

Ephesians 1:1–2

Called by God, Living in Christ

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Paul identifies himself not by personal ambition or religious rank, but **by the will of God**. His calling was not self-chosen, nor church-assigned, but God-ordained. This immediately teaches us a vital truth: *whatever God has called you to be is His highest calling for your life*. No believer is second-class in the kingdom of God.

Every follower of Jesus can rightly say, *“I am what I am by the will of God.”* Contentment and joy flow from discovering and embracing that calling rather than striving to be something God never intended.

Paul addresses the letter to saints—not an elite group, but all who belong to Christ. A saint is not a sinless person; a saint is a sinner who has been set apart by grace.

The phrase “in Christ Jesus” introduces the dominant theme of the entire epistle. Everything that follows flows from this reality. Our identity, our blessings, our hope, and our future are all found *in Christ*.

Grace always comes before peace. Peace with God is impossible until grace has first been received.

Ephesians 1:3

The Source of Every Spiritual Blessing

“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.”

Paul praises God not for material success, but for spiritual blessings. These blessings are not earthly or temporary; they are eternal realities secured by Christ.

One of the great weaknesses of the church is the tendency to focus on what believers should be doing for God, rather than what God has already done for us. Paul reverses that pattern. For three chapters, he declares God’s work on our behalf before issuing a single command.

Christian living does not begin with effort; it begins with grace.

Ephesians 1:4

Chosen in Christ Before the Foundation of the World

“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.”

God’s choosing took place before the world existed, which means it was not based on human performance, merit, or reform. It was grounded in God’s foreknowledge and purpose.

This choosing does not cancel human responsibility, nor does it prevent anyone from coming to Christ. Scripture is clear that the invitation is genuine and open: whoever desires may come. God never turns away a repentant sinner.

Those who respond in faith discover that God's grace was already at work long before they knew Him.

The goal of God's choosing is not favoritism, but transformation—that we might stand before Him holy and without blame, clothed in Christ's righteousness, not our own.

Ephesians 1:5–6

Adopted According to the Good Pleasure of His Will

“Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”

Adoption speaks of status, not entry. We enter God's family by new birth; we are given full standing by adoption. God has chosen to place believers as mature sons and daughters, with access to His inheritance.

This was done according to the good pleasure of His will—not reluctance, not obligation, but delight. God takes joy in saving, transforming, and claiming His people.

We are accepted in the Beloved, not because of our worthiness, but because of Christ's worthiness. Our acceptance rests entirely on Him.

Ephesians 1:7–10

Redemption Through His Blood and God's Eternal Purpose

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace... that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ.”

Redemption required blood. Jesus saved us by shedding His blood on the cross. He paid a debt we could not pay and freed us from slavery to sin.

Forgiveness flows not from scarcity, but from the riches of God's grace.

God's ultimate purpose is cosmic in scope: to bring all things—heaven and earth—back into harmony under the authority of Christ. The resurrection declares that Jesus is victorious over sin, death, and every opposing power.

Ephesians 1:11–14

An Inheritance Secured and a Seal Given

“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance...

In Him you also trusted... you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance.”

Believers are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Our inheritance is secure, eternal, and unfading.

The Holy Spirit is God’s seal of ownership and the guarantee that what God has begun, He will complete. The Spirit is the down payment assuring us that full redemption—including the resurrection of our bodies—is coming.

Ephesians 1:15–23

Paul’s Prayer: Knowing God, Hope, Power, and Christ’s Authority

Paul prays not for circumstances to change, but for believers to see clearly.

- To know God more deeply
- To understand the hope of God’s calling
- To grasp the riches of God’s inheritance in His people
- To experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead

Jesus is exalted above every power, authority, and name. The resurrection declares Him to be God, Savior, and Lord. All things are under His feet, and He is head over the church, which is His body.

Practical Application

- Stop measuring your life by what you have not done for God; begin resting in what God has already done for you in Christ.
- Live from identity, not insecurity.
- Let gratitude replace guilt, and faith replace fear.

A Challenge for Believers

Do not live beneath your spiritual inheritance. You are redeemed, forgiven, adopted, sealed, and empowered. Walk worthy of the calling—not to earn it, but because it is already yours.

An Invitation to Non-Believers

If you have never trusted Jesus Christ, the invitation is open to you today. He shed His blood on the cross for your sins. God raised Him from the dead, declaring Him to be Savior and Lord.

If you will repent, believe, and surrender your life to Him, you will be forgiven, made new, and brought into God’s family—not by human effort, but by grace.

Today, you can discover that God has been calling you all along.