

LESSON 1 - EPHESIANS 1:1-6

Ephesians has been called "the Queen of the Epistles, the Waterloo of commentators, and the crown of Paulinism." It introduces us to some of the most elevated themes found in Scripture. Through this tremendous book, we will trace the thoughts of the Apostle Paul as he soars above the mundane into the heavenly truths found in a relationship with Jesus Christ! It will answer some of those life questions that probe the Christian's mind as we consider our life in Christ. This is indeed the bedrock of our Christian faith!



THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Read Ephesians 1:1-6

With your Bible and homework book in hand, find a quiet spot to read and study. *Remember it can be anywhere—in your home, your backyard, even your prayer closet.* Read this passage at least two times without interruption.

1. There are some names in history that are immediately recognized and stand out above all else. The Apostle Paul is one of them! As he writes this epistle, he is in a Roman prison waiting for a verdict for his future.
 - a. Have you ever been confined to a specific location for an indefinite amount of time?
 - b. How would you respond if your future were indefinitely suspended? How would you cope with the seclusion and confinement?
 - c. What allowed Paul the assurance and determination to write this letter in spite of his circumstance?
2. What two descriptions does Paul use to describe the recipients of this letter?

- a. Do you think these were exceptionally spiritual people that had achieved “sainthood” on the basis of their holy and righteous living?
- b. In what sense could the life of a believer be described as both an apostle and a faithful saint?

CUTTING THE STONE



Is there any part of this description that touches you?

Do you feel today you could be called a faithful saint?

Are there any changes you would seek to make? If so, write it down here, and ask God to reveal ways to that you can begin to live closer to your name.



MIXING THE MORTAR

Read Ephesians 1:3-4

3. Fill in the following from verses 3–4:

Blessed be the ____ and ____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with _____ in the heavenly places in _____, just as He ____ us in ____ before the foundation of the _____, that we should be ____ and without _____ before Him in _____.

4. According to these verses, with what has God blessed us?
 - a. How would you define a spiritual blessing?

5. Be honest with yourself—when someone mentions a “blessing,” what kinds of things usually come to mind first?
 - a. Though we may find material and physical blessings in this life, the blessings referred to here are spiritual blessings. What are some of the spiritual blessings Paul reveals?

 - b. Why do you think Paul emphasizes the blessings “in the heavenly places” as opposed to the earthly realm?

6. According to verse 4, when did God choose us?
 - a. Does it surprise you to learn that God made a decision about you before you made a decision about Him?

b. Read Romans 5:8 and 1 John 4:19. What do these verses show about God's attitude toward us?

7. According to verse 4, what was/is God's purpose in choosing us?

a. How is it possible for sinners—like us—to stand before God, holy and blameless? (See Colossians 1:21–22; Jude 24)

*God has in Himself all power to defend you,
all wisdom to direct you, all mercy to pardon you,
all grace to enrich you, all righteousness to clothe you,
all goodness to supply you, and all happiness to crown you.*

Thomas Brooks



USING A TROWEL

Read Ephesians 1:5-6

8. Try to write a simple sentence to summarize each passage.

Verse 3 –

Verse 4 –

Verse 5 –

Verse 6 –

9. As you follow Paul's train of thought here, how would you describe his mindset? Is he was encouraging, commanding, exhortative? Does he seem to be urgent in his message?

10. According to Eph. 1:5 and also Romans 8:16-17, we, as believers, are children of God, and therefore joint heirs with Christ. What is the significance of being a joint heir with Christ?

- a. How does your life reflect your status as a child of the King?

- b. Do you feel you must wait until you are an “older” saint before you can claim your riches in Christ? Why or why not?

11. What does the phrase “accepted in the Beloved” mean to you?

12. Can we ever make ourselves acceptable to God?

- a. By what are we made acceptable?

13. According to verse 6, what is the appropriate response of one who has been accepted by God?

*The will of God can never lead you
where the grace of God cannot keep you!*

Anonymous

CUTTING THE STONE



Review again verses 3–6. You have been given every spiritual blessing, chosen before the foundations of the world, adopted as a daughter by Jesus Christ to Himself, and accepted in the Beloved. Think about the riches given to you as a Christian. How does this affect your perspective on the importance and opportunities of your life today?



STONE UPON STONE

Group Discussion Questions

Chapter one opens up with all the riches we have as Christians in Christ. Take a moment to answer the following questions for your time of discussion after the message. Read Ephesians 1:1–6.

1. After studying these first six verses, how do you feel knowing the blessings that are yours in Christ?

