

**Blessed In Christ**  
Hope Chapel Honolulu  
Ephesians 1:1-14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:3-6, ESV)

**Introduction**

As we work our way through Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, we will come across well-known passages of truth such as "you have been saved by grace through faith," "you are God's workmanship," "God has given apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers to equip His people for works of ministry," and "put on the whole armor of God so that you be able to stand in the day of evil." But we will also consider the importance of "speaking the truth in love" and "submitting to one another in reverence of Christ" so both the character and power of God can be seen in and through our lives.

**1. The love of the Father. (Ephesians 1:1-6)**

- a) What's an apostle and what does it mean to be "sent"?
- b) The love of the Father led Him to adopt us through Jesus Christ.

**2. The grace of the Son. (Ephesians 1:7-12)**

- a) In Christ we find redemption and forgiveness through the richness of His grace.
- b) In Christ we have both an eternal inheritance and opportunity to be His witnesses.

**3. The fellowship of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14)**

- a) Sometimes call the Spirit of Christ because of their close partnership in believers.
- b) The Holy Spirit is the "down-payment" of our shared inheritance in Christ.

**Conclusion**

We will come across some big ideas in Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, some of which we may not fully understand on this side of eternity. But more important than the theological mysteries the Holy Spirit reveals through the Apostle Paul is the audience of his letter: the Church of Ephesus that we first meet in Acts 18:24-19:10 and last read of in Revelation 2:1-7, but which was located in what is now modern-day Turkey—a nation of 80 million people but less than 2% Christian.

**For our prayerful study, discovery and application:**

1. What does it mean for you, me and who believe in Christ, to be saints and adopted children of God?
2. How does the apostle Paul describe the respective blessings of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
3. What did the Word and Spirit of God remind you of, or reveal for the first time, in this passage?

**040818cdg@hch**