

Be Strong in the Lord – Episode 4 – Dave Weber

The Believer's Life in Christ

Ephesians 1:1-10

- **Book of Joshua:** God's people **taking physical possession** of the Land that God promised them
- **Book of Ephesians:** God's people **taking spiritual possession** of the spiritual ground God has promised us as **our inheritance in Christ** – we need to **actively possess it**

The City & Church of Ephesus

- Ephesus – worship of the fertility goddess Artemis (Diana)
- Ephesus was 2nd after Rome in the Roman Empire
- Paul stayed the longest in Ephesus

Revelation 2:3-5

- **Jesus commends the Ephesian Church:**
 - **Good works, labors of love**
 - **Not approving evil, religious lies**
 - **Patience, have not fainted**

Revelation 2:3-5

- **corrects & warns ...**

“Nevertheless, I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love”

- **Doctrinally correct but had lost their devotion/fellowship with God**

Revelation 2:3-3

- So busy about the business of the King ...
- ...that they did not have time for the King Himself

Ephesians Chapter 1 Topics – Also in Chapter 2

• Foreknowledge	God's eternal knowledge & wisdom
• Predestination	God's plan for us from eternity
• Election	God's Divine choosing of us
• Redemption	God's price & plan to redeem us
• Adoption	God's legally adopting us
• Blessings	God's riches for us in Christ
• The will of God	God's will for mankind & us in particular
• Mysteries (12)	God's mysteries being revealed
• Dispensations	God's sequence of events & time frames
• Forgiveness	God's great love, the steep price, His character
• Inheritance	God's inheritance to us thru Jesus' death & Will
• Sealing	God's sealing us with the indwelling Holy Spirit
• Glorification	God's promise for us of eternal holiness & reward

Ephesians 1:1

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:1

“an apostle of Jesus Christ”

- an apostle is a follower of Jesus
- To be in the office/role Apostle, he had to have seen the Risen Jesus in person
- Who do I follow? God or man?

Ephesians 1:1

“an apostle of Jesus Christ”

- Paul did not choose His occupation
- God has chosen you to fulfill His purposes in & through your life
- Do I cooperate in my life with the will of God? With His choices?

Ephesians 1:1 ***“to the saints in Ephesus”***

- Every believer in Jesus is a saint
- Every born again believer is “set apart” (a saint)
- He imputes (credits) His righteousness to us
- By His sacrifice, we are made holy

Ephesians 1:1

“and to the faithful in Christ Jesus”

- God rewards fidelity to opportunity
- God gave each of us talents, skills, abilities, opportunities
 - ... for His service ... to bless others
 - ... to reward us
- **Am I faithful? Let me choose to be.**

Ephesians 1:1

“and to the faithful in Christ Jesus”

- **“In Christ”** is used 27 times in Ephesians
- **Everything** God has for you is “in Christ”
- Are you **in** Christ Jesus?
- **In Christ**: a member of the body of Christ
- **In Christ**: to be **vitally united** with Him by baptism of the Holy Spirit

(1 Cor 12:12-13)

Ephesians 1:1 ***“and to the faithful in Christ Jesus”***

Ephesians is about Our Identity “In Christ”:

- **“In Christ” is used 27 times in Ephesians**
- **In Nature** **2 Pet 1:4**
- **Life** **Col 3:4**
- **Relationships** **John 10, John 20:17; Heb 2:11**
- **Service** **Matt. 28:20, John 17:18**
- **Suffering** **Phil 1:29; 3:10, Col 1:24**
- **Inheritance** **Rom. 8:16-17**
- **Future Glory in His Kingdom** **Rom 8:18-21, 1 Pet 2:9, Rev 1:6, 5:10**
- **A Stranger & Pilgrim on the earth** **Heb 3:1, 1 Pet 2:11**

Ephesians 1:1

- **How can you be faithful?**
- **In keeping God's Word, His Truth**
- **In praise, worship, prayer**
- **In thought life, words, deeds**
- **In how you use your time, your mind/soul, body, spirit**

Ephesians 1:2

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

Ephesians 1:1 *“Grace be to you, and peace”*

- **Grace:** in Greek = “**hello**”
- **Grace** is undeserved merit

God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense

- **Grace:** we get what we don’t deserve
- **Mercy:** we don’t get what we deserve
- **Peace:** resulting relationship with God

Holiness produces happiness

Romans 3:23 *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”*

Ezekiel 18:20

“The soul that sins shall die”

Mercy, Grace, & Peace

Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Ephesians 1:2 “*from God our Father*”

- How can God be our Father, when we are born a child of fallen Adam?
- **Adoption: spiritual new birth**
- “Our” legal relationship, personal fellowship, family benefits

John 1: 12 *“But as many as received Him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God...”* “be’ne Elohim”, a direct creation by God.

John 3:3 *“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”*

Romans 6:23 *“...you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry ‘Abba, Father’ ”*
[Abba = daddy]

Ephesians 1:2 *“and from our Lord Jesus Christ”*

Title (Lord) , Name (Jesus), & Mission (Christ)

- **Lord** – His authority as creator & redeemer
- **Jesus** – 100% sinless human, spotless
- **Christ** – the Messiah, God incarnate to die in the place of sinners & rise again

Do I have a heart of gratitude to the God-Man who died to ransom me?

Ephesians 1:3 ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ...”***

- Our eternal 3 persons-in-one God took on the roles of Father & Son in planning our Creation & Redemption

Psalms 2:7 ***“I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, Thou art My Son, this day I have begotten Thee.”***

Ephesians 1:3 *“who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ: ”*

- **Has blessed us** (already allocated to us)
Positionally we are already seated in the heavens
- **All spiritual blessings**
- **In the heavenlies – in God’s legal realm**
- **In Christ – in relationship & fellowship**

Ephesians 1:4 ***“According as He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world...”***

- **Has blessed us already**
- **All spiritual blessings**
- **In the heavenlies – in God’s legal court**
- **In Christ – in relationship & fellowship**

Ephesians 1:4 *“...that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:”*

- Holiness now is God's purpose for us
- Without blame (not without faults)
- Jesus Christ **our advocate (lawyer)** is seating now next to His Father's throne
- Who can lay a charge to God's elect?
- Jesus' **nail-scarred hands** silence any accusation of Satan against us in Heaven

Ephesians 1:5 *“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,”*

- **Predestinated**: pre-planned our destiny:
Our Creation, our Redemption, our Justification, our Sanctification, our Glorification in eternity
- **How**? By Christ Jesus.
John 14:6 “Jesus said unto him [Thomas] “I am the **Way**, the **Truth**, and the **Life**.
No man comes to the Father, but by me.”

Ephesians 1:5 *“... according to the good pleasure of His will,”*

- **Why**? For the good pleasure of God’s will

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that **all** should come to repentance.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whosoever believes** in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Are you a “**whosoever**”?

Ephesians 1:6 ***“To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made us acceptable in the beloved”***

- **Heaven’s redeemed sing praises about how glorious He is for His amazing grace**
- **Acceptable**
 - **Legally Acceptable:** sin-debt paid
 - **Morally Acceptable:** made holy by Jesus’ shed blood
 - **Legally Adopted:** by God’s work, His law
 - **Family Accepted:** with all who are God’s

Ephesians 1:7 ***“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”***

- Redemption through the sinless **blood** of Christ:
 - Garden of Gethsemane: drinking the spiritual cup of our sin & guilt, He sweat great drops of blood
 - In 6 illegal night time trials: He was beaten, whipped, “marred more than any man”, shedding His blood
 - Crown of thorns, beard plucked out: He shed His blood to redeem mankind’s lost God-given authority to rule over creation
 - Crucified, he shed His blood, nails through His hands & feet, spear wound in His side, as our sin-bearing substitute

Ephesians 1:7 *“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”*

- God designed no other way to pay for sin, to forgive sin
 - I cannot forgive my own sin
 - I cannot pay anything to remove a single sin
 - I cannot get forgiveness of sin by good works
 - Forgiveness of sin is only by God, only God's way

Ephesians 2:8-9 **Salvation**

- by grace alone
- through faith alone
- in Christ alone

Ephesians 1:7 *“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”*

- God has rich grace, not poor grace, not stingy grace
- Riches, plural

Hebrews 7:25 “Wherefore, He is able to **save them to the uttermost** that come unto God by Him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them.”

Ephesians 1:8 ***“Wherein He has abounded toward us in all wisdom & prudence”***

- **God has done great things for us** out of His infinite wisdom and the good decisions of His holy character
James 3:17 “The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”
- **God gives us wisdom & prudence** (moral good decision making) – “If any may lack wisdom, let him ask”

Ephesians 1:9 ***“Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He has purposed in Himself”***

- A Bible “mystery” being revealed
- In Chapter 3, aspects of redemption never before revealed in the written Word of God.
- God’s salvation plan include us Gentiles ! (non-Jews)
- God indwelling mankind. Heaven’s activities, angels

Ephesians 1:10 *“That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in Him”*

- God has His **Appointed Times**
- **God's purpose** for mankind:
 - To gather us to Him, restored, holy
- **Man's tragedy:**
 - When we, individually reject God, His plan & purpose

•God's Solution

- **2 Cor 5:21** For He hath **made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him
- **Col 2:14** Blotting out the handwriting of the **ordinances** that were against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way **nailing it to the cross**
- **Jn 19:30** When **Jesus** therefore had received the vinegar, he **said, It is finished**; and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.
- **“For God commends His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”**

•Our Response

- **Rom 10:9** That if thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- **1 John 1:9** If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins, and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

- **God's Promise for the Believer - 1 Peter 1:3,4**
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy **has begotten us again** unto a lively hope by the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, **to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.**