

# Ephesians 1:1-3

Holly Hills Bible Church - R. Peterman

Sunday, January 11, 2009

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and (who are) faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed (be) the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly (places) in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, (that is,) the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of (God's own) possession, to the praise of His glory. For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which (exists) among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention (of you) in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Himself. (I pray that) the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. (These are) in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly (places,) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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# Paul...an Apostle

- Someone they had met
- Someone they loved
- Someone who had performed miracles
- Someone who was writing with disregard to his surroundings in a prison

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# ... an Apostle

- Greek: apostolos, a messenger or delegate; One sent forth with orders
- Apostles saw Jesus the Messiah. Paul saw Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9)
- Given special missional callings to start and equip the church (Acts 2; Eph 4:11)
- Given special spiritual gifts to bolster and

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# Grace to you

- The unlimited, unmerited blessings of God through Jesus Christ
- Paul doesn't write, "Keep hanging in there, stay perfect under the Law from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"

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# Grace to you

- Exceeded the normal purpose of the term in a Roman letter.
- Paul used it in each letter to the churches:
  - ✓ Romans 1:7
  - ✓ I Corinthians 1:3
  - ✓ II Corinthians 1:2
  - ✓ Galatians 1:3
  - ✓ Ephesians 1:2
  - ✓ Philippians 1:2
  - ✓ Colossians 1:2
  - ✓ I Thessalonians 1:1
  - ✓ II Thessalonians 1:2
  - ✓ I Timothy 1:2
  - ✓ II Timothy 1:2
  - ✓ Titus 1:4
  - ✓ Philemon 1:3

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# Peace

- Restfulness, Freedom from disturbance
- Salvation brings about peace because your eternity is secure, God's wrath is not expected or feared

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# ... from God the Father & the Lord Jesus Christ

- No other source can offer grace and peace of an eternal and spiritual and perfect sort
- The Father did not do it alone, but through the work of Christ

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# Father

- A god who fathered children in mythology was not trusted, and was often operating in adultery.
- As a father who adopted us and called us His own, we have a different relationship with Him
- We are one family in Him (Eph. 3:14-15)

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# Lord

- He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master
- We are bond-slaves (Gal. 1:10, Eph 6:6) - slaves who willfully give up our freedom in order to serve a master
- We are also more than bond-slaves (Gal. 4:7)

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## Rabbit Trail: Lordship Salvation

- Ephesians refers to Christ as Lord many times (25 but who's counting?)
- Galatians tells us that we're no longer slaves, but instead sons.
- Lordship salvation wants our lives to look good because of Christ being Lord
- Ephesians tells us that we do good things because we're abiding (2:10)
- Galatians 4:7 links salvation to identification and position and not works

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## Rabbit Trail: Lordship Salvation

- Recognize the Lord's position over the universe
- Recognize your position in Him (Col. 3:1-3)
- Don't judge salvation purely by works
- Don't attach anything, such as Lordship, to the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4)

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## every spiritual blessing

- blessing is the full, abundant gift of God in salvation
- Identification with Christ (Col. 3:1-3, Ephesians 2:5-6) gives us context
- Not a list of blessings, but a heavenly life of blessing with earthly impact

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## ...in the heavenly places with Christ

- Our identification with Christ is critically linked with our blessing
- Seals the past-tense nature of our salvation
- leads into the next lesson...

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