

# God at Work

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 1:1-3.
- B. The letter deals with the whole sweep of truth of God.
- C. Ephesians has great and practical truth.

## II. Background.

- A. It was written to the Christians to the Roman province of Asia.
- B. Many early manuscripts do not have “to the Ephesians,” so it is thought to be a circular letter.
- C. Paul’s credentials.
  - 1. He is an Apostle—one sent by Jesus Christ.
  - 2. Paul learned from Jesus directly.
- D. The Christians were described as saints in the will of Christ Jesus.
  - 1. The mark of the saint is not that he does not have problems.
  - 2. The mark of the saint is that he faces problems and life differently.
  - 3. The other characteristic of a saint is that he is faithful.
- E. The two great inheritances of the Christian are grace and peace.
- F. Paul usually begins with an area of doctrine and summarizes with a great statement.

## III. Summary: blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

- A. The starting point is God.
  - 1. When a man begins with God, you know that what he is going to say is in line with reality.
  - 2. Natural thinking is faulty—we need to learn to be spiritual thinkers about ourselves.
- B. The aim—to bring about a world filled with blessing.
  - 1. This is for the praise of God.

2. This is not about God's ego though—God wants to produce a sense of awe and amazement in us that stops to give thanks to a glorious God.

C. The blessings.

1. We were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

2. He destined us in love to be His Sons in Jesus Christ according to the purpose of His will to the praise of His glorious grace.

3. In Him, we have redemption through His blood—the forgiveness of trespasses—according to the riches of His grace.

4. He has made known to us the mystery of His will—He has unfolded for us what He plans to do.

5. In Him, we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live—God has appointed us to be a demonstration.

6. In Him, we have heard the word of truth.

7. We are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

D. The blessings are a list of the incompetency of man—they are the gifts of God.

E. All the blessings are in Christ.

1. Everything is emphasized as coming through Christ.

2. The only blessing that can ever come to you from God must always come through Christ.

F. This all takes place in the heavenly places.

1. These are the unseen invisible realities. (II Corinthians 4)

2. We live in a life where most realities are invisible, but they must be recognized.

G. Progress comes from recognizing what God has already done.

1. The only thing that will last is the work of God.

2. God is restoring people by destroying the hate and bringing people together.

3. God's great movement is to heal and make whole.

4. God's great work has begun in us—the more it is visibly evident the more the world will experience it.

**Application questions:**

1. How would you respond to someone saying that a God who wants praise has an ego problem?

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2. Which of the blessings stand out to you? Why is Christ the essential ingredient to these blessings?

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3. What is the significance of God beginning with the church with His great work? Explain.

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