

Day 1

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

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

Q1. Paul states that he is an "apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God". What did he mean? (See Acts 9:1-19)

Q2. Who are "saints"? Who are the "faithful"? (And is Paul referring to us, too?)

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

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³Praise 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.

Q3. To whom does the simple little word "us" refer? ("Us" is repeated in verses 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 and "we" is used in verses 7, 11, and 12.)

Note to Question 3: In verse 1, Paul refers to himself as an “apostle of Christ Jesus”. Read verses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12, and add the word ‘apostles’ so that “we” becomes “we apostles” and “us” becomes “us apostles”. In verses 1-12, Paul uses the pronouns “us” and “we”; then, in verse 13 he switches to the word “you”, which refers to the Believers in Christ Jesus to whom Paul is writing in Ephesus (and throughout history). See also Matthew 12:18; Luke 6:13; John 6:70; John 13:18; John 15:16; John 15:18-19; and Acts 1:2 with emphasis on “chosen”.

Q4. What does “heavenly realms” mean to you?

Q5. How would you describe a “spiritual blessing in Christ”?

Day 2

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Q6. This Scripture states, “he chose us”. Do we (or specifically the apostles) have free will?

In love ⁵he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Q7. How would you interpret “predestined” for the apostles? (This verse has a wonderful promise: Psalm 139:16^b)

Q8. How would you interpret “predestined” for those who believe in the saving grace of our Lord Jesus?

Q9. What does it mean to be adopted?

Day 3

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Q10. What does “redemption” mean to you?

Q11. What does “grace” mean to you?

Q12. How can we have “redemption through His blood”?

Day 4

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

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.

Q13. While Paul wrote this letter nearly 2,000 years ago, do we know today what the “mystery of His will...which He purposed in Christ” means?

Q14. To what event might Paul be referring when he wrote “all things in Heaven and on earth [will be brought] together under one head”?

Day 5

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

¹¹In 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, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Q15. How would you describe... God's plan for the Apostles?

Q16. How might "[the apostles] be for the praise of His glory"? Why?

Day 6

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

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.

Q17. Paul shifts to "you". To whom is Paul now referring?

Q18. What is the "word of truth"?

Note: Romans 10:17 "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

Q19. Are you "marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit"?

Q20. If you are marked with the Holy Spirit, what significance is that to you? Or your loved ones?

Note: verses 13 and 14 list one of the most important promises, a *true* guarantee.

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