

CHRIST and the CHURCH



PART 2

Mike Taylor www.TaylorNotes.Info

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST (EPHESIANS 1:1-14)

A. PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP (1:1)

1. Paul's apostleship. An apostle (Gk. *apostolos*) of Jesus Christ meaning "special messenger" or "one sent with a message." Paul was sent by Jesus Christ.
2. An apostle was a witness of the resurrected Christ (1 Cor. 9:1).
3. This specific type of apostle is not present in the church today.

B. GRACE AND PEACE (1:2)

1. Grace: The acceptance of and goodness toward those who cannot earn or do not deserve such gain. God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.
2. Peace: The state of being that lacks nothing and has no fear of being troubled in its tranquility.

C. PREDESTINATION IN CHRIST (1:3-6)

1. Blessed (1:3): to praise (Gk. *eulogia*).
2. He chose us (1:4): God not only chose *by* himself but *for* himself to the praise of his own glory (vv. 6, 12, 14). Also called "election."
3. Predestined (1:5): Another term for election. Predestination (election) is an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure (Grudem).
4. Adoption (1:5): God's act of making otherwise estranged human beings part of God's spiritual family by including them as inheritors of the riches of divine glory.

D. REDEMPTION IN CHRIST (1:7-10)

1. Redemption (1:7-8a): The term used here relates to paying the required ransom to God for the release of a person from bondage.
2. The mystery (1:9): The revelation of something previously hidden or known only vaguely but now is more fully made known. The mystery of God's will, now revealed in Christ, is "to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ" (1:10).
3. The fullness of time (1:10a): This time will be when the season is right. "When the time is ripe."

E. INHERITANCE IN CHRIST (1:11-14)

1. Sealed with the Holy Spirit (1:13): The sealing refers to an official mark of identification placed on a letter, contract, or other item which is under the authority or ownership of a person.
2. Holy Spirit as a guarantee (1:14): The Holy Spirit is given by God as his pledge of the believer's future inheritance in glory (cf. 2 Cor. 1:21-22).

F. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND FURTHER STUDY

1. While all of these spiritual blessings in Christ are amazing, which ones mean the most to you and why?
2. How can God's peace help you when you are deeply troubled as a result of a crisis in your life?
3. Believers have an eternal inheritance. Knowing this, how much should this inheritance motivate believers to live for Jesus Christ? Explain.