

## Summary

The People who are completely blessed are those who changed from being God's enemies to being God's people. This blessing is a gift of God. God gives this blessing by sending Jesus to die for people's sins so that they can be forgiven. Those who change their minds to accept God's forgiveness were chosen by God before the world. This is God's secret plan which he now reveals to everyone. God did this because He wants Jesus to be the head of all creation.

## Response

Which of the following two options do you think is better? Which one will you choose? Give reasons for your answers.

### Option A

A blessing which consists only of material things and earthly pleasures.

### Option B

A blessing which consists of a relationship with the God who created you and takes care of you and forgives you even when you have rejected Him.

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## Introduction to Ephesians

1. *The Father, Son, and Spirit at work*
2. *He has given us every spiritual blessing*
3. *We are blessed in the past, present, and future*
4. *The ultimate goal: Praising God!*

# Ephesians study 1

## Blessed to the Max!



## Ephesians 1:1–10

<sup>1</sup> From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am an apostle because that is what God wanted. To God's holy people living in Ephesus, believers in Christ Jesus:<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*In Christ, God has given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world.*

<sup>4</sup> That is, in Christ, he chose us before the world was made so that we would be his holy people—people without blame before him. <sup>5</sup> Because of his love, God had already decided to make us his own children through Jesus Christ. That was what he wanted and what pleased him, <sup>6</sup> and it brings praise to God because of his wonderful grace. God gave that grace to us freely, in Christ, the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In Christ we are set free by the blood of his death, and so we have forgiveness of sins. How rich is God's grace, <sup>8</sup> which he has given to us so fully and freely. God, with full wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> let us know his secret purpose. This was what God wanted, and he planned to do it through Christ.

<sup>10</sup> His goal was to carry out his plan, when the right time came, that all things in heaven and on earth would be joined together in Christ as the head.

## Meaning of Words

apostle – messenger

holy – specially set aside for God

spiritual blessing – blessings which are not physical in nature

heavenly world – the place where God is.

grace – God’s generosity

sin – rejecting God as the King

blood of his death – Jesus’ death on the cross

## Discuss

Put the following things in order of importance for you.

- |                                  |   |                                      |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> God     | <input type="checkbox"/> friends                    | <input type="checkbox"/> family      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> money   | <input type="checkbox"/> girlfriend or<br>boyfriend | <input type="checkbox"/> good health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> studies |   | <input type="checkbox"/> enjoyment   |

The main sentence of the passage above is:

***“In Christ, God has given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world.”***

1. What has God given and how much has He given?
2. Who has He given it to?
3. Where is this spiritual blessing?
4. How did God give this blessing? What do you think it means?

## Observe

Paul is talking about the blessing that happened when people who did not believe in Jesus became followers of Jesus. People usually think that “blessing” means physical riches or good health, but the blessing which Paul is talking about is Jesus himself. People are blessed because they have Jesus.

Look at what Jesus has done for them:

Ephesians 1:4

Q. What did God do through Jesus ?

Ephesians 1:5

Q. Why did God choose people to be his children?

Ephesians 1:6

Q. How did God give people that gift?

Ephesians 1:7

Q. What was God’s secret purpose ?

Ephesians 1:8–9

Q. Why did God do this? What did God want to achieve?

Ephesians 1:10