

Episode #1002 Ephesians 1 Part 1-In Christ

I. The purpose of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians is to tell us what God's present purpose is in all His work today. This includes His work in the world and in the individual believer. Ephesians is the book of God's present purpose, the book of being "in Christ," and the book of God's grace.

II. Paul concludes his introduction, and then starts into a giant sentence that is the longest sentence in the Bible, telling us all the glorious things that are true of us "in Christ."

III. Concluding the Introduction to the Book. Ephesians 1:2.

A. The word translated "and" twice here is the Greek *kai*, which means "and" but can be used for apposition, that is, when two nouns are actually the same thing, in which case it means "even."

B. The specific grace he wishes to them is peace. The Greek is *eirene*, from which we get the woman's name "Irene." It means a true union. In this case, with God, which is indeed gracious!

C. God our Father IS the Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:24. Rom. 15:6. II Cor. 1:3. I Thess 3:13. II Thess 2:16. I Cor. 8:6.

IV. Ephesians 1:3-14 is the longest sentence in the Bible and perhaps the longest contiguous discourse in all recorded literature. To understand the whole, we must get what the sentence is about from verse 3.

V. The Subject of the Sentence. Ephesians 1:3.

A. The subject of the sentence is God. Blessing is the verb. Us is the direct object. This huge sentence tells us all the ways God blesses us in Christ.

B. What are "blessings?" Greek *eulogeo*, from which we get our word "eulogized." It means "to speak well of," but not just when someone has died or retired.

C. What does "spiritual" mean? Does not mean "invisible." Many people just think something vaguely good. The Bible does not use our shallow English meaning. *Pneumatikos*, related to *pneuma*, "spirit." I Cor. 10:3-4. The manna was real, edible food, and the water was usable drink. They were "spiritual" because they came directly from God, and not by natural means.

D. God speaks well of us with all God-made speaking-well-ofs. This does not mean He fishes for compliments. He makes things true of us, then speaks them.

E. In heavenly what? No word for "places" in Greek. Some have noticed it is plural in Greek, and so have made it "heavenlies." But this is a "trick" in English. Since we have no plural adjectives, a plural adjective becomes a noun. But Greek ALWAYS uses plural adjectives, so it does not use this trick. Heavenly speaks of things over and above, and in this case it means the most elevated beings. Whether it is the most elevated beings in heaven or men like Moses, Elijah, Peter, and Paul, God speaks well of us who are in Christ in the same breath! This seems almost unbelievable, but true.

D. All this is true of us because we are "in Christ." This is how great it is to be in Him!

VI. Conclusion: To be "in Christ" is to hold the most glorious position God is holding out to men today. We can know that we have already received all these blessings listed here. They are ours if only we are believing in the record God gave us of Jesus Christ. We need to know what blessings we have because we are in Christ. God gave us Ephesians chapter 1 to let us know!