

Study of Ephesians – Ephesians 1:1-23
Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring & Summer 2013

Saints = Believers
(Not Dead Christians)
*Rom 1:7, I Cor 1:2,
II Cor 1:1, Eph 1:1,
Phil 1:1, Col 1:2

Why does Paul identify himself as an Apostle?
(Rom, I & II Cor, Gal, Eph, Col, I & II Tim, Titus)

ἀπόστολος *apostolos*;
Lit -a messenger, one
sent on a mission
Acts 1:21-26

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

Acts 9:1-18
Acts 22:1-16
Acts 26:12-18

Common Greeting
-Rom, I & II Cor,
Gal, Eph, Philem

Early manuscripts >> "saints who are also faithful"
²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The earliest manuscripts omit the phrase "in Ephesus"

Verses 3-14 are one sentence in the original Greek

³**Blessed be** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us** in Christ with every spiritual **blessing** in the heavenly places,

3 Forms of the Same Greek Word:

"Blessed be"
εὐλογητός (eulogētos)
Adjective

"blessed us"
εὐλογέω (eulogeō)
Verb

"blessing"
εὐλογία (eulogia)
Noun

I. Blessings from the Father (3-6)

Chose Us / Predestined
Before the foundations of the world were laid, God had determined that all **who believed on his Son** should be saved.

⁴even as he **chose us** in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be *holy and blameless before him*. In love

Rom 8:16-17; Gal 4:1-7

⁵he **predestined us for adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

⁶**to the praise of his glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us in the **Beloved**.

Rom 3:21-26; Col 1:13-20

⁷In **him** we have **redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

⁸which he **lavished** upon us, in all wisdom and insight

⁹making known to us the **mystery** of his will, *according to his purpose*, which he set forth in Christ

¹⁰as **a plan** for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined** according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

¹²so that we who were the first to **hope** in Christ might be to the **praise of his glory**.

Things to Remember

Regarding Predestination...

God is **Sovereign**
-Psa 135:6
-Dan 4:35
-Eph 1:11

God is **Omniscient**
-Jn 21:17
-1Jn 3:20
-Heb 4:13
-Jer 1:5
-Isa 46:10

Man has **Free Will**
-Jn 3:16
-Act 16:30,31

Salvation is **Available to All**
-Rom 5:18-19

II. Blessings through the Son (7-12)

Mystery (mystērion)

As used in the NT does not mean "enigma," but refers to God's plan of salvation, which was formerly kept secret but is now revealed in Christ.

-Ro 16:25
-1Co 4:1
-Eph 1:9; 3:3-9;
5:32; 6:19
-Col 1:26; 2:2

What God has done for us should naturally evoke praise!

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III. Blessings imparted by the Spirit (13-14)

¹³In him *you also*, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed** with the *promised Holy Spirit*,

"You Also" = Gentiles

Acts 2:38-39
 Rom 8:9-11
 2Co 1:21-22;
 5:1-5

¹⁴who is the *guarantee* of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, **to the praise of his glory**.

Paul's Prayer for Knowledge

I. PERSON (15-17)

He prays for an increase in their knowledge of God Himself

Epignōsis is the fullness of knowledge acquired through personal acquaintance

¹⁵For this reason, because I have *heard of your faith* in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the *saints*,

Rom 1:8
 Col 1:14
 Phm 5

¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you *in my prayers*,

If this letter was written to the church at Ephesus, why does he say, "heard of your faith," when he was there for 3 years?
 -General Letter (v.1)
 -Circular Letter?

¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the *knowledge of him*,

II. PROMISE (18)

¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the *hope to which he has called you*, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Hope - ἐλπίς (elpis)
 A looking forward to in confident expectation

III. POWER (19-20a)

Isa 40:28

¹⁹and what is the immeasurable *greatness of his power* toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

Right Hand of God

-Psa 110:1
 -Mark 16:19
 -Luke 22:69
 -Acts 2:33; 5:31
 -Rom 8:34
 -Col 3:1
 -Heb 1:3; 8:1;
 10:12; 12:2
 -1Pe 3:22

IV. POSITION (20b-23)

Phil 2:9-11

²⁰that he worked in Christ when he *raised him from the dead* and *seated him at his right hand* in the heavenly places,

Head of the Church

-Eph 4:4-16; 5:23
 -Col 1:18

²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and *above every name* that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

1Co 15:27; Heb 2:8

²²And he put *all things 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.

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Introduction to Ephesians

Author – *The Apostle Paul (1:1)*

Recipients – *Traditionally the “saints who are in Ephesus,” (1:1) though the earliest manuscripts available do not contain the phrase “in Ephesus,” but simply ready “saints who are also faithful.” Possibility that Ephesians was written as a generic letter to numerous churches or a circular letter with the name of the church left out, and filled in as received. Still generally regarded by most scholars as having been written to the church at Ephesus.*

Location of Writing - *Paul wrote Ephesians from prison (3:1; 4:1; 6:20). Since Tychicus was the bearer of this letter (6:21), as well as of Colossians (4:7) and presumably of Philemon also (cf. v. 24), it may be deduced that these three documents belong to the same time and place. Philippians was also written in prison and may be one of the group. But where was Paul imprisoned? Three possibilities present themselves...(1) Rome (2) Ephesus (3) Caesarea¹*

Rome seems to be the most likely location of the writing.

Time of Writing – *A.D. 62 to 64 (If written from Rome)*

Apostle

693 ἀπόστολος (*apostolos*), ου (*ou*), ὁ (*ho*): n.masc.; ≡ DBLHebr 8938; Str 652; TDNT 1.407—**1.** LN 53.74 **apostle**, a special messenger of Jesus Christ, a restricted group, the exact number variously reckoned (Mt 10:2; Ac 1:2, 26; Ac 14:14; 1Co 12:28, 29); **2.** LN 33.194 **messenger**, envoy, one sent (Jn 13:16; 2Co 8:23; Php 2:25+)²

652. ἀπόστολος **apostolos**; from 649; *a messenger, one sent on a mission, an apostle*:—apostle(19), apostles(52), apostles’(5), messenger(1), messengers(1), is sent(1).³

Acts 1:21–26 (ESV)

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

¹ Wood, A. S. (1981). Ephesians. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 11: Ephesians through Philemon* (F. E. Gaebelin, Ed.) (13). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

² Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

³ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

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Romans 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

1 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

Galatians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)

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

Colossians 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

1 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

2 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

Titus 1:1 (ESV)

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,

By the Will of God

Acts 9:1–19 (ESV)

9 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

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¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened.

Acts 22:1–16 (ESV)

“Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”

² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

³ “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶ “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷ And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰ And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹ And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

¹² “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

Acts 26:12–18 (ESV)

¹² “In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the

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ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’¹⁵ And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.’¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Saints

Romans 1:7 (ESV)

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

2 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

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

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)

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

Colossians 1:2 (ESV)

²To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Paul’s Common Greeting

Romans 1:7 (ESV)

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:3 (ESV)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

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

Galatians 1:3 (ESV)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 1:2 (ESV)

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

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Philemon 1:3 (ESV)

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed

2329 εὐλογητός (*eulogētos*), ἡ (*ē*), ὅν (*on*): adj.; ≡ DBLHebr 1385, 1388; Str 2128; TDNT 2.764—LN 33.362 **praised**, blessed, worthy of commendation (Mk 14:61; Lk 1:68; Ro 1:25; 9:5; 2Co 1:3; 11:31; Eph 1:3; 1Pe 1:3+)⁴

2328 εὐλογέω (*eulogeō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 1385; Str 2127; TDNT 2.754—**1.** LN 33.356 **praise**, give thanks to, speak well of (Jas 3:9); **2.** LN 33.470 **bless** (Ro 12:14); **3.** LN 88.69 **act. kindly toward**, bless, provide benefits (Eph 1:3; Ac 3:25 v.r.)⁵

2330 εὐλογία (*eulogia*), ας (*as*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ DBLHebr 1388; Str 2129—**1.** LN 33.356 **praise**, speak in favorable terms (Rev 5:13); **2.** LN 33.366 **flattery**, excessive praise (Ro 16:18+); **3.** LN 33.470 **blessing**, divine favor (Jas 3:10); **4.** LN 88.70 **benefit**, the content of the act. of blessing (Ro 15:29); **5.** LN 57.105 **gift** (2Co 9:5); **6.** LN 59.56 ἐπ' εὐλογίαις (*ep eulogiais*), large amount, generously (2Co 9:6+)⁶

Chosen / Predestined

(v.4) Inherent in this is the fact of God's calling and electing people before the foundation of the world; and very few theological questions have demanded more attention and interest than this. Clearly revealed in this is the fact that the coming of Jesus Christ into the world for the purpose of taking out of it a people for himself and redeeming them unto eternal life was no afterthought on God's part. Before the world was ever created, the divine plan of the Son of God's visitation of the human family existed in the eternal purpose of God. That body that Christ would gather from the populations of earth is destined to receive eternal life; because what God purposes is certain of fulfillment. Such a calling and election of those "in Christ" to receive eternal glory, however, is not capricious. Every man may decide if he will or will not become a part of it and receive the intended blessing.

(v.5) Theologians have tried for ages to make something hard out of predestination; but the meaning is not difficult. God designed the whole creation to accomplish the fulfillment of the plan which existed before creation. That is a simple definition of it. It applies to human beings, planets, galaxies, everything God ever made. Regarding people, God's purpose in creating man was that he might become a Son of God through Jesus Christ. That is the destiny God intended for every man ever born on earth. Stars and galaxies may not oppose or thwart their intended

⁴ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁵ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁶ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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destiny; but with people, there is another factor, the freedom of the human will, enabling people to hinder or even prevent the fulfillment of God's purposes in their lives.⁷

Acts 2:23 (ESV)

²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Romans 3:21 (ESV)

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—

Romans 8:29–30 (ESV)

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 9 (ESV)

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—² that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.⁵ To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.⁹ For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.”¹⁰ And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac,¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—¹² she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”¹³ As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means!¹⁵ For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.¹⁹ You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?”²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?”²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make

⁷ Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Ephesians". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". "<http://www.studylight.org/com/bcc/view.cgi?book=eph&chapter=001>". Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

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known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?²⁵ As indeed he says in Hosea, “Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’ ”²⁶ “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’ ”²⁷ And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved,²⁸ for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.”²⁹ And as Isaiah predicted, “If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.”³⁰ What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith;³¹ but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.³² Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,³³ as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

1 Peter 1:18–21 (ESV)

¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Adoption

Romans 8:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Galatians 4:1–7 (ESV)

¹ I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything,² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father.³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

God is Sovereign

Psalms 135:6 (ESV)

⁶ Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

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Daniel 4:35 (ESV)

³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

Ephesians 1:11 (ESV)

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

God is Omniscient

John 21:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

1 John 3:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

Hebrews 4:13 (ESV)

¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Isaiah 46:8-10 (ESV)

⁸ “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, ⁹ remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

Man has Free Will

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Acts 16:30-31 (ESV)

³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

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Salvation is Available to All

Romans 5:18-19 (ESV)

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Mystery

1:9 mystery In Paul's writings, the word *mystērion* refers to God's plan of salvation, which was formerly kept secret but is now revealed in Christ. This plan includes the unification of Jews and Gentiles into one new people of God (3:3, 5–6, 9).⁸

3696 μυστήριον (*mystērion*), ου (*ou*), τό (*to*): n.neu.; ≡ DBLArām 10661; Str 3466; TDNT 4.802—LN 28.77 **a secret**, a mystery (Mk 4:11; Ro 11:25; 16:25; 1Co 2:1; 4:1; 13:2; 14:2; 15:51; Eph 1:9; 6:19; Col 1:26; 2:2; 2Th 2:7; 1Ti 3:9; Rev 17:5)⁹

3466. μυστήριον *mustērion*; from μύστης *mustēs* (*one initiated*); from 3453; *a mystery or secret doctrine*:—mysteries(5), mystery(22).¹⁰

Romans 16:25 (ESV)

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages

1 Corinthians 4:1 (ESV)

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Ephesians 1:9 (ESV)

⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

Ephesians 3:3–9 (ESV)

³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,

⁸ Barry, J. D., Grigoni, M. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Mangum, D., & Whitehead, M. M. (2012). *Faithlife Study Bible* (Eph 1:9). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

⁹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

¹⁰ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

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Ephesians 5:32 (ESV)

³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Ephesians 6:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

Colossians 1:26 (ESV)

²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

Colossians 2:2 (ESV)

² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,

Sealed with Promised Holy Spirit

Acts 2:38–39 (ESV)

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Romans 8:9–11 (ESV)

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

2 Corinthians 1:21–22 (ESV)

²¹ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

2 Corinthians 5:1–5 (ESV)

¹ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

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Person

2106 ἐπίγνωσις (*epignōsis*), εως (*eōs*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 1922; TDNT 1.689—**1.** LN 28.2 **knowledge**, to possess information (Ro 1:28), for another interp, see last; **2.** LN 28.18 **knowledge**, the content of what is known (Ro 10:2); **3.** LN 27.4 εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν ἔρχομαι (*eis epignōsin erchomai*), learn about, formally, come into knowledge (1Ti 2:4+); **4.** LN 32.17 εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν ἔρχομαι (*eis epignōsin erchomai*), come to understand (1Ti 3:7+), for another interp, see prior; **5.** LN 31.28 ἔχω ἐν ἐπιγνώσει (*echō en epignōsei*), acknowledge (Ro 1:28+), for another interp, see first¹¹

Heard of Your Faith

Romans 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

Colossians 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Philemon 5 (ESV)

⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,

Hope

1828 ἐλπίς (*elpis*), ἰδος (*idos*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ DBLHebr 1053, 1055, 9536; Str 1680; TDNT 2.517—**1.** LN 25.59 **hope**, a looking forward to in confident expectation (Ac 23:6); **2.** LN 25.61 **what is hoped for** (Ro 8:24; Col 1:5); **3.** LN 25.62 **basis for hope**, that which is the cause or reason for hoping (1Th 2:19)¹²

1680. ἐλπίς *elpis*; from the same as 1679; *expectation, hope*:—hope(53), hopes(1).¹³

Right Hand of God

Psalms 110:1 (ESV)

¹ The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”

Mark 16:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

¹¹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

¹² Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

¹³ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

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Luke 22:69 (ESV)

⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

Acts 2:33 (ESV)

³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Acts 5:31 (ESV)

³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Romans 8:34 (ESV)

³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Colossians 3:1 (ESV)

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Hebrews 8:1 (ESV)

¹ Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

Hebrews 10:12 (ESV)

¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)

² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

All Things Under His Feet

1 Corinthians 15:27 (ESV)

²⁷ For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.

Hebrews 2:8 (ESV)

⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

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Head of the Church

Ephesians 4:4–16 (ESV)

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸ Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” ⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 5:23 (ESV)

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Colossians 1:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.