

## STUDY ONE | EPHESIANS 1:1-14

### REDEEMED

#### OVERVIEW

##### AN APOSTLE OF CHRIST (VV 1-2)

Paul is the church planter and missionary set apart for the task of bringing the gospel to the nations according to God's revealed purpose (see 3:1-11). His bond with the Ephesian church is established in their holy status made possible through the work of Christ (v 2). Grace is the means by which this gift is possible and peace is the outcome they enjoy with God and one another (v 3).

##### CHOSEN IN CHRIST (VV 3-6)

**God is to be praised because we have been blessed in Christ before the foundation of the world.** He chose us before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him. He chose us to be adopted as his children according to his will and the praise of his grace through Christ. The emphasis is on inclusion and unity.

Family life is important for Paul in the letter. God's plans are fulfilled in Christ so that the blessing of being his children might be a shared one. While the passage is usually the trigger for debates about predestination, the Apostle's concern is the praise of God. This is the author of our salvation whose intention was always to share the blessings of the Godhead with those who could not rightfully claim them.

##### REDEEMED IN CHRIST (VV 7-10)

**God is to be praised because we have been blessed through Christ coming into the world.** In Christ we have been redeemed through the work of the cross. We have received the unfolding of God's will and purpose which will be fulfilled when Christ returns and all things will be summed up in him.

The forgiveness of sins is the prerequisite for any believer to enjoy the blessings of Christ. We cannot enter into life with God other than through the work of the cross (v 7). That same work is the guarantee of the fulfilment of God's promises to unify all things under Christ (v 10) when the times reach their fulfilment.

## A NEW HUMANITY

APRIL 25

EPHESIANS 1:1-14 REDEEMED

MAY 2

EPHESIANS 1:15-23 RESURRECTED

MAY 9

EPHESIANS 2:1-10 RESTORED

MAY 16

EPHESIANS 2:11-22 RECONCILED

MAY 23

EPHESIANS 3:1-13 REVEALED

MAY 30

EPHESIANS 3:14-21 RENEWED

JUNE 6

EPHESIANS 4:1-16 REBUILT

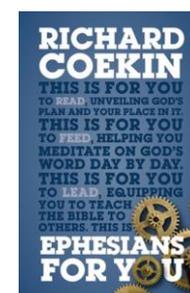
JUNE 13

EPHESIANS 4:17-5:2 REPENTANT

JUNE 20

EPHESIANS 5:3-20 REGENERATE

## RESOURCE



RICHARD COEKIN | EPHESIANS FOR YOU

(GOD'S WORD FOR YOU SERIES)

## **SEALED IN CHRIST (VV 11-14)**

**God is to be praised because we have been blessed through Christ beyond this world.**

Interestingly Paul does not specifically mention the return of Christ in this letter, but the blessing of the inheritance to come affirms his commitment to a future glory for God's people, for which he is to be praised. Paul cites both Jew (v 11) and Gentile (v 13) as those who have been guaranteed this sealed inheritance and so are to live for the praise of his glory.

The work of the Holy Spirit is important for Paul in the letter and also speaks to God's revelation of the gospel (3:5), the experience of the love of Christ (3:16), the source of unity (4:3) and the means for prayer (6:21).

## GETTING STARTED

1. If your neighbour were to ask you about your purpose in life what would you say to them?

## INTO THE TEXT

### READ VERSES 1-14

2. What is a spiritual blessing and what are those Paul identifies?
3. What is the purpose behind Paul beginning his letter with these spiritual blessings?
4. God choosing us usually triggers debates about predestination. What does the passage say is the reason God chose us (v 4)? What guarantees this outcome?
5. How can we be certain of being adopted into the family of God's people (see also v 13 & Romans 8:15)?
6. Several times in the passage Paul refers to the will of God (vv 1, 5, 9, 11). What effect does this have on your enjoyment of the spiritual blessings that are ours in Christ?
7. Similarly several times in the passage Paul refers to the praise of God (vv 3, 6, 12, 14). What is the link between God's will and praising him?
8. If the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the inheritance to come (v 14) what causes us to lack confidence about our future?

## TAKEAWAY

9. Do you think Christians have grounds for being unsatisfied?

**10. With all the certainties outlined in the opening chapter of Ephesians why do people give up on their faith?**