

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

NT Survey Lesson 166--Ephesians 1

Introduction: Paul begins the book of Ephesians with an exuberant expression of praise to God. He is enraptured by the thought that God, before the world began, planned that we, His church, would receive and enjoy every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Lesson aim: To appreciate the wonderful spiritual blessings we have in Christ.

Introduction & praise for the spiritual blessings in Christ-- Eph. 1:1-14

1. A key part of this study is to become familiar with the spiritual vocabulary of this section. Look up these words in a good Bible dictionary for an accurate definition: predestined, adoption, redemption, mystery, administration, fullness, inheritance, sealed, earnest (KJV) or "pledge" (NASV).
2. Find as many phrases as possible that indicate that the church (God's people) is the product of God's purpose or plan.
3. What is the meaning of the repeated phrase "in Christ"? And what are the "heavenly places"?
4. Briefly describe what God did to prepare the world for the coming of His Son. In whom has God "summed up" all things?
5. Who are the "we" and who are the "you" in verses 12-13?
6. Explain in your own words what Paul means when he says we were sealed with the Spirit and that He is the earnest of our inheritance.

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians--Eph. 1:15-19

1. What did Paul hear about the Ephesians that made him give thanks?
What does "do not cease to pray" mean?
2. What did Paul pray that the Ephesians would receive?
3. What three things did he pray that they would come to know?
4. What is the hope of the Christian's calling?
5. What makes the Christian's inheritance richly glorious?
6. Whose power is available to the Christian? What does that power do in us? (See Eph. 3:16-21)

God's power working in Christ--Eph. 1:20-23

1. How did God demonstrate His power in Christ?
2. Where is Christ seated?
3. What is under Christ's feet? What is included in that?
4. Of what is Jesus head? What else is the church called?
5. What does Paul mean when he says the body is the "fulness of Him who fills all in all" (v. 23)? (What does fulness mean? Who is "Him"? In what we does God fill all in all? Who are the "all"?)