

EPHESIANS

Conversational Version

Salutation

1:1Paul, apostle of Christ^{Messiah} Jesus by God's will, to the saints [in Ephesus]^{ms} and faithful in Christ Jesus. **2**Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Eph 1:1-2**

The Blessings of Redemption

3Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He's blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in high places. **4**Before he founded the world, he chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in his presence in love. **5**It pleased him to destine us ahead of time to be his children through Jesus Christ. **6**So we praise the glorious grace he freely extended to us in the Beloved. **7**He redeemed us by his blood, and that forgiveness demonstrates the rich grace **8**he lavished on us by providing us wisdom and insight. **9**He let us know his previously unrevealed will that, in his good pleasure, he intended for Christ **10**to oversee when the time came. He chose to sum up everything in Christ in heaven and on earth. **11**In him we've become an inheritance for the One who accomplishes everything according to his own counsel and purpose. **12**As a result of what he's done, we praise his glory—we who have already placed our hope in Christ. **13**You've heard the truth as well—the good news about salvation—and put your trust in him; and he has sealed you with the Holy Spirit he promised. **14***The Spirit is God's pledge to give us our full inheritance when he redeems his people*—to the praise of his glory. **Eph 1:3-14**

Prayer for the Ephesians

15I've heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for the saints. **16**So I keep including you in my prayers and being grateful for you. **17***I pray* that the God of our glorious Lord Jesus Christ will give you wisdom and revelation by knowing him. **18**That means enlightening you to recognize what the hope of his calling is, *to realize* how rich his inheritance among the saints is, **19**and *to understand* what the unlimited greatness of his power is toward us who believe. **20**God brought about that *hope, inheritance, and power* by raising Christ from the dead and seating him on his own right hand in high places. **21**Now he's far above all rule, authority, power, dominion, and everybody else in this age and the next. **22-23**God put him in charge of everything as head of his body the church, the embodiment of the One that fills everything. **Eph 1:15-23**

Spiritual Death from Personal Sinning

2:1You were 'dead' because of the sins **2**you once lived in like the rest of the world. *It was a way of living* that corresponded to the ruler of the power in the air, the spirit that operates

in disobedient people. ³Among those people at one time we all lived by fleshly drives. We were doing what the flesh and imagination desired. Our character made us objects of God's anger like everybody else. ⁴But God was so merciful because he loved us so much. ⁵We 'died' by sinning, but he 'made us alive' with Christ (by grace he saved us). ⁶He raised us up with *him* and seated us with *him* in high places. ⁷In the coming ages, what he did will show the tremendous wealth of his grace and kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸By grace we're saved people through faith, and that salvation doesn't come from us; it's God's gift; ⁹so we can't be proud. ¹⁰We're his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for living the way God designed us ahead of time to live.

Eph 2:1-10

Jew-Gentile Unity in Christ

¹¹⁻¹²So, you Gentiles in the flesh—called Uncircumcision by the handmade Circumcision in the flesh, remember that you were separated from Christ at that time. You were excluded from the Commonwealth of Israel, without hope, and without God in the world. ¹³But you that were once afar off have come near through Christ's blood.

Eph 2:11-13

¹⁴⁻¹⁵Christ is the basis for peace between us. He made both *of us* into one group and tore down the wall that separated *us*. In his flesh he abrogated the Law that's made up of regulations. That way, from the two groups he could create in himself one new united mankind and could make peace *between us*. ¹⁶*He could* reconcile both *of us* to God in one body through the cross. In himself he killed the hostility. ¹⁷He came and offered peace to you that were far away and to us that were close by. ¹⁸Through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. ¹⁹So you're not strangers and aliens anymore, but fellow citizens and members of God's family. ²⁰You're built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone. ²¹In Christ the whole building fits together and grows upward to become a holy sanctuary. ²²In him you're growing along with *us* into a spiritual house for God in *the person of* the Spirit.

Eph 2:14-22

Paul's Ministry for Gentiles

³¹That's why I'm Christ's prisoner for you Gentiles. ²You've heard about the stewardship of grace God gave me for you. ³He revealed to me his previously unrevealed message, like I noted briefly before. ⁴When you read it, you can understand my insight into that message about Christ. ⁵In other generations God hadn't made it known to anybody, but now the Spirit has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This is the message: Gentiles are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, fellow partakers of the promise available in Christ Jesus through the good news. ⁷I became a minister of that message by the grace God gave me in keeping with his powerful working. ⁸To me, the least of the saints, he gave this grace to present to Gentiles Christ's amazing riches ⁹and to bring to light the message that in ages past God kept to himself, who created everything. ¹⁰The church can make known to rulers and authorities in high places the many forms of God's wisdom. ¹¹That comes from the eternal purpose he brought

about in Christ our Lord. ¹²In him we have confident bold access because we trust him. ¹³So don't get discouraged over my difficulties on your behalf. They honor you. Eph 3:1-13

Another Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴So I kneel to the Father; ¹⁵from him every people group in heaven and on earth has identity. ¹⁶I pray that, in keeping with his glorious riches, he'll greatly increase your inner strength by his Spirit. ¹⁷*I pray* that Christ will live in your heart by faith, rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹*I pray* that you'll be able to understand with all the saints the length and breadth, height and depth of Christ's love, which is greater than knowledge. *I pray* that you'll fully experience everything God provides you.

²⁰Now to him who can do far more than we think or ask in keeping with the power that's at work in us—²¹glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations. Amen. Eph 3:14-21

Christian Unity

⁴¹So I, a prisoner in the Lord, urge you to live appropriate to your calling—²with humility and gentleness, with patience toward each other in love. ³Make every effort to maintain spiritual unity* by being bound together with peace.

⁴*There's* one body, one Spirit, one hope you're called to,

⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

⁶one God and Father of all,

who's above all, through all, and in all.

⁷Christ has measured out grace to each of you, ⁸like it says,

"He ascended on high,

and captured captivity;

he gave gifts to people" [Ps 68:18]. Eph 4:1-8

Gifting for Ministry

⁹What does "*he ascended*" involve but that he had also descended to earth? ¹⁰And the One that had descended also ascended above the skies to complete everything. ¹¹He "*gave*" apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers ¹²to equip the saints for service and to build up Christ's body. ¹³*That work goes on* till we become one in trusting and knowing God's Son and *are* full-grown as measured by the stature of Christ. ¹⁴That's so we won't stay like little kids, tossed back and forth and blown around by every idea that sly people devise to trick us. ¹⁵Let's speak the truth in love and grow up in Christ in every respect. ¹⁶He's the head that unites the whole body. Every ligament holds it together so each part can contribute properly to the growth of the body as it builds itself up in love. Eph 4:9-16

Wise Living with One Another

¹⁷So don't live like Gentiles anymore in their pointless way of thinking ¹⁸and darkened understanding. They're strangers to godly living because they're ignorant and hardhearted. ¹⁹They've become insensitive and have given themselves over to doing everything indecent, impure, and greedy. ²⁰You didn't learn to live that way from Christ. [²¹repeat] **Eph 4:17-21**

²²So set aside the former way of living—the old kind of humanity that's ruined by desires that deceive; ²³adopt a new mentality. ²⁴Put on the new kind of humanity that's like God in the goodness and holiness that lie in the truth. **Eph 4:22-24**

²⁵So don't lie; "*each of you, speak truthfully with your neighbor*" [Zech 8:16], because you're members of one another. ²⁶"*If you^{pl} feel angry, don't sin*" [Ps 4:4]. Don't let^{sg} the sun set on your anger; ²⁷don't give the devil a foothold. ²⁸If you're stealing, stop it. Instead, work with your hands, doing what's good so you can share with people who need help. ²⁹Take every bad word out of your mouth and replace it with a good word that builds up with graciousness those who hear you. ³⁰Don't grieve God's Holy Spirit that *Christ* sealed you with to the day of *final* redemption. ³¹Get rid of bitterness, wrath, anger, angry shouting, blasphemy, hateful feelings. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, gracious, like God in Christ was gracious to you.

Eph 4:25-32

Imitating God

⁵¹So imitate God like children he loves. ²Live in love like Christ loved you and gave himself for you *as an* offering, a sacrifice to God for a sweet fragrance. ³Don't let immorality, impurity, or greed even be mentioned among you, as is appropriate for saints. ⁴Don't allow any indecency or foolish, vulgar talk among you; express gratitude instead. ⁵Know for certain that no immoral, impure, or covetous person—covetousness amounts to idolatry—will inherit anything in the kingdom of Christ and God. **Eph 5:1-5**

Resisting Human Influence

⁶Don't let anybody deceive you with meaningless words. Because of things like that, God measures out his anger on disobedient people. ⁷So don't take part in their disobedience. ⁸⁻⁹At one time you were in the dark; now you're in the light that comes from the Lord. (Light produces goodness, uprightness, and truth.) Live like enlightened children ¹⁰and demonstrate what pleases the Lord.

¹¹Don't take part in deeds done in darkness; they don't produce anything; expose them for what they are. ¹²It's disgraceful even to talk about what some people do secretly. ¹³Everything exposed by light becomes visible; ¹⁴light makes everything visible. So he says,

"Wake up up, sleeper" (Rom 13:11);
 "arise from the dead" (Is 26:19),
 and Christ will give you light" (Is 60:1).

Eph 5:6-14

¹⁵So be careful to live like wise people. ¹⁶Make the most of *every* opportunity because this is a sinful time. ¹⁷Don't be foolish; know what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸Don't get drunk on wine in reckless living; be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹Speak to each other in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make melody in your hearts to the Lord. ²⁰In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, always thank the Father for everything.

Eph 5:15-20

Family Virtues

²¹Defer to one another out of respect for Christ. ²²Wives defer to your husbands the way *you do* to the Lord, ²³because a husband is responsible above the wife like Christ is responsible above the church and Savior of the body. ²⁴As the church defers to Christ, wives defer to husbands in the over-all order of *the home*.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives the way Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. ²⁶He did it to sanctify the church and cleanse it by washing *it* with water and the word. ²⁷He did it so he could present the church to himself without stain or wrinkle or anything like that—so it would be holy and blameless. ²⁸Husbands, love your wives like your own bodies. Loving your wife amounts to loving yourself. ²⁹Nobody neglects his own body; he feeds it and takes care of it. Christ does that with the church ³⁰because we're parts of his body: ³¹**"That's why a man is to leave his parents and unite with his wife, and they'll become one"** [Gen 2:24]. ³²That's a profound matter, but the main thing I'm talking about is Christ and the church. ³³But, each one of you needs to love his wife like he loves himself, and wives need to respect their husbands. **Eph 5:21-33**

⁶¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord; it's the right thing to do. ²⁻³**"Honor your father and mother so you'll live long and well"** [Ex 20:12; Deut. 5:16] (the first commandment with a promise attached). ⁴Dads, don't make your kids resent you. Raise them up in the Lord's instruction and discipline.

⁵Servants, obey your masters with fear and trembling, sincerely as if obeying Christ. ⁶Don't just try to create impressions to please them; but as Christ's servants, do God's will honestly ⁷with good intentions. Be serving the Lord, as it were, not people. ⁸Understand that whatever each of you does, you'll receive it back from the Lord whether you're a servant or free. ⁹Masters, treat your servants the same way. Give up making threats; you know that their Lord and yours is in heaven, and he doesn't show preferences.

Eph 6:1-9

The Full Armor of God

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and his great power. ¹¹Put on God's full armor so you can withstand the devil's schemes. ¹²You're not fighting a physical war, but rulers, authorities, this world's dark forces, spiritual evil in high places. ¹³So put on God's full armor so you can withstand sinful times, overcome everything, and stand firm. ¹⁴So stand firm. Tie truth around

your waist. Make goodness your breastplate. ¹⁵On your feet, wear the good news about peace. ¹⁶Along with everything else, pick up faith as *your* shield so the devil's flaming arrows will ricochet away from you. ¹⁷Take salvation for a helmet and God's word as a spiritual sword. ¹⁸Pray in the spirit on every occasion. Stay alert and persist in petitions for the saints. ¹⁹Pray that I'll speak boldly the unrevealed message that the good news makes known. ²⁰On behalf of it, I'm an ambassador in chains. *Pray* that I'll speak boldly for him like I need to. **Eph 6:10-20**

Farewells

²¹Tychicus, our dear brother and faithful minister in Christ, will fill you in on my circumstances and how I'm doing. ²²I've sent him to do that so he can comfort you.

²³Peace to fellow believers and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Grace *be* with everybody that has undying love for him. **Eph 6:21-24**

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