

EPHESIANS 1 NOTES

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus ...

- Apostle = Greek “apostolos” which means messenger
- The apostles were those commissioned directly by the resurrected Christ and sent on special service. Typically, only the 11 disciples (excluding Judas Iscariot) and Paul are considered apostles.

Verses 3 through 14 are one sentence in the original language – the longest sentence in the Bible. In these verses, Paul explains what God did for him and what He will do for us.

These verses are considered a doxology in which Paul moves from sharing his testimony about what God has done for him into praise for what God will do for all people.

“every spiritual blessing” (v. 3) = everything that is Christ’s is now also ours through Him; spiritual not material blessing which is typical of New Testament discussions of blessing as contrasted to Old Testament blessing which is often revealed through material possessions.

The Trinity in verses 3 through 14

- v.3-6 – God the Father who ADOPTS us
- v. 7-12 – Christ the Son who REDEEMS us
- v. 13-14 – the Holy Spirit who SEALS us

Note the words in verses 4 and 5 – “chose” and “predestined” ... God the Father who knew each of us before the foundations of the world LOVED us even then.

In verses 15 through 19 we find the basis of a prayer for ourselves as we study Scripture.

1. Faith and love motivate us.
2. Gratitude guides us.
3. The Spirit reveals truth and wisdom to us.
4. Study opens us to the hope and inheritance we have in Christ.
5. Belief moves us into action as we do what we have learned.

The chapter ends (verses 20-22) with a powerful reminder of Christ’s authority both now and forever. All things are subject to Him.