

God's Purpose and Power



MEMORY VERSE: “(God) is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.” Ephesians 1:7

DAY 1 EPHESIANS 1:1-8— God Gives Spiritual Blessings

1. What does Paul want Jesus to give the believers of Ephesus? vv. 1-2
Why are these two gifts from God essential in the life of a believer?
2. What has God given to believers? Why? v. 3
What do you think these blessings include?
3. What did God do even before He made the world?
v. 4

v. 5
4. God's plan for you includes salvation, personal transformation, and a relationship with Him.
What does this tell you about His interest in your life?
5. What do verses 7-8 mean to you?
Also see redemption, salvation and wisdom in the Ephesians Dictionary.

DAY 2 EPHESIANS 1:9-14—The Mystery of God's Will

6. God's great plan and purpose which was once hidden is now revealed to us in Jesus. What do you learn about His plan from:

v. 10

v. 11

v. 12

v. 13

7. What does the Holy Spirit guarantee? Why did God give believers the Holy Spirit? v. 14

8. What do verses 10-14 say to you about who you are and what your purpose is?

DAY 3 EPHESIANS 1:15-20—Everything God Gives Believers

9. What has Paul been praying for the believers in Ephesus? Why?

v. 17

v. 18

vv. 19-20

10. Which of the things Paul prays for do you most need to pray for? Why?

DAY 4 EPHESIANS 1:20-23—The Great Power of God

11. What do you learn about Jesus? vv. 20-21

12. What is the relationship between Jesus and the church (all believers)? vv. 22-23

13. How is the church (believers) “*made full and complete?*” v. 23

DAY 5 EPHESIANS 1 — Wrap Up

14. How aware are you of the spiritual blessings you receive from God?

15. Why is it so important for us to know and understand who God is; to have a confident hope and purpose; and to understand God’s mighty power within us?

TAKE AWAY

Where do you need God’s help? He will provide you with what you need. Ask God to help you claim and apply His blessing/promise to your situation.

BLESSING

God’s power raised Jesus from the dead - and is now in you!

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Ephesians is one of the most encouraging books in the New Testament. Paul, the writer, also wrote 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament. The purpose of the book of Ephesians was to warn the church elders about the false teachers that were teaching a false gospel and to maintain their first love that they held when they first became believers.

Ephesus was the capital of the Roman province of Asia Minor and a center of pagan worship. Ephesus was an important commercial center that ranked close to Alexandria in Egypt in importance and as an educational and political base.

Paul wrote this letter from Rome, where he was under house arrest (Acts 28:16), probably in AD 63, the same year he wrote Philemon and Colossians.

Paul's letters have one major theme — Jesus Christ. Paul was against anyone who taught the false doctrine that people can add anything to what God has already done to provide salvation. The best way to combat false doctrine is to speak and live the truth. God's grace and power that are in Jesus Christ - and us when we are "in Him" - enable us to fulfill His purpose for us.

The book of Ephesians begins with a song of praise and thanksgiving to God whose purpose is to bless His people with every spiritual blessing. God the Father (1:3-6), God the Son (1:7-12), and God the Holy Spirit (1:13-14) are all graciously involved in the blessings meant for us. When God's purpose is fulfilled in us, He receives praise (1:6, 12, 14).

Our salvation — is an integral and crucial part of God's total plan for the redemption of His creation. The sovereign work of God the

Father is set in the past. He "chose us" before He created the world; the specific purpose for which He chose us was to "be holy and without fault" (1:4). He "decided in advance" ("pre-destination" 1:5); before we were born He planned to adopt us. That relationship to God assures special privileges and is accomplished through His Son. The subject of "pre-destination" troubles many but it is an act of God on our behalf. Paul is speaking of a sovereign choice in the past by a loving God — a choice not based on human merit, but on His grace.

Christ had to become our redeemer so the Father could graciously choose to adopt us. Through the shedding of His blood, we have received forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22). Redemption and forgiveness are ours because of "his grace, which he showered upon us" (1:7-8). These are spiritual gifts, not material gifts. Verses 11-12 repeat the reason for our choosing and predestination — it is to bring praise to Christ.

In verse 13, Paul mentions the third Person of the Trinity — the Holy Spirit, emphasizing His role as a guarantor of future promise. He is the seal with which we are marked when we believe. In the first century, a seal was familiar as a ring or hard object engraved with initials to leave an impression in soft wax. A seal was used as a sign of ownership or a mark of authenticity. The Holy Spirit guarantees that God will fulfill His promises.

Paul speaks of "our rich and glorious inheritance" (1:18) and "his incredible great power for us who believe" (1:19). This power is the same power God showed by raising Jesus from the dead to sit at his "right hand" (1:20) in heaven, above all authorities, rulers, powers, and dominions.

God stands ready to use this power to

over everything. Until then, we must understand the things God says are already true of us. Claim the power God says is already yours — to make right choices and to live in a way that brings glory to Him. Express His love to others, and relax in His love for you. Praise Him for His grace and His glory. Everything God has given to us has been given “in Christ.” When we have Jesus Christ, we have every-thing — gifts and fruits of the Spirit (Romans 12:6-8; Galatians 5:22-23), holiness and forgiveness now, and heaven itself one day.

Paul closes this chapter by stating Christ's supremacy over all creation both now and in the future.

God is working out a plan of redemption that will be completed when Christ assumes Lordship

Notes