

Ephesians

1 Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, to the saints who are [in Ephesus], even to the faithful in Christ Jesus. **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ, **4** even as, he chose us in him before the founding of the world, that we should be dedicated and blameless before him in love. **5** He predetermined us for sonship in him through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6** to the praise of the splendor of his grace, which he bestowed on us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which overflowed to us in all wisdom and prudence.

9 He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in him, **10** even the plan of salvation in the fullness of the times, centering everything in Christ, the things in heaven and the things on the earth.

11 We have been made heirs in him, having been predetermined according to the purpose of the One who is working all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** that we, who had before hoped in Christ, should be to the praise of his splendor. **13** In him you also, having heard the message of the truth, the gospel of your salvation – in him you, having believed, were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is the first installment of our inheritance, for the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of his splendor.

15 Therefore, I also, having heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and of your love for all the saints, **16** do not cease giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **17** May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in his knowledge, **18** having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may

know what is the hope of his calling, what is the riches of the splendor of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the manifestation of his mighty strength.

²⁰He worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead, and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above every domain and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the world to come. ²²And he has subjected everything under his feet, and made him head over all things to the called-out people, ²¹who are his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

2 You were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you once walked, according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit now working in disobedient sons. ³We all once lived among them in our fleshly desires, indulging the cravings of the flesh and of the mind, and were by custom children of wrath as the rest.

⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the abundant love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together in Christ (you are saved by grace), ⁶and he raised us up together, and seated us in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸By grace you have been saved through faith, but this is not of yourselves! It is God's gift, ⁹not of works, so that no one might boast. ¹⁰We are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance that we should walk in them.

¹¹Remember that you were once Gentiles in the flesh, who are called the uncircumcision by those who are called the circumcision in the flesh, done by hand. ¹²At that time you were without Christ, foreigners to the nation of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the

promise, hopeless and godless in the world. ¹³But in Christ Jesus, you who were then far away have now been made near by Christ's blood.

¹⁴He himself is our peace, having united both, and by his flesh he broke down the separating wall, the enmity. ¹⁵He set aside the law of commandments in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man of the two, making peace; ¹⁶and that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, having killed the hostility by it.

¹⁷When he came, he proclaimed peace, both to you who were far away and to those who were near, ¹⁸because through him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹Therefore, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's family. ²⁰You have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the keystone. ²¹By him all the building, having been joined together, develops into a sacred temple in the Lord; ²²and by him you are being built together for God's dwelling-place in the Spirit.

3 For this reason I, Paul, am a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles; ²if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I already have briefly written.

⁴As you read you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ, ⁵which in other generations was not made known to the human family, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his dedicated apostles and prophets, ⁶that the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers together of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, ⁷of which I became a servant, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of his power.

⁸This grace was given to me, to one who is less than the least of all saints, that I should proclaim to the Gentiles Christ's fathomless riches; ⁹that I should enlighten everyone about the plan of the mystery which

has been hidden for ages in God who created all things.

¹⁰Now the manifold wisdom of God has been made known to the rulers and to the authorities in the heavenly realms by the called-out people, ¹¹according to the eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²By faith in him we have boldness and confident access, ¹³so I ask that you not be downhearted over my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

¹⁴For this reason, I bend my knees to the Father, ¹⁵by whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that he would grant – according to the riches of his splendor – that you may be strengthened mightily in the inner person by his Spirit, ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through the faith; and since you have been rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸that you may be fully able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know Christ's love, which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all of God's fullness.

²⁰Now to him who can do infinitely more than we ask or imagine, according to the power which works in us, ²¹to him is the honor among the called-out people in Christ Jesus for all generations forever and ever, amen.

4 I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, entreat you to walk worthily of the calling into which you were called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, being lovingly considerate of one another. ³Strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴one body and one Spirit, as you also were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one immersion, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.

⁷Now the grace has been given to each one of us according to the measure that Christ gave. ⁸Therefore he said, "He ascended into the height, and he made captivity a captive, and gave gifts to men." ⁹What does the statement mean, "He ascended," if not that he also descended

into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰The One who descended is the same One who ascended above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.

¹¹He gave some to be apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for a work of service, for the building up of Christ's body, ¹³until we all reach the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of God's Son, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of Christ's fullness, ¹⁴that we may be children no longer, tossed here and there by the waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by men's craftiness, and by trickery with cunning deception.

¹⁵But live truthfully and lovingly, that we may grow in all things in him, who is the head, even Christ; ¹⁶from whom all the body – being fitted together and united by every ligament that serves for support, according to the working in measure of each part – brings about the growth of the body for a building up of itself in love.

¹⁷This therefore I say, and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸They have become darkened in their understanding, and they are estranged from the life of God, because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. ¹⁹These, who have lost all feeling, have given themselves over to sensuality, to practice every immorality with greediness.

²⁰But you did not learn Christ in this manner, ²¹if indeed you heard him, and were taught in him, even as truth is in Jesus: ²²to remove – pertaining to your former style of life – the old man who is corrupt according to deceptive desires; ²³to be renewed in the spirit of your thinking; ²⁴and to put on the new man, who was created after the image of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵Therefore, put away the lie, and speak the truth each one with his neighbor, because we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry, but do not sin; let not the sun set on your anger, ²⁷neither give place to the devil. ²⁸Let the thief steal no longer, but rather let him labor, doing honorable work with his own hands, that he may have something to give

to the one who is needy.

²⁹Let no unwholesome word come from your mouth, but that which builds up, as the occasion requires, that it may give grace to the ones who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve God's Holy Spirit, by whom you were sealed until the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and hurtful talk be put away from you, with all malice; ³²and be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ has forgiven you.

5 Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and walk in love, even as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. ³But fornication and all filthiness or greed, let it not even be mentioned among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴and wickedness and foolish talk, or coarse jesting, which are not becoming, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵This you know certainly, that no fornicator, or lewd person, or one who is greedy (who is an idolater), has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for God's anger comes on disobedient sons because of these things. ⁷Therefore, do not participate with them, ⁸for you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as enlightened children ⁹(for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and uprightness and truth), ¹⁰demonstrating what is well-pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹Have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them; ¹²for it is disgraceful even to speak about the things being secretly done by them. ¹³All things being exposed are made visible by the light, ¹⁴for everything that is made visible is light. He therefore said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine upon you."

¹⁵Look carefully how you walk: not as unwise, but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Be not foolish, but understand what is the Lord's will. ¹⁸Be not drunk with wine,

in which is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and plucking the strings of your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks for all things to God, even the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹Be subject one to another in reverence for Christ, ²²and let the wives be subject to their own husbands as to the Lord, ²³because the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the called-out people, and he himself is the Savior of the body. ²⁴Yes, as the called-out people are subject to Christ, so also let the wives be to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the called-out people, and gave himself for them, ²⁶that he might set them apart, having cleansed them in the washing of the water by the word, ²⁷that he might present the called-out people to himself in splendor, having no spot or flaw or any such thing, but that they might be unblemished and set apart.

²⁸Husbands ought to love their wives in this way, even as their own bodies. The one who loves his wife loves himself, ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, but he nourishes and cares for it, even as also Christ the called-out people, ³⁰because we are members of his body.

³¹A man therefore will leave his father and mother, and will be united with his wife, and the two will be one flesh. ³²This mystery is great, but I am speaking about Christ and the called-out people. ³³Moreover, let each one of you love his own wife as he loves himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²Honor your father and mother (which is the first command with a promise), ³that it may be well with you, and that you may be a long time on the earth. ⁴Fathers, do not make your children angry, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

⁵Slaves, obey your masters in the flesh with fear and trembling, in

the sincerity of your heart, as to the Lord, ⁶not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but as Christ's slaves. Do God's will from the heart, ⁷serving with enthusiasm, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸knowing that each one will receive from the Lord whatever good he may do, whether he is a slave or free. ⁹Masters, treat them the same way. Do not be harsh, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and he is not partial.

¹⁰Finally, become strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹Equip yourselves with God's armor, that you may be able to stand against the devil's devices. ¹²Our struggle is not against blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the evil spiritual things in the heavenly realms. ¹³Take up God's armor, that you might be able to stand your ground in the evil day, and after conquering everything, to stand.

¹⁴Therefore stand, with the belt of truth around your waist; put on the breastplate of uprightness, ¹⁵and on your feet the sandals of the peaceful gospel; ¹⁶and above all, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one; ¹⁷take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times, with all prayer and petition. Stay alert, with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, ¹⁹and for me, that clarity may be given to me when I open my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may speak boldly in it, as I must speak.

²¹Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will make known to you all things, so that you may know my situation, and what I am doing. ²²I have sent him to you for this very thing, that you may know our affairs, and that he may encourage your hearts.

²³Peace to the brothers, and love with assurance from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴May the grace be with all of those whose love for our Lord Jesus Christ is imperishable.