

Bible Study – November 11, 2020

The Book of Ephesians

Date and authorship: According to tradition, the Apostle Paul wrote the letter while he was in prison in Rome (around AD 62). However, based upon the language, structure, and theology of the letter, many scholars do not regard the letter as an “authentic Pauline” letter. Instead, it is regarded as “deutero-Pauline,” which means that the author is writing in the tradition of the apostle Paul. As such, these scholars date the letter to 80-100AD. Ephesians balances doctrine and duty. First “Paul” reminds us of what God has done for us; then he tells us what we must do for Him in response to His mercies.

The City

Ephesus was one the great cities of Asia Minor: a Roman capital, a center for the worship of Diana, the virgin goddess and protector of childbirth. When the empire became Christian, it was in Ephesus that the worship of Mary as the mother of God/Christ became prominent, elevating her status in early Christian (Catholic) theology.

The Church

Paul paid a brief visit to Ephesus on his second journey, leaving his associates Priscilla and Aquila there (Acts 18:18–28). He returned to Ephesus on his third journey and remained there for three years (Acts 20:31).

The Letter

“Paul” was a Roman prisoner when he wrote this letter (Eph. 3:1; 4:1). How he became a prisoner is recorded in Acts 21:15ff. While in Jerusalem, “Paul” went to the temple and was arrested on false charges. His “trial” was indecisive, but he was imprisoned for two years at Caesarea (Acts 21:27–26:32).

CHAPTER 1

The key thought in this chapter is the wealth of blessings we have as Christians, spiritual blessings that are ours because we are in Christ (1:3).

BLESSINGS FROM THE FATHER (1:1–6)

- A. He Has _____ Us** (vv. 3–4) 1 Cor. 1:26–29; 2 Thes. 2:13–14; John 6:37
- B. He Has _____ Us** (v. 5)
- C. He Has _____ Us** (v. 6)

BLESSINGS FROM THE SON (1:7–12)

- A. He Has _____ Us (v. 7a)
- B. He Has _____ Us (v. 7b)
- C. He Has _____ Us (vv. 8–10)
- D. He Has Made us an _____ (vv. 11–12)

BLESSINGS FROM THE SPIRIT (1:13–14)

- A. He Has _____ Us (v. 13)
- B. He Has _____ Our _____ (v. 14)

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING (1:15–23)

- A. That God May Give You Spiritual _____ (vv. 17–18a) (vv.1 Cor. 2:9–16)
- B. That You Might Know the Hope of His _____ (v. 18b)
- C. That you Might Know the Riches of His _____ (v. 18c)
- D. That You Might Know His _____ (vv. 19–23)

The very power that raised Jesus from the dead is available for our daily lives! Christ has already won the victory over sin, death, the world, and Satan. God’s people do not fight for victory but from victory!

NOTES:
