us to be removed from the slave market! We've been ***redeemed*** by the shed blood of Christ and that our sins have been forgiven (***Psalm 32:1***) ***Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.***
- A price has been paid for us to be removed from the slave market by our Lord and Savior, who has freed us, bringing us into liberty, to walk with God!

the forgiveness of sins.. Not only has He redeemed us, but we have forgiveness of sin! To what degree? ***according to the riches of His grace.***

- The fifth blessing! - ***the forgiveness of sins***, removing them from ever being brought up again.
- The **single greatest thing** that Christians do not seem to accept is, who they are in Christ, the blessing from God, **that they are forgiven!** Many Christians live every day in condemnation over their past sins. They say, I would give my right arm to undo something that I did back then. But I cannot change that. But how many Christians will not realize the fact that they are forgiven. The Bible says past tense, what we have is the forgiveness of sins.

- The **second most common thing** is that Christians will not believe about themselves, is what God tells them, **is that they are redeemed!** That they are liberated! That they are a free person! That they no longer need to be enslaved to the things they were once enslaved to. But an enormous price has been paid that we might a free people.
- Now, I need to believe that about myself to even start to practice it as a reality in my life and walk out into it. We are not to accept the definition of the world and everyone else that “what you always were, you’re always going to be”. Too often we believers hold on to that, Yes, I am that, not liberated, but I am saved.
- The way to honor God, is to accept that as the truth about myself, so that every time my past comes up in my mind over some failure or sin, I can stop and say, Lord, I know that that was wrong. Lord, I have run that through my mind a million times. I cannot change that. But I know that Your word tells me right here in Ephesians that I am a forgiven person! And Lord, when You forgive, You forget. I am not going to go back and rummage through all that again. I am going to honor You by believing Your word. I give all of this to You. Then we are to go on with your life. You have given it to Him!
- When we remember past sins, may we remember His word here (*Eph. 1:7*) *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*
- Our sins have been forgiven. Following confession and repentance, we are not to bring them up again.

What awesome, tremendous blessings He has given us!!...every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

This is one of the most profound summaries of what God has already done for everyone who put their faith in the finished work of Christ Jesus on the cross, resurrection, and ascension.

Nine Spiritual blessings listed in these verses - Eph. 1:3-14

He has chosen us!

He has adopted us!

He has accepted us!

He has redeemed us!

He has forgiven us!

He has revealed God’s will to us!

He has made us an inheritance!
He has sealed us!
He has given us a guarantee of eternal life!

Have you/I truly taken ownership of all these wonderful blessings, especially during really difficult times and situations in your life? Oh, how He loves you and me!

- **Closing Prayer:**