**Ephesians**

*Ephesus, a revival church that affected a region*

**Session 3 - Chapter 1 Part 2**

**Verses 1:3-6 - The Breakdown of the Father’s Blessing**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

* who has **blessed us**
  + in the heavenly realms (the where)
  + with every spiritual blessing in Christ (the what).
    - Every (all, imaginable and unimaginable) spiritual (the type) of blessing (benefits)
* For he **chose us**
  + in Him (the where - Jesus is the who, what, where, why, when and how of redemption)
  + before the creation of the world (the when)
  + to be holy and blameless in His sight (the what)
* (In love – the why) He **predestined us** to be adopted as his sons
  + through Jesus Christ (the how)
  + in accordance with his pleasure and will (the why)

**The Who:**

The initiator: God blessed

The Recipient: us

The mediator: Christ

* From God via/by Christ to us

**The What:**

Every spiritual blessing

To be holy and blameless in His sight (before Him)

**The Where:**

In heavenly realms (the location of the blessings)

In Christ/in Him (the location of the access – He is the door)

**The Why:**

In accordance with His pleasure and will (He decided simply because it pleased Him to bring you in and bless you. Eudokia – a decision stubbornly pursued simply because it pleases)

In love

**How:**

Through Christ

**The When:**

Before the foundation of the world (prothesis – an idea committed to in advance, the Greek work translated purpose in verse 9)

**Ephesians 1**

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

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

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment — to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

NIV

**Notes:**

Chapter 1 is simply praise and prayer fueled by theology. Paul’s theology fueled his worship. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us…!”

Verses 3-14 is praise, verses 15-23 is prayer.

Theology is essential, and when delved into correctly will result in worship. We are to love the Lord our God with all of our hearts, all of our minds, all of our souls and all of our strength.

The Father:

1. Blessed us (in heavenly realms – where?) with every spiritual blessing
2. Chose us (before the creation of the world – when?) to be holy and blameless in His sight
3. Predestined us (through Jesus Christ – Who and how?) for the adoption to sonship

All of this was:

1. According to the pleasure of His will (He does what makes Him happy)
2. To the praise of His glorious grace (What makes Him happy is glorifying Himself)
3. In the One He loves (the environment of God’s blessing is Christ. You must be in Him to receive the blessings)

Paul was very concerned with the motivations and emotions of God.

* He wanted us to understand not only what God did for us, but why He did it and how He felt about it.
* He covers the motivation in the phrases “according to His good pleasure” and “in conformity to His good pleasure.” God is motivated by pleasure.
* He wanted us to understand God’s emotions when He states God predestined us in love.